



IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

KNIGHTLINE

NEWS FOR KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS LEADERS

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Knights Attend National March for Life

Knights of Columbus pro-life signs were on display at the 45th annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., where tens of thousands demonstrated their commitment to the defense of all human life. This year's attendees were greeted by President Trump, who addressed the rally via a live-stream video from the White House Rose Garden, and Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, who announced the passing of the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. The act amends the federal criminal code so that health care practitioners are obligated to take life-saving measures when a child is born alive following an attempted abortion.

Want to keep supporting a culture of life? Visit kofc.org/pro-life.

Carry the Pro-Life Mission Further: Save 1 Million Lives!

Stop the deaths of innocent babies by joining the "Knights of Columbus Campaign to Save 1 Million Children."

The Knights of Columbus launched its Ultrasound Initiative on Jan. 22, 2009. Currently we have nearly 900 ultrasound machines in place. We estimate that every week each of these machines saves four babies from being aborted.

Imagine what we can do with 100 more machines. We will have saved an estimated total of 1 million babies! We can protect these innocent and helpless children — but we need your help to make this possible. Our goal is to have the 1,000 machines in place by 2019, the tenth anniversary of the ultrasound initiative.

Exactly how can you help us meet this goal? Find out which pregnancy care centers in your area are in need of an ultrasound machine. Then, work with nearby councils and other groups in your parish to raise funds for the machine.

Also, be sure to check out the Culture of Life playlist on the Knights of Columbus YouTube channel for powerful pro-life testimonials. Share these videos with all your brother Knights, your parish, your family and friends.

Questions? Contact William O'Brien at 203-752-4403 or william.obrien@kofc.org.

Already donated a machine? Let us know any tips you have for raising funds and any plans you have for the future! Email us at knightline@kofc.org.

Did you know?

If you raise 50 percent of the cost of an ultrasound machine, the Supreme Council will match the amount raised. Check out the details at kofc.org/ultrasound.

How (Social) Networking Attracted Millennials to Council

The Communications Staff caught up with past Grand Knight Raymond Lill, whose council recently succeeded in breaking personal recruitment efforts.

This past January, St. Philip the Apostle Council 11671 in Clifton, N.J., welcomed nine college-aged men as the newest members. It all began with a few simple phone calls. Brother Knight Raymond Lill called several members of his council, asking if their college-age sons and grandsons would like to become members of the Knights of Columbus.

First, Lill invited his grandsons, Jack and Nicholas Garruto, to join. They became members along with several local police officers, and the event was publicized on social media.

The social media coverage helped Jack and Nicholas network with local friends, almost all of whom had dads in the K of C. The young men were already familiar with the council's various programs — including free throws and polar plunges — that involved families and young people in the community. Many of them had also participated in “tank pulls” organized by the Clifton Knights and the New Jersey State Council to support Wounded Warriors and veterans. Over the years, the tank pulls have brought together dozens of participants, including the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Seton Hall & Rutgers ROTC units and United States Marine recruiters. Within a five-year period, this event raised a total of approximately \$700,000.

The impact of having such a successful lineup of programs speaks for itself; all Council 11671 needed was to formally invite the young men to join. Since the majority of the recruits were attending college, the council used the *First Degree Video Production*. This DVD allows councils to conduct First Degree Ceremonials as needed without a team.

Our thanks to Council 11671 for sharing the details of this successful recruitment event — and a very excited welcome to its newest members!



Six Recruiting Tips From Council 11671

1. Plan First Degree ceremonials around college calendars, and plan your Church Recruitment Drive around spring break weekends. Alternatively, welcome college-aged Knights to join you in attending the Easter Vigil and a council-sponsored reception.
2. Embrace social media. As Nicholas Garruto — a student at William Patterson University in Wayne, N.J. — shared, Knights of Columbus councils have the ability to introduce younger men to a wider segment of the community, helping Catholic men to network with one another.
3. Advertise council news and programs via Facebook, Twitter and other forms of social media — it is the type of communication that millennials (born from early 1980s to early 2000s) have grown up with, and communications that offer speed, ease of use and instant feedback still dominate the majority of their personal, educational and work relationships.
4. Participate in fundraising opportunities such as the tank pull. As new Brother Knight Michael McLaughlin — a student at Jersey City University — explains, they help to establish strong bonds of friendship.
5. Keep in mind that millennials are generally uncomfortable with bureaucracy or communication barriers.
6. Provide open communication and regular feedback. Recognize millennials for their volunteer involvement and welcome them to participate in a volunteer leadership role for an event. Speak to them about how being a Knight can open up many more flexible leadership opportunities, in both the parish and the council.

Join a Worldwide Network of Brother Knights

This Lent, Knights are encouraged to share how they are answering Pope Francis' call to grow in faith by performing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Whenever you or your council answers that call, get out your smartphone and snap some photos to share online! It's easy — just include the hashtag #KofC when posting to your council's Facebook, Twitter or Instagram page. If you don't add the hashtag, the Supreme Council and your fellow Knights worldwide may never find your good works.

Also, don't only use hashtags — follow them! This way, you won't miss posts and inspiration by your brother Knights.

So, as we join together as a worldwide network this Lent, be sure to follow Knights of Columbus on Facebook, @kofc on Twitter, and @kofc_official on Instagram. There, we can find support to make this Lenten journey together.



Day of Unborn — A Great Way to Share Your Pro-Life Message

Normally held on March 25, to coincide with the feast of the Annunciation, this year the Day of the Unborn Child will be held on Monday, April 9. Why the change in date? This year Palm Sunday falls on March 25, so the Annunciation gets moved to April 9. Be sure to mark your calendar with the new date!

The international Knights of Columbus Day of Prayer for the Unborn Child — this year held Monday, April 9 — offers a special opportunity to pray for the protection of every human life, from conception until natural death.

Mark the day by offering prayers for the unborn and their parents during the intercessory prayers at Mass or during a special prayer service. To organize this service, councils should work with their pastor and chaplain:

- Establish a time and type of service (e.g., a Mass, rosary or Stations of the Cross).
- Include in the Mass or service, if appropriate, the Rite for the Blessing of a Child in the Womb.
- Offer special prayers for all families who have a child that died because of miscarriage, abortion, or stillbirth. Pray also for those children who have died from illness, disability, accident, violence, or other causes.

- Announce the program in the parish bulletin and from the pulpit at all weekend Masses prior to the event.
- Send a notice to your diocesan newspaper, radio stations and local secular media. Post details on the council's website and social media accounts. Notify parish and local pro-life groups, and welcome them to your event.

Prayerful activities could also be held at a tomb for the unborn in a local cemetery, outside an abortion clinic or in some other public area. Be sure to invite all Knights, family members, parishioners and members of the community to participate in any council-sponsored observance.

At all events, share information on the K of C Ultrasound Initiative using materials from knightsgear.com (see below). Also, encourage practical action, such as organizing a Baby Bottle Boomerang or diaper drive. Funds collected could be donated to a local pregnancy care center, pro-life organization, or the Knights' Culture of Life fund.

For more information, visit the Culture of Life section of the K of C website at kofc.org/service.

Materials for Your Day of the Unborn Event

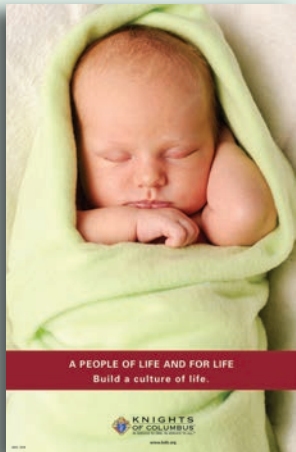
The below items are available through knightsgear.com at no cost, except for a shipping charge, when ordered in reasonable quantities.

Ultrasound Initiative (#10535): This flyer describes the basics of the Ultrasound Initiative and how councils and individuals can help fund new ultrasound machines for pregnancy care centers.

Winning Words of Life (#2275): This four-page, full-color educational flyer offers thoughtful responses to common abortion arguments and fits nicely into church bulletins.

A People of Life — And for Life (#4795): This is a brochure outlining the Order's commitment to building a culture that values human life at every stage. A poster (#4804) with a similar design is also available.

Prayer cards and posters: *Prayer for Life* (#4665), *Pray the Rosary to End Abortion poster* (#2073), *Pray the Rosary to End Abortion prayer card* (#2072), *Gospel of Life poster* (#4238) and *Gospel of Life prayer card* (#4237 E-F-S) are perfect items to distribute during your Day of the Unborn event. Most are available in English, French or Spanish, so be sure to check out knightsgear.org for details.



Grand Knight's Checklist — February & March

- ✓ Verify that your council submitted its *Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity* (#1728), *Partnership With Special Olympics Profile* (#4584), *Free Throw Championship Participation Form* (FT-1), *Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest Participation Form* (#4001) and *Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest Participation Form* (#4216), all due Jan. 31.
- ✓ Submit the *Semiannual Council Audit Report* (#1295) by Feb. 15.
- ✓ Order materials and plan participation in the Orderwide Church Recruitment Drive (March 10-11), the Orderwide Outreach Week in honor of Father McGivney (March 12-18), the Council First Degree Week (March 19-25) and Founder's Day (March 29).
- ✓ Prepare your council's Per Capita Tax, Catholic Advertising Fund and Culture of Life Fund assessments. *Remember, failure to pay the assessments prior to April 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.*
- ✓ Confirm that your council remains compliant with the Office of Youth Protection's requirements for all activities.
- ✓ Make sure your council is on the path to earning the Star Council Award.

Help Support Our Troops



Here at the Supreme Council, plans are underway for the 2018 Warriors to Lourdes Pilgrimage, which we co-sponsor in collaboration with the Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.A. Through this program, we offer wounded or ill troops an opportunity for renewal and healing, but we need your help to make this year's event a success.

By donating \$2,600, your council and parish can cover the travel expenses of one pilgrim to this life-changing event. To donate, visit warriorstolourdes.com.

Pictured is one of the life-size bronze Stations of the Cross at the Shrine in Lourdes, where countless pilgrims offer their prayers. One such pilgrim was Retired Army Sgt. Timothy Doerner, a member of San Gorgino Council 5392 in Beaumont, Calif., and attendee of the 2016 Warriors to Lourdes pilgrimage. Doerner's electric wheelchair initially prevented him from reaching the stations. Discovering his plight, eight volunteers helped Doerner wrestle his wheelchair through water trenches, over holes, around rocks and up sharp inclines. After reaching the top, they accompanied Sgt. Doerner in prayer at each station. Please consider helping a warrior like Sgt. Doerner experience the spiritual life at Lourdes today!

Photo by Bob Mullen/The Catholic Photographer

Steps to Recruitment Success: Prepare, Implement, Follow Up

One of the top priorities of the Order is to make a concerted effort to recruit younger men. The Orderwide Church Recruitment Drive in March is a perfect opportunity to start aiming younger. Here are three steps to make your drive a winning success!

1. Prepare

Order all recruitment drive materials by the end of February and schedule your "Church Recruitment Drive Weekend" for March 10 to 11. Collect information that will appeal to younger prospects, such as insurance plans, family-oriented activities and *Columbia's* Knights in Action stories. Promote the drive through bulletins, newsletters and social media.

2. Implement

On the day of the drive, have members wear K of C-branded apparel, greet parishioners and share info. At all times, have a younger member of your council be present — there's no better recruitment tool than the enthusiasm of our younger brother Knights!

3. Follow Up

Within 48 hours of the drive, contact every prospect who expressed interest. Inform them of the dates, times and locations of your next informational meeting and First Degree ceremony. If needed, use the *First Degree Video Production* available via Officers Online. For detailed information on how to conduct an effective recruitment drive, go to the For Members section of kofc.org or consult the *Membership Recruitment and Retention Manual* (#10237).

Star Council In-Depth: Founders' Award

To win the Founders' Award, your council must meet or exceed its yearly insurance quota to be eligible.

How do you know if you've met your quota? Your quota equals a 2.5 percent net increase in insurance membership as of July 1 for the fraternal year. The minimum quota is 3 and the maximum is 18.

NOTE: Reactivating inactive insurance members qualifies the council for insurance additions toward Founders' Award quotas. For these new memberships to qualify as part of your quota addition, you must make sure that your membership and insurance transactions are received, processed, recorded and released at the Supreme Council office by June 30 — so submit your information as soon as possible!

Last Chance

Grand knights and district deputies whose councils recruit one or more new members between Dec. 1 and Feb. 28 will receive a portrait of the Holy Family. Make sure your council invites a prospect to join before it's too late! For details, visit kofc.org/incentive.



It's Not Too Late to Win a Trip to Dublin

For each man you recruit, you'll be entered into a drawing to win an all-expense paid trip for you and your wife to the World Meeting of Families in Dublin next August. Haven't recruited anyone yet? Don't worry! The drawing will take place July 1, 2018, and anyone who has proposed a new member this fraternal year is eligible. For information on the World Meeting of Families, please visit worldmeeting2018.ie/en/.

BUILDING THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

While Strengthening Our Parish



“The family as domestic church is central to the work of the new evangelization and to the future sustainability of our parishes.” ~ Supreme Knight Carl Anderson

Man Up and Go: Q & A With New Director of CIS

Damien O’Connor was welcomed as the new director of the K of C Catholic Information Service at the end of 2017. He recently sat down with Communications Staff to discuss the Lenten devotion of the Stations of Cross, sharing how it calls him to “man up” as a husband, father and Knight.

The Stations of the Cross focus on the worst moments of Jesus’ life — but wouldn’t it be easier to just think about the happy times of Jesus’s life, like the Nativity or Resurrection?

They mean nothing without his suffering first. He had to suffer. You can’t understand the Resurrection without Christ’s suffering. He also was teaching us how important our own suffering is. Nobody wants to suffer and suffering is never from God, but God allows suffering. So why does he do that? Well, sometimes we don’t have the answers to that, but suffering is given meaning when we can take our suffering, surrender it to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and say “I want to join in your suffering for the redemption of the world.”

Do you remember the first time you prayed the stations? How did this moment impact your faith?

I remember the first time I really paid attention was when my father, who was a Knight for 52 years, wrote a Stations of the Cross prayer book. It was based on his experience having worked in maximum security prisons for a long time. It was very dramatic and powerful and earthy. And it really caught my attention. I was only in high school, but I remember it was just a very powerful way of looking at it.

Do you pray the stations with your family?

We do. Like any other family, we’ll go to the stations at our parish. But two of our three kids have autism, so what you have is a variety of ways that it’s prayed.

My daughter Ana is involved. She’s praying and looking around at which other teenagers are there. My son, Damien Jr. — he’s one of our kids who has autism, but he’s higher functioning — is very pious. So he’s really getting into it. And when they read about how Jesus suffered, he gets physically upset because he’s very black and white in how he interprets things. So for him it’s very real: Why would we do that to Jesus?

For my daughter Mary, who is also on the spectrum, what they’re reading means very little. But the music speaks to her. She loves to sing and be part of that. And sometimes she’ll start to cry because the music’s so beautiful. So you have three very different ways of praying the stations.

How does praying the stations compel us to live our faith? To be better Catholic men?

To me that’s simple: It’s a reminder to me to man up when I have to suffer with regular, everyday things. Maybe I have young children that get up in the middle of the night or maybe I have to do the dishes or I’m doing the laundry. I see friends that are going out and having a great time, but I have to man up and be committed to my family. It’s a reminder to me of the impact I can have on the world through how I live my faith. I am the spiritual head of my family, so I have to make sacrifices. I have to man up.

You look at what Jesus went through; the suffering I have to go through is nothing compared to that. But some people do suffer a great deal. It doesn’t mean that it’s easy and it definitely doesn’t mean that I like it — that has nothing to do with it. There’s no liking in suffering. But it’s a reminder to me to really live my faith as best as I can and to surrender that suffering to God.

What if I never prayed the stations before, what should I do?

It’s the easiest thing in the world. You just show up. In Scripture, we hear Jesus say, “Come and see.” Just come. He didn’t say come and see and we’ll explain every detail of it. He said, “Come and see. Trust me, I know what’s best for you. Just come.”

Stations are typically held on Fridays during Lent around 7:00 p.m. For families, Friday nights are busy. Why should we join in our community to do this?

My answer is twofold. You should feel encouraged to pray with your family if you can’t pray with your parish or with your council. But the best way is to be united with your parish. Because if we make that extra effort — again, back to sacrifice — that sacrifice to get there, it’s worth it. By just being at the physical church itself, we’re united with every other church in the world. I want to be part of that. If it means making a little sacrifice and you have to eat dinner later or something like that, well, man up, you go to church.

Knights wishing to pray the stations with their parish should take a look at Catholic Information Service’s Way of the Cross (#363). See page 7 for details.

Check Out This Easy Program

We have an easy-to-operate youth program for the winter/spring season: the Substance Abuse Prevention Poster Contest. Open to students aged 8-14, the program involves providing original artwork on an 11x17 poster board. It's easy for a council to run. Simply order the kit (# SA-KIT) from supply@kofc.org and then invite local schools to create posters as a class project. Call Fraternal Mission at 203-752-4270 for details.



Collect Cans, Receive a Refund

This Lent, we hope all councils will participate in the 40 Cans for Lent initiative. Remember, all you need to do is set up a collection box in your church or parish hall, asking that each parishioner contribute one can of food for each of the 40 days of Lent. Once Lent ends, collect and deliver the cans to a parish food pantry or community food bank. Remember: If you collect 1,000 pounds of food, your council could qualify for a refund. Visit kofc.org/community for details, or contact Fraternal Mission at 203-752-4270.

“Living the Call of the Lord”

The 55th World Day of Prayer for Vocations, which will be held on April 22, the fourth Sunday of Easter, is the perfect time for your council to plan an event to support young persons as they discern their vocations. For information and videos on this vitally important support, visit kofc.org/vocations.



Photo by Jaclyn Lippelmann

Pictured is Father Stephen Vaccaro, a member of Pope John Paul II Council 4522 in Annandale, Va., and a priest in the Diocese of Arlington. Through your council's support and prayers you can support other men and women as they travel the path to holiness.

Fasting, Abstinence and Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday will fall on the same date this year. Because of this, Feb. 14 is a day of fast and abstinence — so any Valentine's Day chocolates should be eaten a day early! We suggest that all councils talk to their pastor about hosting a celebration of Catholic marriage the day before, on Feb. 13. To help plan the event, turn to the *Affirmation of Wedding Vows booklet* (#30003), available at kofc.org/domesticchurch.

Don't Wait to Order

Many of our councils held incredibly successful Black Friday Coats for Kid drives — take advantage of that success and begin planning for your next distribution! By planning your event early and ordering your coats now, you'll be guaranteed to have another successful event. Visit kofc.org/coats for details.

4 Ways to Live by the 4 Principles

All the good works we do are informed by our four core principles: charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. Check out these four ways that each Knight can follow the four principles every day!

Charity: Are you an Amazon shopper? If so, did you know Amazon offers you the opportunity to donate a percentage of almost every purchase to a charity of your choosing? Knights of Columbus Charities Inc. (New Haven) is one of thousands of options. Visit smile.amazon.com to learn more.

Unity: Consider implementing a calendar that's accessible by everyone in your council. This can be used to share important news, unify goals and provide direction for current and upcoming events.

Fraternity: Make sure your insurance agent is in touch with your council members on a regular basis. Make sure he feels welcome to speak at each council event and monthly meeting.

Patriotism: Help military personnel take a weeklong pilgrimage to Lourdes, France, through the K of C-sponsored Warriors to Lourdes Pilgrimage. Spreading the word is a simple way to make a difference.



Time Is Running Out

Councils, assemblies and circles should have submitted both the 2017 *Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity* (#1728) and the *Partnership With Special Olympics Profile* (#4584) to the Supreme Council office by Jan. 31. If you have not already done so, please send in these forms today! They are available at kofc.org/forms.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS INSURANCE

Your Shield of Strength

The Knights of Columbus remains committed to Venerable Father Michael McGivney's vision of protecting the financial future of our Catholic families.

For the 17th consecutive year in a row, insurance sales increased thanks to the hard work and dedication of our ever-improving and expanding sales force. The Knights finished the year selling more than \$8.78 billion of life insurance in force on 71,186 certificates, protecting the futures of tens of thousands of Catholic families.

Our strength is undeniable. More members than ever before see it and are using our shield to protect their families. Are you? If you need life insurance — and chances are you do — why would you look anywhere else? Let us be your shield.

Did you know the Knights of Columbus is one of the largest life insurers in North America? The Knights of Columbus has surpassed \$109 billion of insurance in force and is a member of the Fortune 1000.

Did you know the Knights of Columbus consistently earns the highest possible ratings for its ethical business practices? For four consecutive years, the Knights of Columbus has been designated a “World’s Most Ethical Company” by the Ethisphere Institute, and it is one of only a handful of companies in the insurance industry to have earned the honor.*

Did you know providing financial benefits for members was the reason that Father McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus? Our founding charter from 1882 makes it clear: The Knights of Columbus’ primary goal is “to render financial aid to its members and the beneficiaries of members.”

Did you know the Knights of Columbus offers a full, top-quality product line of life insurance, disability income insurance, long-term care insurance and retirement annuities? We have products and solutions to fit your family’s needs and budgets. A Knights of Columbus agent is available to provide a complimentary comprehensive analysis to assess your situation.

Did you know there are a number of products and services that you may be eligible for just by being a Knight? Whether it’s through our Family Fraternal Benefits Program, our survivor benefits or our *Personal Planning Workbook*, there are a lot of ways that the Knights of Columbus Insurance program can benefit you and your family.

Did you know there are more than 1,400 Knights of Columbus agents throughout the United States and Canada? They are dedicated, full-time professionals who live to serve you, your family and your community.

There might be quite a bit you don’t know about Knights of Columbus Insurance and the financial benefits of your membership. Join the hundreds of thousands of your brother Knights who use our shield as their protection. Contact your agent today.

Find him at kofc.org/findagent.

*The “World’s Most Ethical Company” evaluation is a comprehensive assessment of all aspects of a business’ operation, including its corporate citizenship and responsibility; culture of ethics; governance; leadership; innovation and reputation. <http://www.kofc.org/en/news/insurance/kofc-2017-most-ethical-company.html>

Resources to Use This Lent

Way of the Cross

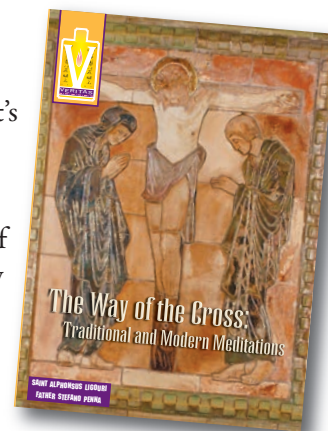
This booklet (#363) provides both traditional and modern meditations for the Way of the Cross. It’s the perfect booklet to use for private meditations, or to share with your council and parish.

Penance

Sacramental confession is misunderstood or avoided by many Catholics, including some Knights of Columbus. This upcoming Lent, help them get over their discomfort, fear or misconceptions by sharing Luke E. Hart Series’ *Penance* (#115). Written by Peter Kreeft, it provides a simple but in-depth explanation of this important sacrament.

St. Joseph

Did you know that this year St. Joseph’s Day is less than a week before Palm Sunday? This Lent, encourage deeper devotion to St. Joseph among your council and parish by distributing the Veritas Series booklet *St. Joseph: Our Father in Faith* (#328).



These Catholic Information Service booklets are available to order from knightsgear.com. You can also download free PDF and MP3 versions in English, French or Spanish at kofc.org/cis. For more information, write: CIS, PO Box 1971, New Haven, CT 06521-1971 or cis@kofc.org.

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