

Knightline

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

MAY 2016 • Volume 33 • Number 5 • www.kofc.org

News for Knights of Columbus Leaders • 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510-3326, USA

Charity Strengthens Faith; Fun Strengthens Service

*College councils unite charity and fun while raising awareness
of the Christian Refugee crisis in the Middle East*

College Knights from Purdue University Council 15144 in West Lafayette, Ind., hosted a three-on-three basketball tournament to raise awareness for Christian refugees in the Middle East. Playing against students from Purdue and the nearby University of Notre Dame, the council raised more than \$700 for the refugees.

"The guys wanted to do something more active than a pancake breakfast," said Indiana College Council Coordinator Bob Konkel. "They wanted to do something that was more inclusive, something that could create camaraderie between the colleges."

Members of St. Francis the Poverello Council 8222 in Loretto, Pa., joined in similar scrimmages at St. Francis University's Maurice Stokes Athletics Center, taking on the Franciscan friars from the college community. Kody Hartlaub, a member of the council, explained that the events financially aid the "Christian refugees trying to flee from all of the turmoil in the Middle East with ISIS. The money goes to help them out and start a better life where they can practice their faith."

The games also offered a chance to publicize the college councils' presence on various campuses. Such activities called attention to the Order's work to aid those most in need, drawing the interest of young men on campus eager to live out their Catholic faith. Michael Blose, a student from St. Francis University, shared that these men can now see what it means to be a member of the Order, saying, "To be able to join the Knights of Columbus means to be able to strengthen your faith and strengthen your service."

"I came to the Knights and I saw what faith could do in action," explained Sam Porter, a student at the University of Notre Dame and member of the college council there. "I saw the service that people could do with their faith. ... The fact that faith can make people do all these things — like going to a basketball tournament two and a half hours away to support Christians you don't even know in the Middle East — is really cool."

For more information, visit www.kofc.org/college and www.ChristiansAtRisk.org.



LAST CHANCE TO SUBMIT SURVEY

There's still time to submit
your service numbers from 2015.

The *Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity* (#1728)
was due at Supreme Council headquarters
on Jan. 31, so if you have not yet
submitted this important form,
please do so immediately.

Remember: Submission of the
fraternal survey is a requirement for
the Star Council Award. Access the form
at www.kofc.org/forms or in the
Council Report Forms Booklet (#1436).

Grand Knight Checklist – May & June

- ✓ Confirm that your council has submitted the *Application for Refund Support Vocations Program* (#2863) and the *Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity* (#1728).
- ✓ Plan your council's Renewal of Wedding Vows program, to be held on June 19.
- ✓ Arrange for the transition of your council officers/chairmen on July 1.
- ✓ Visit www.kofc.org for information on planning your council's participation in Knights of Columbus Family Week, Aug. 9-16.
- ✓ Remember these upcoming dates:
 - June 4 — Fraternal Training Webinar on Bridging Fraternal Years
 - June 30 — *Columbian Award Application* (#SP-7), *Civic Award Application* (#2321), *Annual Report - Knights of Columbus Round Table* (#2630) and *Food for Families Reimbursement Program Refund & Plaque Application* (#10057) due
 - July 1 — *Report of Officers Chosen for the Term* (#185) due
 - Aug. 1 — *Service Program Personnel Report* (#365) due
 - Aug. 15 — *Semiannual Council Audit Report* (#1295) due
- ✓ Make sure your council is on the path to earning the Star Council Award.

Thousands March and Speak For the Voiceless

In February and March, Knights of Columbus members from throughout the Philippines joined thousands of pro-life men and women at Walk for Life rallies. Their presence gave witness to the nation's large number of people willing to speak on behalf of the unborn and fight for their legal protection.

The pro-life campaign began with a Walk for Life event on Feb. 27. There, Mindanao Warden Jose Q. Tan Jr. led members and their families in carrying banners and Knights of Columbus Defend Life signs.

It was just one of a number of rallies sponsored by Knights throughout Luzon North, Luzon South, Visayas and Mindanao.

During these events, the Knights were supported by several other groups. In Iloilo City, Visayas, this support came from ROTC units from West Visayas State University-Lambunao Campus; the University of San Agustin; Iloilo Science and Technology University; the University of Iloilo; San Jose Catholic School; the Colegio del Sagrado Corazon de Jesus; and many others.

The Iloilo City event — like those held throughout the country — included talks and inspirational messages from guest speakers involved in pro-life work in the area.

This year marked the first time a Walk for Life event took place in Malolos City, Bulacan. Thousands of participants marched from the Bulacan Sports Complex to the Malolos Sports and Convention Center for the Walk for Life, organized by Luzon North Deputy Jose Reyes Jr.

"Life is a God-given gift," said Reyes. "As members of the Knights of Columbus, we ought to be the protectors and stewards of God's gift."

The Walk for Life Campaign was held less than a month after Cebu City hosted the historic 51st International Eucharistic Congress, which brought some 50,000 official delegates to the country from around the world.



Altar Dedication at the Saint John Paul II Shrine



Members of the Knights of Columbus Board of Directors attended a Mass for the dedication of the altar in the Luminous Mysteries Chapel of the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, D.C. Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore, pictured here, was the principal celebrant and homilist for the Mass, held on April 2, 2016, vigil for the feast of the Divine Mercy and 11th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's death.

The chapel features mosaics created by Jesuit Father Marko Rupnik, who also designed the mosaics in the Redemptoris Mater Chapel of the Apostolic Palace, the renovation of which was a gift to the pope from the College of Cardinals for the 50th anniversary of the pope's ordination to the priesthood. Father Rupnik also designed the mosaics featured in chapels at the Vatican and the Supreme Council Headquarters, and in other notable locations throughout the world.

Cherishing Our Religious Freedom

We encourage councils throughout the world to organize activities to take place during the Fortnight for Freedom: Freedom to Bear Witness, from June 21 to July 4.

This year, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) will look at men and women from around the world who have borne witness to authentic freedom in Christ. The USCCB is also sponsoring a tour of relics of Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher, whose feast day is celebrated during the fortnight. Consider sponsoring a parish trip to visit the relics or showing *A Man for All Seasons*, the Oscar-winning film about St. Thomas More.

For more information, please visit www.fortnight4freedom.org.

Bridge Fraternal Years

Learn how your council can bridge the changes from one fraternal year to the next by participating in the next fraternal training webinar. The live seminar will be held on June 4 at 2 p.m.

For those who missed the live discussions on "Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening Our Parish" and "Earning the Star Council Award," archives are available at www.kofc.org/webinar.

For further details, please contact the Department of Fraternal Mission at 203-752-4270 or fraternalservices@kofc.org.

Father's Day Renewal of Wedding Vows Program

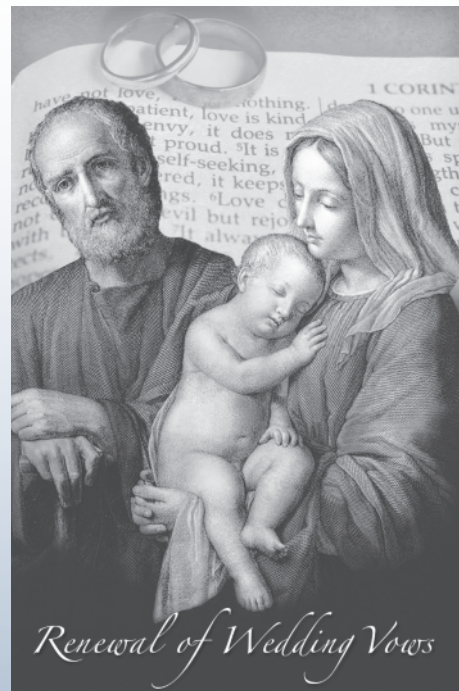
The Knights of Columbus' Domestic Church initiative seeks to integrate our members and their families more fully into the sacramental and social life of the parish. Our parish-based events and programs offer encouragement to families, who are called be "domestic churches" — assemblies of believers that together participate in the work of God.

As a part of the Domestic Church initiative, each council should help plan a Renewal of Wedding Vows event. The renewal should take place on Father's Day, during or immediately following all Masses celebrated at the parish on that day.

This event will give couples the opportunity to bear witness to the Catholic understanding of marriage and the importance of marriage as the building block for strong families and parishes.

Councils should have already begun planning for this Father's Day event. If your council is just beginning to plan, be sure to talk to your pastor and verify the parish schedule. Now is also the perfect time to invite all council members to attend with their families. You should also distribute flyers about the event at Masses and council meetings. Post the details on council and parish bulletin websites as well as on social media. Also, continue to plan how you wish to congratulate each couple, whether through hosting a brunch or supplying a wedding cake in honor of the ceremony.

The printable program booklet *Renewal of Wedding Vows* (#30001) and other information is now available at www.kofc.org/DomesticChurch. You might also consider distributing *Chaplet of Divine Mercy* prayer cards (#9402), *Knights of Columbus rosaries* (Rose-1) or other Marian devotionals for families to use together. Questions on this new program should be directed to knightline@kofc.org or (203) 752-4402.



Avoid Summertime Slump

The simplest program can have a great impact on your council, particularly in the summer months when involvement is less regular.

Take advantage of the short-sleeve weather to organize outings or picnics; pickup baseball, football or soccer games; golf tournaments; and other events that give families an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and have fun together.

Others might plan K of C activities that are simple to run and help improve your council's visibility. Such activities include the Refund Support Vocations Program, the Solidarity Cross Program, the 5th Sunday Rosary Program, a diaper and baby item drive, food and clothing drives, parish movie nights, Communion breakfasts, Altar Server Appreciation, eucharistic adoration and Holy Hours, family socials, church cleanups and so much more.

These types of events are perfect for councils to sponsor during the summer months. Young people are out of school during this time, so be sure to involve them in your council's summer activities and encourage them to volunteer with council service projects. Don't let your council become dormant — stay active by getting everyone in your parish and community involved!

Hurry to Earn VIP Points

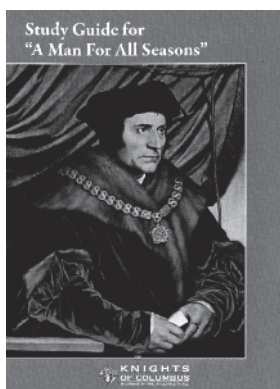
Recruiting a new member into the Order is one of the most important and noteworthy accomplishments that any Knight can work toward. New members keep our organization vibrant and better able to help our parishes and local communities.

Of course, recruitment is more than simply asking a man to join. It takes hard work and initiative. To recognize this effort, the Supreme Council normally awards each proposer who recruits a member with 500 VIP Points. During this fraternal year, however, you can multiply your VIP points. Here's how it works:

If a Knight recruits 1-4 members between Jan.1 and June 30, 2016, he will earn 1,500 VIP points per member. If he recruits more than five members, he will earn 3,000 VIP points per member.

For example, if a Knight recruits four members, he will receive 6,000 VIP points. If he recruits five members, he will receive 15,000 VIP points.

For more information on the VIP points, please visit www.kofc.org.



Plan a Parish Movie and Discussion Night

During his remarks at the College Councils Conference, the supreme knight announced a new movie discussion program for college councils to utilize on their campuses. To facilitate these discussions, the College Council development team created study guides for each film handpicked by the Supreme Knight. Each study guide includes an introduction that covers the era and society that is portrayed in the film, relevant historical background, memorable quotes and questions for discussion. Such movie nights are a great way to engage an entire parish community, especially in the summer months.

Tips for running your movie night can be found at www.kofc.org/un/en/college/council-resources/movie-program.html.

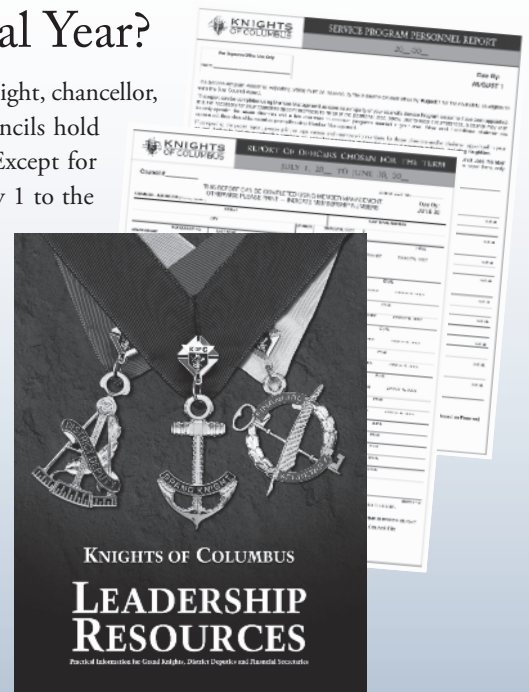
Who Will Lead Your Council During the 2016-17 Fraternal Year?

Knight's of Columbus Councils are required to elect annually a grand knight, deputy grand knight, chancellor, recorder, treasurer, advocate, warden, inside and outside guards, and trustees. Most councils hold elections of these new officers at a regular business meeting between May 15 and June 15. Except for trustees, who may serve terms of up to three years, these new officers will then serve from July 1 to the time their successors are elected and installed into office.

The grand knight, deputy grand knight and trustees select — subject to the rules of the diocese — a priest to serve as the council's chaplain. The grand knight annually appoints the council's lecturer. The council's financial secretary holds office at the supreme knight's will for a three-year term. A member may not be installed as an officer unless his dues are paid to the previous quarter. Failure to keep his dues paid also makes him ineligible to continue in office.

After elections and chairmen/director appointments, copies of the *Report of Officers Chosen for the Term* (#185) and the *Service Program Personnel Report* (#365) must be submitted to the Supreme Council, with additional copies filed with the state deputy, district deputy and council. The report form — due between May 1 and July 1 — should be completed and submitted as soon as possible.

To help your council during this change of leadership, officers should review the *Knights of Columbus Leadership Resources* handbook (#5093), which contains practical information on the duties required from grand knights, district deputies and financial secretaries.



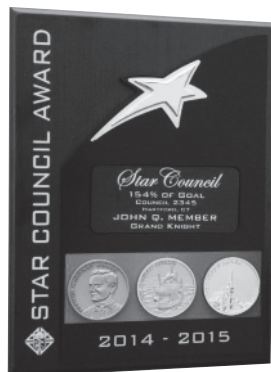
Accept the Council Challenge

Councils that recruit at least 12 new or former members by June 30, 2016, will receive 20,000 VIP points for their council's use. These VIP points can be redeemed for select items available from www.KnightsGear.com. Items exclude those listed under the supply tab.

These new members can help your council achieve its ultimate goal in membership recruitment: becoming a Star Council. To recognize the initiative and dedication of those councils that reach and surpass their membership quota during the 2015-16 fraternal year (which ends on June 30), the Supreme Council will also offer the following awards:

- Newly designed plaque noting the net membership goal attained by the council
- Star Council Lapel pins (available for grand knights, membership directors and program directors of qualifying councils)

Also, 10,000 VIP points will be awarded for every star attained, up to a maximum of five stars. For more information on how to achieve Star Council, please visit www.kofc.org/star. In addition, a 20 percent bonus on VIP points will be available to councils who attained Star Council status last fraternal year and earn the same or higher status this year.



Share the Leadership Lessons You've Learned

As councils look to elections and appointments, previous program directors should plan on meeting with new council officers to evaluate last year's endeavors. Such meetings allow for honest assessment regarding the council's programs and help new officers consider the council's membership recruitment, retention and program activities.

Before meeting with the new officers, previous program directors should ask themselves:

1. How well did your council follow the membership recruitment and service programming plans designed at the start of the year?
2. Were the plans overly ambitious, or did they fail to tap into the council's full potential?
3. Were goals achieved?
4. Were families involved to a sufficient degree? If not, how can family involvement be expanded?
5. Was the entire parish and community involved in these efforts?
6. Were materials available from the Supreme Council headquarters fully utilized?
7. How can the lessons of this year be used to develop better plans for the 2016-17 fraternal year?

Program and membership directors should then share their assessments with their new grand knight and incoming directors to ensure that the lessons they've learned are passed along, helping create or improve upon outstanding programs in this new fraternal year.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS is open to men 18 years of age or older who are practical (that is, practicing) Catholics in union with the Holy See. This means that an applicant or member accepts the teaching authority of the Catholic Church on matters of faith and morals, aspires to live in accord with the precepts of the Catholic Church, and is in good standing in the Catholic Church.

Social Media 101: Maintaining Your Facebook Page

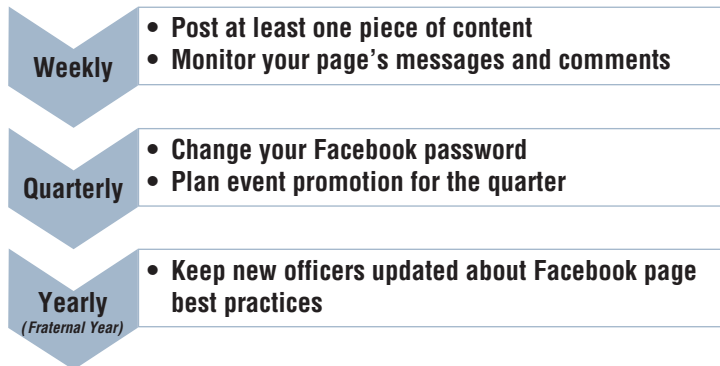
You may be done with your home's spring cleaning, but did you know your council's Facebook page requires some regular maintenance as well? Here are some tips for a social media presence that shines!

Weekly: Your audience wants to hear from you. Ideally, you should post daily on your council's Facebook page, but if that's not possible, one post per week is the recommended minimum. Content should be relevant and appropriate. You can share details about your council or parish's upcoming events, or share spiritual resources such as *A Guide to Praying the Rosary* (#4772). Be sure you share content only from appropriate sources, such as www.usccb.org or www.kofc.org. When monitoring your page's messages and comments, reply to inquiries in a timely and polite manner. Do not engage with comments that are inflammatory or negative, and be sure to take private discussions offline.

Quarterly: Security is always of the utmost importance. Be sure that anyone with administrator access to your council's Facebook page changes their password at least once every three months. Facebook page administrators should also look ahead into the Fraternal Calendar and determine which events they plan on promoting on social media.

Yearly: Don't let your Facebook page be neglected as you transition from one Fraternal Year to the next. Those officers stepping down as Facebook page administrators should meet with new officers to go over the best practices for the page and the Order's Social Communications Policy in the Officer's Desk Reference.

This simple maintenance schedule can make a difference in your council's social media presence (and offline council engagement) in the new fraternal year.

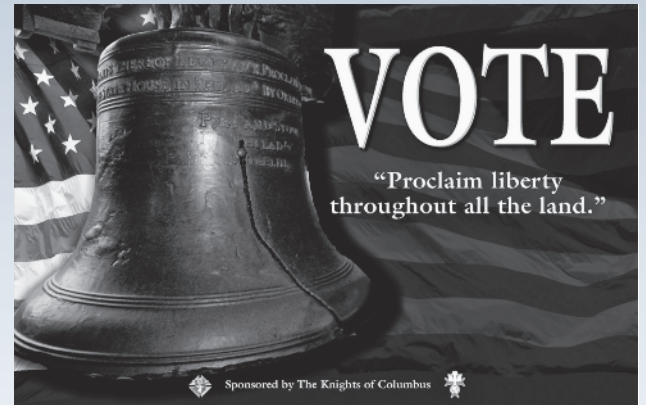


Surge Service Cards

Prior to the start of the 2016-17 fraternal year, financial secretaries will receive wallet-size cards to distribute to council officers. Each card lists the Surge pages and other important webpages that members should frequently visit throughout the year. These cards replace the Surge with Service CDs that were distributed in past years.



Organize a 2016 Nonpartisan Voter Registration Drive



Members of the Knights of Columbus should register to vote and encourage other members, their families, parishes and communities to do the same. To that end, the Knights of Columbus has developed the parish-based Nonpartisan National Voter Registration Program, the goal of which is to enable members to help fellow Catholics exercise their right to vote. First, grand knights and faithful navigators should contact their district deputy and/or state deputy to find out more about their jurisdiction's level of participation. Next, grand knights and faithful navigators should request a meeting with their local pastor to obtain permission to conduct the program and secure several weekend dates sometime between mid-August and the end of September (please check your state's voter registration deadline before choosing the suitable dates). Once a grand knight or faithful navigator has obtained his local pastor's permission, he should access the Nonpartisan Voter Registration Program tab on the Officers' Desk Reference to review specific instructions and materials. This will help ensure that participating members are properly trained on how to administer this program in a nonpartisan way.

Digital Form Now Fixed

A malfunction preventing the digital version of the *Columbian Award Application* (#SP-7) from being submitted digitally has now been fixed. Visit www.kofc.org/forms today to submit your application. Remember, submitting this application is required for all councils who wish to qualify for the Star Council Award.

New Admission Degree Folder

A *New Admission Degree Folder* (#10374) will now be included in the *Candidate Kit* (#531). Be sure to provide the materials in this kit to all candidates at every Admission Degree. These folders should also be distributed to candidates after the Formation and Knighthood degrees.

Actively Sharing Christ's Mercy

During this Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has been highlighting the importance of God's loving message of compassion and pardon. The yearlong celebration confirms the Church's role in sharing God's mercy, from which no person touched by grace can be excluded.

As seen in the below reports of activities that have taken place during this fraternal year, Knights of Columbus concretely participate in extending this mercy as well as charity and fraternal support. To share details and photographs from similar events taking place in your council, please email knightline@kofc.org.

Lawrence J. Flynn Council 4772 in Hialeah, Fla., helped renovate parish center washrooms at Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church in Miami Lakes. During several months of coordinated effort between the council and parishioners, the Knights replaced the flooring, tiles, light fixtures and restroom compartments. The council also held a drive to aid people with physical and intellectual disabilities. The drive's proceeds will go toward the purchase of a wheelchair, as well as support the state fund and two agencies that assist people with disabilities.

Divine Infant Council 7873 in Ottawa, Ontario, held a parish dinner celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Salvatorian Fathers in Canada. Grand Knight Réal Thibault welcomed Archbishop Terrence Prendergast of Ottawa and Salvatorian Father Irek Bem as special guests at the dinner, which was prepared by the Knights and their families. The event provided an opportunity to bring families, youth, religious and members of the Order together in a spirit of brotherhood and love.



Coral Gables (Fla.) Council 3274 held its first chili cook-off to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project. Nine different competitors took part, with Boy Scouts of America Troop 16 from St. Theresa School in Coral Gables winning first prize. Some 250 people attended the event, during which the Miami Dade County mayor and the Board of County Commissioners declared Jan. 9, 2016, Knights of Columbus Day.

Holy Name Council 8789 in San Antonio, Texas, presented a check for \$1,500 to the Allied Women's Center, which offers free pregnancy testing, one-on-one counseling, financial assistance, maternity items and other services to mothers in need. The donation was collected from the parishioners of Holy Name Catholic Church and other contributors through a baby bottle charity campaign. As part of the annual campaign, Knights distribute the bottles after each Mass on Mother's Day and then collect them on Father's Day. Such fundraisers have been essential to the support of the center, which has helped save the lives of over 2,000 babies since it was first founded in 1994.



Father Charles J. Watters Assembly from Dunwoody, Ga., organized a fund drive for military chaplains and seminarians. The donation totaled \$5,000 and included personal contributions from the Fourth Degree Knights as well as members of All Saints and St. Andrew's parishes.

George C. Shields Council 420 of Mansfield, Mass., initiated the "Help a Knight Change Someone's World" fundraising campaign to purchase an ultrasound machine for Abundant Hope Pregnancy Resource Center of Attleboro. Through this program, donations totaling \$26,044 were received from many Christian churches, individual council members, families, friends, the council, other regional councils and assemblies. The matching gift from the Supreme Council raised the total donation to \$52,088.

Bishop Bernard F. Popp Assembly donated five chalices to a minor seminary. The chalices are each engraved with the name of a deceased member of the assembly, serving as a means of remembering the deceased Knight during the celebration of Mass. The five new chalices will be used by newly ordained priests from the Diocese of Homa Bay in Kenya, Africa.

St. Matthew Council 14360 in Norwalk, Conn., assisted Our Lady of Solace Church in Brooklyn, N.Y., after Superstorm Sandy destroyed the church's floor, pews and rectory computers. Council 14360 provided essential assistance during the rebuilding process, which took more than three years.

St. Joseph's Council 3402 in Keyport, N.J., presented a donation to the Cornerstone Women's Resource Centers in Salem. The donation — totaling \$41,800 — was raised entirely by the council and used for the purchase of two 3-D portable ultrasound machines.

For the last several years, Hot Springs (Ark.) Council 6419 has supported St. Mary's of the Springs Catholic Church's mission work to assist St. Andrew's Church in Colladère, Haiti. The Knights collect medical items for the mission and have also personally traveled to Haiti to help install a wind generator and solar panels, to make various repairs needed due to hurricane damage and to provide other hands-on assistance.

The council also organized a raffle to support the education of Arkansas' future priests. The prize — a 2016 Chevy Colorado Pickup, donated by HUG Chevrolet Buick GMC in Charleston — attracted \$5,390 in ticket sales, the proceeds of which supported the Arkansas Catholic Seminarian Education Fund.

see *Mercy*, Page 7



Protect Your Family With Knights of Columbus Insurance

Protecting Your Paycheck

For most of us, the idea of not working is an exciting one. We relish weekends and vacations. We look forward to holidays and special occasions.

We plan for retirement and count down the number of days until we arrive at that freedom that we have planned for so deliberately.

But what if the end of work comes not with freedom, but with surprise? What if the end of work comes with an illness or an accident that prevents us from doing our job? Will we be prepared? Can we be?

With the help of the Knights of Columbus, members and their families can.

We welcome retirement because we have planned for it. We know when it is coming, we know what it will take to get there, and we know what we will need when it arrives. But how can we plan for something unexpected? How can we know what we will need when we do not know what will happen?

Disability insurance is often dismissed by working men and women because they think they will never need it. Their jobs are fairly safe. Their lives are fairly healthy. Disability — they say — is simply something they will never experience.

The statistics tell a different story.

According to the United States government, a staggering 1 in 4 of today's 20-year-olds will become disabled before reaching the age of 67.¹ The nature of the job is irrelevant. According to the Social Security Administration, 95 percent of all disabling illnesses and accidents happen outside of the workplace.²

Consider a typical male, age 35, a non-smoker, who works at an office job with some outdoor responsibilities and leads a very healthy lifestyle. He has a 21 percent chance of being injured or becoming ill and unable to work for three months or longer prior to retirement.³

And what happens once that occurs? What happens if your last paycheck is your last paycheck?

If your illness or injury is among the 95 percent that happen outside of work, workers' compensation will be of no assistance to you. If you plan to rely on the government, you may find that you are among the 64 percent of Americans — including severely disabled Americans — who do not receive any assistance from the government or governmental programs, including Medicare, Social Security and supplemental Security Insurance.⁴

But the situation does not need to be that desperate. Your membership in the Knights of Columbus gives you and your eligible family members exclusive access to disability income insurance that can help safeguard your paycheck.

With Knights of Columbus Disability Income Insurance, you can help make sure that you continue to earn an income, even when you cannot work.

Our disability income insurance is designed to be flexible so that, working with your brother Knight field agent, you can customize it to fit your needs. You choose the monthly benefit amount that's right for you, the elimination period that makes the most sense, and the maximum benefit period for your policy.

And, by purchasing a disability income insurance policy from the Knights of Columbus, you have the added security of knowing that you are doing business with an unapologetically Catholic company that makes sure its investments do not violate Church teaching and which has been repeatedly recognized as a "World's Most Ethical" company.

You owe it to yourself and to your family to make sure that your financial future is secure, regardless of what happens. Don't be caught off guard by surprises. Be on guard and be prepared.

Talk to your Knights of Columbus Field Agent today to learn how easy and affordable disability income insurance can be.

Find him at www.kofc.org/findagent.

¹ "Social Security Fact Sheet," United States Social Security Administration, accessed April 16, 2015, www.ssa.gov/news/press/factsheets/basicfact-alt.pdf.

² "2013 Long Term Disability Claims Review," Council for Disability Awareness, accessed April 16, 2015, www.disabilitycanhappen.org/research/CDA_LTD_Claims_Survey_2013.pdf.

³ "What's Your PDQ?" Council for Disability Awareness, accessed April 16, 2015, www.whatsmypdq.org.

⁴ "Americans with Disabilities: 2010," United States Census Bureau, accessed April 16, 2015, www.census.gov/people/disability/publications/sipp2010.html.

Mercy, from Page 6

Okanogan Valley (Wash.) Council 3044 raised nearly \$15,000 to help people who lost their home and personal belongings to wildfires. The donations came from numerous Washington State councils as well as individual Knights.

Philip A. Lambert Council 10903 in Gulf Shores, Ala., organized a bumper sticker initiative to show its support for religious freedom and the right of all Americans to practice their religious beliefs. The bumper stickers, which read "Keep Christ in America" and included council information for any interested prospects, encouraged all Americans to embrace the role that Christianity has served — and continues to serve — in our country.

St. Thomas More Council 7121 in St. Augustine, Fla., has annually sponsored a Veterans' Day Mass and brunch for the past 15 years. The event first began through the efforts of Knight John Leahy, who had been a member of the council and a veteran of the Korean Conflict. Now deceased, Mr. Leahy's efforts are continued by his brother Knights and the members of St. Anastasia Parish, with this year's Mass attended by more than 200 local veterans.

St. Joseph Council 15121 Poplarville, Miss., donated a motorized wheelchair to 84-year-old Murray Evans, who, after serving 22 years in the Navy as an electrician's mate, now lives in a retirement home in Gulfport. The council members spent time visiting with Mr. Evans as he began enjoying his new gift of mobility.

Knightline

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