

Knightline

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

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A Light to the Nations

Supreme knight's report during 134th Supreme Convention highlights Order's charity and major accomplishments

At the 134th Supreme Convention in Toronto, the supreme knight's annual report began with the announcement of the convention's theme: "A Light to the Nations." Based upon Pope Francis' call to a greater sense of missionary discipleship, it was well-suited to the many accomplishments of the Order throughout the 2015-16 fraternal year.

During the report, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson noted the Order's record levels of charity, which totaled more than \$175 million in donations and over 73.5 million hours of volunteer service.

Highlights of the Orders' charitable efforts include the continued support of persecuted Christians, including those suffering genocide at the hands of ISIS, as well as the further development of the Building the Domestic Church initiative.

As "the strong right arm of the Church," the supreme knight noted, the Knights of Columbus is the organization most suited to responding to Pope Francis' recent call to strengthen marriages and assist parents in the work of raising children. The Building the Domestic Church initiative, he said, does exactly this by providing concrete ways in which Knights can reach out and give families and parishes the tools they need to bring one another closer to God.

Supreme Knight Anderson explained that these successes are in no small measure made possible by continued growth in membership.

"Our charity is motivated by faith. And our faith is a gift to be shared," he said.

"When we bring new men into the Order, we give them the opportunity to be better Catholics. ... I am pleased to report that our membership grew for the 44th consecutive year to a record high of 1,918,122 brother Knights," Supreme Knight Anderson announced to applause.

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Supreme Knight Carl Anderson addresses the closing business session during the 134th annual Knights of Columbus Supreme Convention, Toronto, Aug. 2.

By the Numbers

15TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR
OF GROWTH

72,000 NEW LIFE CERTIFICATES

8.4 BILLION DOLLARS
IN NEW SALES

\$100 BILLION OF LIFE INSURANCE
IN FORCE SURPASSED

Grand Knight Checklist – September & October

- ✓ Confirm that *Circle Officers and Chairmen* (#468) and *Report of Round Table Coordinator* (#2629), both due on Sept. 1, have been completed
- ✓ Confirm your council's July assessments have been paid
Failure to pay the assessments prior to Oct. 10 will result in suspension of the council. A suspended council may not be seated at their state convention, nor are its members eligible to be delegates to the Supreme Convention. Please note: The incentive credit for Star Councils will be listed on the Sept. 1 statement. Please wait for this statement to determine the amount due or credited.
- ✓ Plan which charitable works your council will conduct in honor of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, whose canonization took place Sept. 4
- ✓ Plan how your council will participate in the International World Day of Prayer for Peace (Sept. 11), Coats for Kids drives and Food for Families initiatives
- ✓ Begin collecting data for the *Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity* (#1728)
- ✓ Make sure your council is on the path to earning the Star Council Award



Knights of Columbus Offers Lifeline to Persecuted Christians

During his annual report, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson called attention to the Knights of Columbus' efforts in assisting Christians facing persecution, especially those facing genocide in the Middle East. He called this work the Order's greatest endeavor during the past fraternal year.

"In Iraq, Syria and neighboring countries, Christians and other religious minorities are facing extinction," Supreme Knight Anderson said. "Many receive no support from their governments or from the United Nations. They have had to rely on their fellow Christians, and they have been able to rely on the Knights of Columbus. Since 2014, we have raised more than \$11 million for Christian refugees. And that money has been a lifeline."

The contributions raised by the Knights have helped provide:

- \$800,000 worth of food for 13,500 families in Erbil, Iraq
- Medical clinics and long-term housing projects
- Support to exiled Syriac Catholic priests
- Catechetical classes for Syriac and Chaldean Catholics
- Assistance to besieged Christians of Aleppo, Syria
- Support of educational initiatives for refugees in Jordan
- Support of a variety of programs in Lebanon

"These efforts depend upon the active involvement of our brother Knights," he continued. "Some have donated to our Christian Refugee Relief Fund. Others have responded by participating in our Solidarity Cross program through our councils, which have sold more than 82,000 olive wood crosses made by Christians in the Holy Land."



Along with contributing vital financial assistance, the Knights of Columbus also conducted an enormous amount of research to compile a nearly 300-page report that documented conclusively the attacks perpetrated by ISIS against Christians. These efforts helped lead the U.S. government to officially declare these attacks on Middle Eastern Christians and other religious minorities as genocide. The Knights also conducted a powerful public awareness campaign to support this effort.

"My brother Knights, we made history!" the supreme knight said, commenting on the Order's effort to awaken the government to the Christians' horrific situation. But, he continued, this declaration "is only the beginning. We will continue to work to ensure that the Christians who still speak the language of Jesus, and whose ancestors baptized St. Paul, survive."

For information on what your council can do to further support these Christians, visit christiansatrisk.org.



Beatitude Ignatius Joseph III Younan, patriarch of the Syriac Catholic Church of Antioch, presents religious freedom as the basis for human rights advocacy and the survival of Christians in the Middle East.

Light, from Page 1

Impressive membership growth has particularly been seen in the Order's youngest areas: Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine.

"In one decade, we have grown in Poland to nearly 90 local councils with nearly 4,400 members," the supreme knight said. "In Ukraine, we now have 566 members in 13 councils."

"I ask each of you to take to heart our responsibility as leaders of the most important Catholic men's organization in the world," Supreme Knight Anderson asked of his brother Knights. "What we do in our families and parishes will change the history of the Catholic Church. ... The strong right arm of the Catholic Church must also be the strong right arm of our parish church. Today, this is what it means to be a light to the nations."

Nearly 95 cardinals, archbishops and bishops; countless priests and deacons; and approximately 2,000 members of the Knights and their families from throughout North and Central America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and Europe were in attendance for the report.



Supreme Knight Anderson presents Cardinal Donald Wuerl of Washington with a bound copy of the K of C resolution honoring him.



A Witness of Undivided Faith

Little Sisters of the Poor awarded Order's highest honor at States Dinner

This year, a congregation of religious sisters were recognized for their selfless charity and intrepid spirit as the Knights of Columbus bestowed its highest honor, the Gaudium et Spes Award, on the Little Sisters of the Poor.

The Little Sisters of the Poor, a congregation which operates 27 homes for the sick and dying in the United States, are the 12th recipient of the prestigious Gaudium et Spes Award. They were chosen not only for their witness to the Gospel in caring for the elderly, but also for their efforts in fighting for religious rights, particularly the freedom of conscience.

In challenging the government mandate that would force the sisters to provide contraception and abortion-causing drugs in health plans for their employees, the Little Sisters “insisted that our Catholic faith cannot be divided or compartmentalized,” said the citation for the award. “The teachings of the faith they cherish are based on the love they have for God and the poor whom they serve each day.”

Accepting the award on behalf of the congregation was Mother Loraine Marie Maguire, mother provincial of the Baltimore Province. She explained that once the community learned the details of the coercive mandate, they knew that they had to challenge it in order to continue their care for the poor, sick and elderly with a clear conscience.

Through three years of court battles, she noted, the congregation has been supported by prayers, good wishes and legal expertise from many individuals and organizations, including the Knights of Columbus. Looking out at the thousands of supporters at the dinner provided her with “a glimpse of the heavenly banquet,” she said.

The Gaudium et Spes Award includes a medal and \$100,000 honorarium and was first given in 1992 to Mother Teresa of Calcutta. This year, the award was bestowed during the annual States Dinner, Aug. 2, the first day of the Supreme Convention. It marks the first time that the award was bestowed upon a community rather than an individual.



On behalf of the Little Sisters of the Poor, Mother Loraine Marie Maguire receives the Gaudium et Spes Award from Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. With them is Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori.



The guests at the dais stand and wave their flags during the annual States Dinner.



Gain Momentum Through Church Drives

Want to jump-start your council activities? Bring new ideas and spirit into your council by recruiting new members. To learn how to do this, you're invited to a fraternal leader training webinar on Saturday, Sept. 10, 2016, at 2 p.m. EST. The topic will be “Building Council Momentum With Church Recruitment Drives.”

The webinar is designed for all council officers, but all members of the Order are welcome to participate. To register, please visit kofc.org/webinar.

If you missed any of the previous webinars, they are available on demand in the webinar portal. Simply go to kofc.org/webinar and follow the links to access the archived information.

If you have any questions, please contact Gary Nolan at gary.nolan@kofc.org or call 203-752-4270.



Catastrophic Flood Hits Louisiana: Your Help Is Urgently Needed

Southern Louisiana has been hit by what is being called “the worst natural disaster since Superstorm Sandy.” More than a dozen people have died, with tens of thousands of others forced to leave their homes. More than 30,000 people have been rescued from the flooded areas, with many seeking refuge in emergency shelters.

In response to the devastation, the Supreme Council has launched an online donation drive to assist with local relief operations. Knights and their families have already responded generously; thanks to their assistance, just days after launching the drive the Order was able to donate more than \$260,000 to assist with relief work and supplies.

However, the people of Louisiana face a long, hard recovery. Your continued support can make a vital difference in healing the lives of those affected.

Contributions can be made online or sent via check or money order. For information, visit kofc.org/flood.

Oregon Family Honored as International Family of the Year

This year, during the Awards Session of the 134th Supreme Convention, the International Family of the Year Award was presented to the Paul and Michelle Nowak family of Lebanon, Ore.

Together with their 13 children, Paul and Michelle are active in many council events, such as fundraiser breakfasts, culture-of-life activities, food drives, parish-related initiatives and Habitat for Humanity construction projects, for which Paul has personally donated materials from his construction company.

Paul serves as a lector at his parish. His eight sons have a combined 50 years of service as altar boys, and three of them still regularly serve. Two of his sons assist with parish catechism classes, while his teenage children are involved with their parish's youth group. Three of their adult children serve as active-duty military personnel.

Michelle is a confirmation instructor and coordinates the Forty-Hour devotion for the parish. She serves as treasurer for the local Catholic Daughters of America.

Paul has been a member of the Knights of Columbus for 32 years. Having served as grand knight in three different councils, he now belongs to Lebanon Council 3184 and is a Fourth Degree member of Pope St. John XXIII Assembly in Corvallis, for which he serves as comptroller. He also serves as a member of his council's First Degree and Second Degree ceremonial team.



Kids Heading Back to School? Don't Forget Your Coat!

As the calendar turns and the kids head back to school, now is the perfect time to begin your Coats for Kids orders. By placing your order now, you'll be sure to have coats on hand when the weather turns cold. For information on shipping and costs, visit kofc.org/coats or knightsgear.com.



Tell Us How You Make a Difference

Every day Knights make a difference through community service, fundraisers, pro-life action and prayer. Tell us how you and the members of your council make a difference by sharing the details with *Columbia*, the monthly magazine of the Knights of Columbus. To read reports and learn more about submitting news on your council's charitable and fraternal activities, please visit kofc.org/knightsinaction.

Charitable Service Week, Oct. 2-9

In his recent visit to Assisi, Pope Francis said, "To offer today's world the witness of mercy is a task from which none of us can feel exempt."

The Supreme Council invites you to offer a witness of mercy and charity by taking part in the Orderwide Charitable Service Week, Oct 2-9, held in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, patron of our Holy Father.

Consider conducting a Food for Families program; host a food drive or prepare a meal at a soup kitchen. Or, arrange to provide warm winter coats to children before the cold weather arrives. Councils in warmer climates might take part in a Habitat for Humanity building project, helping provide a family with a new home before the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

While you're conducting your outreach program, don't forget that every program represents a membership recruitment opportunity. Invite prospective members and inactive Knights to join you, showing them that there is a place for them in the Knights of Columbus.

Councils conduct wonderful programs every day. The intent of the Orderwide Charitable Service Week is to expand upon those good works and inspire others to do the same. After the week is complete, share the details with *Columbia* magazine. Visit kofc.org/knightsinaction for more information.

Star Councils

Has your council developed a plan for attainment of the Star Council Award or Double Star Council Award this fraternal year? If not, now is the time to do so. Every grand knight should schedule a meeting with council officers and program personnel, as well as the council's chaplain and field agent, to develop a plan of action for membership recruitment, insurance promotion and Service Program activity. Once the plan is developed, put it into action so your council will be counted among the stars for the 2016-17 fraternal year.



Help Reach 1,000 Ultrasounds

In memory of Mother Teresa, Supreme Council aims to reach 1,000 ultrasound machine donations

The Knights of Columbus launched its Ultrasound Initiative on Jan. 22, 2009 — the 36th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion in the United States. Since that day, councils have funded more than 700 ultrasound machines in centers across the United States, Canada, Jamaica, Guatemala and Peru.

The Knights of Columbus' dedication to the Ultrasound Initiative reflects the pro-life spirit of Mother Teresa, whose canonization will take place at the Vatican Sept 4. In honor of this occasion, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson has asked that councils work to fund 1,000 ultrasound machines.

For information on how your council can help work toward this goal, visit kofc.org/ultrasound. Additional questions may be directed to William O'Brien at 203-752-4403 or william.obrien@kofc.org.



The portrait of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta is processed into the ballroom for the memorial Mass during the Knights of Columbus' 134th annual convention.

A Goal for Unity

This past spring, the Knights of Columbus' Pio XI Sport Center in Rome was the location of a Special Olympics Unified Football Tournament. The unified teams, a mix of players with and without intellectual disabilities, consisted of 72 athletes from France, Lithuania, Poland, Hungary and Italy, ranging in age from 18 to 30 years.



The event was organized by Special Olympics Italy and Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia and co-sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and the Italian Football Association. The event marked the start of Special Olympics European Football Week, which was designed to break down barriers and offer a model of how communities can plan programs for people with intellectual disabilities.

Since 1968, the Knights of Columbus has raised and donated more than \$600 million to programs for people with intellectual and physical disabilities, including the Special Olympics, but ongoing support is needed.

For information on organizing local fundraisers, events or donation drives, visit kofc.org.

New Requirement for Columbian Award

A new requirement for the Columbian Award was announced during the annual Membership Seminar at the Supreme Convention. To earn the Columbian Award, councils must now conduct at least four Surge With Service activities that are also designated as domestic church programs.

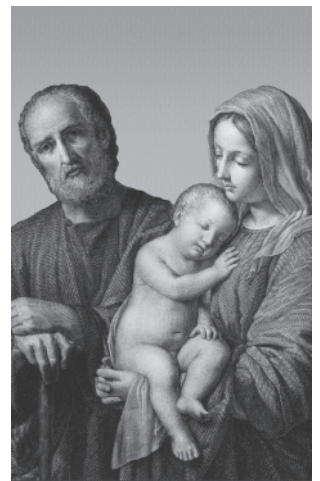
These programs currently include:

- Journey to the Inn
- Father's Day Affirmation of Wedding Vows
- Consecration to the Holy Family
- The Family Fully Alive
- Diocesan-Wide Holy Family Celebrations
- Food for Families
- Keep Christ in Christmas
- Into the Breach Spiritual Formation Groups
- 5th Sunday Rosary Program
- Family Week Celebrations

Please visit kofc.org/domesticchurch for the most up-to-date list of eligible programs and activities and to find resources that will help your council conduct them.

The *Columbian Award Application* (SP-7) is currently being revised to reflect these changes and will be mailed to all councils with a cover letter explaining the change. Questions regarding the revised application should be directed to Robert Ennis at robert.ennis@kofc.org.

Questions regarding the Building the Domestic Church initiative should be directed to the Department of Fraternal Mission at fraternalmission@kofc.org or 203-752-4270.



**BUILDING THE
DOMESTIC CHURCH**
WHILE STRENGTHENING OUR PARISH





51st College Councils Conference Slated for Sept. 30-Oct. 2

The annual College Councils Conference will take place Sept. 30-Oct. 2 in New Haven, Conn.

The weekend-long conference begins Friday evening with the annual awards banquet, which features the presentation of the Outstanding College Council Award. Saturday includes a variety of main stage and breakout training sessions for council leaders. Conference attendees will also have an opportunity to attend Mass at St. Mary's Church and to visit the Supreme Council home office and Knights of Columbus Museum. The conference concludes Sunday morning with a Mass, breakfast and closing session.

Every college council should plan to send two students — ideally, the grand knight and another council officer. Each college council should also plan on sending their chaplain and financial secretary. Registration can be found online at kofc.org/collegeconference.

Councils will receive travel stipends based on their distance from New Haven. Following the conference, these travel stipends will be sent to councils based on their attendance (the max number of travel stipends a council will receive is four — two students, chaplain and financial secretary). It is the council's responsibility to reimburse its individual travelers for these funds.

Any questions regarding the conference should be directed to the College Councils Department at college@kofc.org or 203-752-4671.



College Knights gather for a Mass celebrated at St. Mary's Church during the 2015 conference. The event marked the 50th anniversary of the College Councils Conference.

Social Media 101: Why Follow #KofC?

At the end of this last fraternal year, the Knights of Columbus social media team asked our 135,000 followers on Facebook — many of whom are Brother Knights — what they gain from following the Order on social media and what they hope to accomplish online and in their parish communities in the coming year. We received hundreds of responses and found that our brother Knights follow us on social media because it inspires them and helps them reach their council goals.

"I find my daily motivation in Knights in Action stories."

By following Knights of Columbus on social media, you'll have access to stories of Knights living out our call to engage in charity that evangelizes. You will also find resources to strengthen your prayer life and ideas for making faith the center of your family.

"I keep up to date and informed on all things affecting us Knights."

Sixty-two percent of Americans now get at least some of their news from social media sources. By following the Knights of Columbus social media pages, you can stay informed about the news most important to you and your family. K of C social media allows you to quickly learn about Supreme Council news, programs and charitable initiatives; the latest news about the Church worldwide; and other Catholic news.

How to Keep in Touch

Staying in touch with us online is easy! You can find Knights of Columbus on Facebook (facebook.com/KnightsofColumbus), Twitter (@KofC), Instagram (@kofc_official), YouTube (/KnightsofColumbusSupremeCouncil) and LinkedIn (/knights-of-columbus).

Search for the Order's official hashtag, #KofC, on any of these platforms and join the conversation today.



Two New Board Members Elected

During a business session of the annual convention on Aug. 3, Arthur L. Peters, past state deputy of Ontario, and Jose C. Reyes Jr., Luzon North deputy, were elected to the Knights of Columbus Board of Directors.

Peters served as state deputy of Ontario and was the executive chairman for this year's Supreme Convention. He joined the Order in 1986 and belongs to Father Clair Tipping Council 9235 in Brampton, Ontario. For the past 12 years, he has been employed as director of development for the Archdiocese of Toronto.

The first deputy of the newly created Luzon North jurisdiction, Reyes is associate justice of the Court of Appeals in the Philippines. He joined the Order in 1981 and is a member of Archbishop Reyes Council 3696 in Mandaluyong, Luzon North. He also serves as the president of Knights of Columbus Fraternal Association of the Philippines Inc.



Jose C. Reyes Jr.



Arthur L. Peters



Protect Your Family With Knights of Columbus Insurance

Don't Crowdfund Your Family's Future

There is a new phenomenon sweeping the internet: crowdfunding. Pioneered by organizations like GoFundMe, crowdfunding allows anyone to donate to a project or cause online.

Crowdfunding is increasingly being used to raise funds for grieving families. Chances are you've seen this more than once. Someone passes away, and within a day or two, a representative from the family opens a crowdfunding page to raise funds to pay for funeral expenses and medical bills.

Without question, crowdfunding is a great way to harness the power of the internet for charitable ends, but it is often insufficient.

Recent studies show that the average crowdfunding memorial page raises \$2,000-\$2,200 — far below the average cost of funeral services.¹ Grieving families are left to deal with the shortfall as well as the additional stress of soliciting donations, figuring out how to access the money and calculating platform fees.

September is designated as Life Insurance Awareness Month. It's a great opportunity for you to evaluate your life insurance coverage and make sure your family's future will not be left to a crowdfunding page.

Since life insurance guards against one of life's only certainties, it's a product that nearly everyone needs. The question is not "Do I need life insurance?" but rather "Who should I get it from?"

Who Should I Get It From?

Every life insurance company sells life insurance. There are hundreds of them in North America. But there's only one life insurance company that belongs to you.

From the beginning, the Knights of Columbus has been determined to offer insurance by brother Knights for brother Knights and to uphold the Catholic commitment that has animated our Order since Father McGivney's time.

Today, our insurance program protects hundreds of thousands of families, with more than \$100 billion in force. Last year alone, Knights of Columbus families received more than \$800 million in insurance benefits.

Being *your* insurance company also means that we have to be ethical, responsible, Catholic and charitable — just as you would expect.

Recently we received our third consecutive "World's Most Ethical" company designation by the Ethisphere Institute, and since 1975, the Knights of Columbus has been among the most highly rated life insurers in North America.² We refuse to invest in companies who deal in lines of business that run contrary to church teaching. We also use proceeds from our insurance business to donate to Catholic and charitable causes around the world. The insurance business and local councils are the two primary sources for the more than \$1.55 billion the Knights of Columbus has donated to charity in the past decade.

Our strength cannot be beaten. Our ethical pedigree cannot be questioned. And our Catholic commitment is never compromised.

Not every life insurance company can say that.

How Much Do I Need?

As a Knight, you have a full-time, professional brother Knight field agent to call your own. His job — his mission — is to help you and your family evaluate your situation and determine how much coverage is needed to help meet your needs within your budget.

It's a proven fraternal system that has helped countless families when they need it most.

So, as we observe Life Insurance Awareness Month, don't leave your family's future to chance charity. Protect your family with the safety and guarantees of life insurance from the Knights of Columbus.

To find your agent, visit kofc.org/findagent or call 1-800-345-5632.

¹ "Crowdfunding Funerals: What You Need to Know" by Kayleigh Kulp, *Fox Business*. Accessed August 15, 2016.

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/features/2014/08/08/crowdfunding-funerals-what-need-to-know.html>

² As of Jan. 1, 2016, rated A++ (Superior) for financial strength by A.M. Best

Forms Due Now

*Circle Officers and Chairmen (#468) and
Report of Round Table Coordinator (#2629) are due.*

If you have not yet submitted these forms, complete them immediately and send them to the Fraternal Mission Department. The forms may be accessed at kofc.org/forms.

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HE IS MAKING A COMMITMENT TO
ETHICAL INVESTMENT AND CORPORATE
GOVERNANCE; AND HE IS MAKING
A COMMITMENT THAT BENEFITS
HIS CHURCH AND COMMUNITY.

— SUPREME KNIGHT CARL A. ANDERSON

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