



IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

KNIGHTLINE

NEWS FOR KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS LEADERS

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FATHER GONZALO SILLER, St. Benedict (Ore.) Council 15595, serves in the Diocese of Fresno, Calif.

Protect the Future of the Church: Cultivate Vocations This April 22

The Knights of Columbus Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP) has brought countless men and women the joy of pursuing their vocations without financial worry for nearly four decades.

The financial concern that accompanies discernment is no wonder. In 2017, tuition at private 4-year colleges averaged \$32,000 annually. Those discerning religious life face the additional cost of six to seven years of formational studies.

This is where RSVP comes in: Through this program, councils “adopt” one or more seminarians or postulants, providing them with financial assistance and moral support.

This April 22 — the 55th World Day of Prayer for Vocations — please lead your council in a RSVP fundraising event. After 37 years, it’s still a great way for your council to invest in the future of our Church. Check out page 4 for personal stories.

Priests, Knights and Vocations — Three Unique Scholarships

The Father Michael J. McGivney and Bishop Thomas V. Daily vocations scholarships assist men in their first four years of theology studying for the Catholic priesthood at a major seminary in the United States and its territories, or Canada. Preference is given to applicants who are members of the Knights of Columbus, or whose fathers are members. Each scholarship of \$2,500 can be used toward tuition or room and board. Once awarded, the scholarship is renewable each succeeding year up to a maximum of four years upon certification of continuing enrollment.

See *Scholarships*, page 2

*Since 1992,
Father Michael J. McGivney Vocations
and Bishop Thomas V. Daily scholarships
totaling \$8,296,250
have assisted 1,318 seminarians.
Know a seminarian who may qualify?
Visit kofc.org/vocations for details.*

Nebraska Council ‘Goes Big’ in Effort to Rebuild Cradle of Christianity

In March, Council 10305 hosted a weekend fundraiser to generate awareness of, and raise funds for, Christians who have been affected by conflicts in the Middle East. Prior to the weekend’s events, Communications staff chatted with K of C Supreme Director Mike Conrad, who helped launch the event.

St. John the Baptist Parish Council 10305 is located in the town of Fort Calhoun, Neb., and boasts just over 900 residents. The town itself may not be big, but that doesn’t limit our brother Knights from wanting to guarantee the future of Christianity.

The council’s dream to preserve the future of Christianity originated last year, shortly after the Board of Directors announced the K of C initiative to rebuild the Iraqi town of Karamles following its liberation from ISIS rule. Conrad and his brother Knights had the chance to meet Syriac Bishop Yousif Habash, whose experiences brought the men to tears as they realized the pain and loneliness felt by the Iraqi people.

“It was a very moving moment for us,” said Conrad, explaining that this meeting convinced the council to build five homes in the region. But Conrad dreamed even bigger. “I talked to my grand knight, and I asked him, ‘Would you be willing, if we get Bishop Habash to come to Nebraska, to let us go big?’ And he says, ‘Go as big as you want.’”

And big they went. The “Rebuilding the Cradle of Christianity” event, held March 10-12, consisted of a meet-and-greet with Bishop Habash, a Syrian Rite Mass and a dinner and auction, all held at prominent locations within the Omaha area.

Conrad pointed to the ease with which the venues and vendors agreed to collaborate as evidence of divine guidance. The same can be seen in the selection of the keynote speaker, Gabriel Jabbour, a Syrian refugee who fled execution at the hands of ISIS in 2012.

Having heard about Gabriel’s experiences through local news, Conrad wished to invite him to personally share his story. After many fruitless efforts in tracking him down, he finally found a phone number for Gabriel’s daughter, Rula, who serves as her father’s translator. Conrad held his breath when he called, asking, “Can I have less than five minutes of your time?”

Within minutes, Rula and her father both agreed to speak. It was only after the conversation that Conrad discovered he had actually met Rula 14 years before, when she was part of an international program for students from the Middle East and North Africa. As part of the program, the students toured Fort Calhoun and enjoyed a lunch served by Conrad’s council.

“Now, God planned this [meeting]; it was supposed to be. It was the Holy Spirit working through us,” said Conrad, explaining that he was stunned to learn that Rula is a parishioner at St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church in Omaha — the very same parish that hosted part of the weekend’s events. Gabriel, too, is part of the Omaha community, although he longs to return home to Syria, where he was the spiritual leader of nearly 700 Catholic Syrians.

“I try to describe him like Moses. That’s how Gabriel was. They couldn’t break Gabriel. They scheduled an execution. Hours before his public beheading, he fled,” said Conrad. “He is closer to being a modern-day martyr than anyone I have ever met.”

Conrad explained that early planning for the event consisted of forming a committee that met bi-weekly. Joined by website and graphic artists, local businesses, religious education students and others, they transformed the Knights’ dream of helping a few Christian families into the largest event the council has ever sponsored.

The event exceeded the Knights’ expectations. Net earnings totaled an estimated \$120,000, which is enough to build approximately 60 homes for Christians living in Iraq. Congratulations to our brother Knights in Nebraska for their dedication and success.



Bishop Yousif Habash processes during the “Cradle of Christianity” event, March 10-12.

Scholarships, from Page 1

The Jesuits offer a unique scholarship for Knights of Columbus members attending college in Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio and most of northern and eastern Illinois. How did this scholarship come to be? Jesuit vocation directors realized that over 25 percent of their incoming novices were college Knights, and they wanted a way to encourage such vocations. This scholarship was the perfect solution. Details can be found by contacting the K of C College Councils & Young Adults Outreach team. Email them at college@kofc.org.

How to Plan Events That Succeed

Whether you're planning an awareness campaign about Christian persecution awareness or hosting a simple fish fry, these tips from Supreme Director Mike Conrad will lead you straight to success!

1. **Get your council's full support.** Identify what kind of event you want to do, and remember why you're doing what you're doing. If a council searches long and hard and deep in their hearts, they're going to say, "This is the right thing to do."
2. **Put in the effort.** Your activities don't have to be elaborate and big, but they can mirror the main components of large-scale events. It's going to take a little effort, but that's what we do.
3. **Know how your project supports Father McGivney's vision.** When Father McGivney started the Knights of Columbus, it was to help protect families. What we do is just another branch of that thought process. We're helping protect families.
4. **Don't depend on yourself.** Reach out to experts. As your projects get underway, reach out to website designers and send informational packets to people in nearby councils, businesses and media outlets to help advertise and organize the event.
5. **Stay enthusiastic.** You have an opportunity, and you need to make the most of it.



Supreme Director Mike Conrad tearfully looks on as Syrian Christian refugee Gabriel Jabbour (left) kisses his nation's flag. Conrad presented the flag to Jabbour during a council event that raised \$120,000 for persecuted Christians in the Middle East (see page 2).

New Supply Ordering Process: What You Need to Know

Beginning this month, Officers Online will include "Supplies Online," a new online supply ordering portal. Supplies Online will offer the opportunity for councils to order printed materials and traditional supplies previously listed in the Supply Catalog and ordered via the Supply Department.

At launch, the new portal will only be visible to those who already have access to Officers Online. Within several weeks, however, other officers will be able to access Supplies Online. Only credit cards can be used as payment for online orders.

During the transition period to this new online ordering system, councils and assemblies will be able to order materials per the normal avenues — i.e., either via phone or fax, or through the *Order Form* (#1).

For more details, visit the FAQs posted on kofc.org, call 1-833-591-7770 or email customersupport@webbmason.com.

Please note: Webpages and product descriptions are in English. For assistance in ordering French and/or Spanish materials, please contact Customer Service at the toll free number above.

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.

Grand Knight's Checklist

Status Updates

- Double check that your council's Per Capita Tax and Catholic Advertising Fund assessments were sent to the Supreme Council. Councils that fail to submit the assessments will be suspended.
- Verify that you've completed and submitted the *Survey of Fraternal Activity* (#1728).
- Confirm that your council remains compliant with the Office of Youth Protection's requirements for all activities.

Things to Consider

- Set up a recurring meeting with your pastor to ensure your council is supporting the mission of the parish.
- Determine what your council needs to do to earn the Star Council Award, and develop a plan to achieve your goals:
 - ✓ Schedule one or more Admission Degrees before the end of the fraternal year.
 - ✓ Invite your council's field agent to upcoming meetings, giving members the opportunity to learn about insurance benefits.
 - ✓ Identify who you will nominate as council officers and chairmen for next year.
 - ✓ Visit kofc.org/webinar to register for and view upcoming webinars that are available on demand.

Upcoming deadlines

- June 30 – *Columbian Award Application* (#SP-7), *Round Table Report* (#2630) and *Civic Award Application* (#2321)
- July 1 — *Report of Officers Chosen* (#185)

Vocations Stories: In Their Own Words

April 22 — the 55th World Day of Prayer for Vocations — is the perfect time for your council to share vocation stories and launch an initiative in support of men and women discerning the priesthood or religious life.

Talk to your pastor and chaplain about organizing a vocations awareness event or RSVP fundraiser. Your council could also volunteer to lead the Prayer for the Canonization of Michael McGivney before each council meeting and Mass; as a priest and an apostle of Christian family life, Father McGivney is a great intercessor for your parish and family. *Prayer cards* (#10502-A) can be ordered from knightsgear.com, while videos and materials on promoting vocations are available at kofc.org/vocations.

“No vocation is born of itself or lives for itself. A vocation flows from the heart of God and blossoms in the good soil of faithful people, in the experience of fraternal love.”

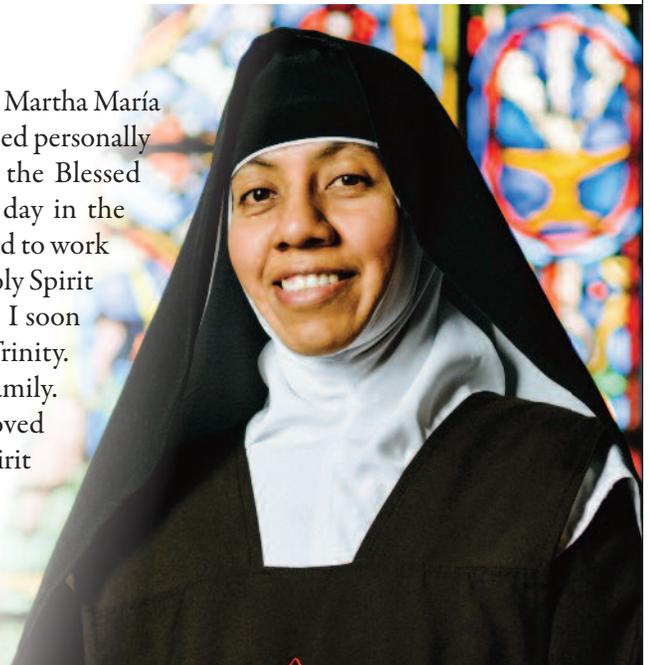
POPE FRANCIS

World Day of Prayer for Vocations, May 11, 2014

‘THE HOLY SPIRIT PUT THIS DESIRE IN MY SOUL.’

As an adolescent, I was fortunate enough to meet our order’s founder, Mother Martha María Ramírez Mora. She helped me see the Word of God as a living Word, addressed personally to me. I began to regularly read the Good News, pray the rosary, visit the Blessed Sacrament, receive daily Communion and practice acts of service. One day in the presence of the Holy Eucharist, I felt the desire to belong to Christ forever and to work only for him. Proper spiritual direction helped me to understand that the Holy Spirit had put this desire in the deepest part of my soul and that it was a treasure. I soon discovered that my heart’s desire was to become a Carmelite of the Holy Trinity. I give thanks to the Holy Trinity for creating me to be part of this religious family. I return God’s love by following the example of Holy Mary and our beloved founder. I pray for all those who have a religious vocation — may the Holy Spirit grant them the grace to discover it and to return love to God.

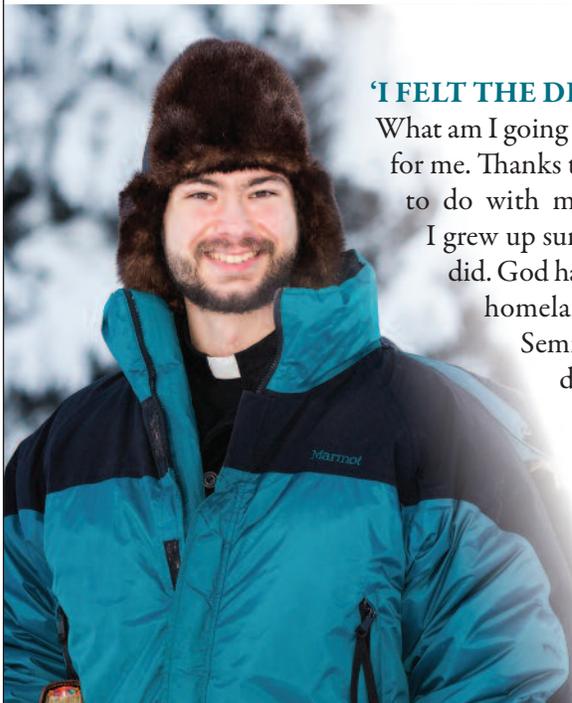
SISTER MARTHA PATRICIA MALACARA MARTÍNEZ
Allied Discalced Carmelites of the Holy Trinity



‘I FELT THE DESIRE TO GIVE IT ALL TO CHRIST.’

What am I going to do with my life? This question that every young person must answer started early for me. Thanks to my wonderful Catholic family, the real question was: “What does God want me to do with my life?” In elementary school, I first felt the desire to give it all to Christ. I grew up surrounded by stories of the saints and wanted to lay down my life for him like they did. God has opened just such an opportunity in my own life: to serve the people in my difficult homeland of northern Alaska. Through his grace, I am now studying at Mount Angel Seminary in St. Benedict, Ore. God has blessed me abundantly in this journey, opening doors that I never knew existed. The little gift of love I can offer to him is certainly returned a hundredfold. Following the Lord’s will has by no means been easy — but what obstacle can be too daunting when God loves us so unreservedly that his only desire is that we love him in return?

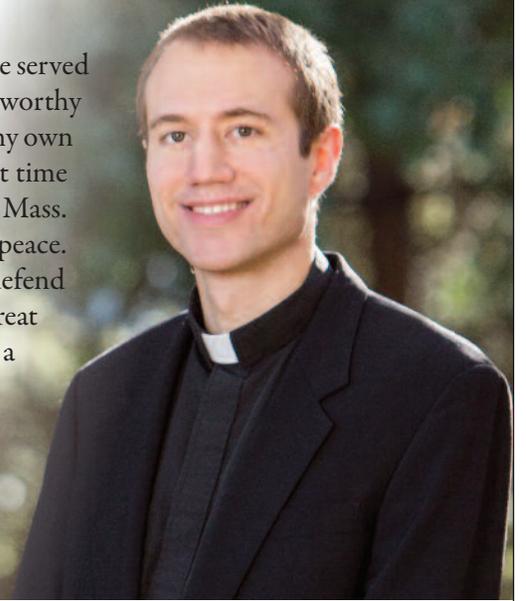
BENJAMIN J. DOUDNA
Diocese of Fairbanks, Alaska
Archbishop Seghers Council 5011



‘EVERY PERSON IS WORTHY OF MY LOVE.’

As a young adult, I have been blessed with family members, teachers and friends who have served as witnesses to me that every person — regardless of age, infirmity, race or beliefs — is worthy of my respect, love and attention. They have given me the courage to hear God’s call in my own life and to be attentive to the needs of others. Attending the March for Life for the first time as a seminarian, I was amazed by the sheer number of vibrant young faces at the vigil Mass. As I processed down the aisle with my brother seminarians, I felt overwhelming joy and peace. It was as if my entire generation had assembled to praise God, with hearts on fire to defend the most vulnerable members of our society. This experience of solidarity and joy was a great affirmation for my own vocation to the priesthood. I hope by God’s grace to become a holy shepherd of souls, making my life a true sign of God’s goodness and of his tender care for each and every person.

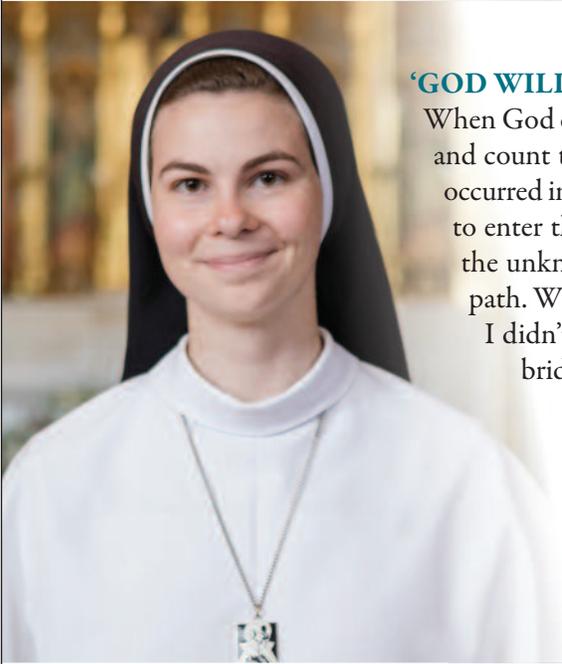
FATHER JOSHUA ALTONJI
Diocese of Birmingham, Ala.
Good Shepherd Council 11672 in Huntsville



‘GOD WILL ALWAYS BE THERE TO GUIDE ME.’

When God called Abram to be the father of a multitude of nations, he said: “Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can” (Gen 15:5). A few verses later we learn that this conversation occurred in the middle of day! How does one count the stars then? After discerning my vocation to enter the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, at age 18, I wrestled with the unknowns about my future. I found myself gazing up at the sky, walking an unknown path. Where would I be sent after making vows? How often would I see my family? Though I didn’t have the answers, I trusted that God was calling me to love and serve him as his bride. Since professing vows as a consecrated religious, there are still plenty of unknowns in my life. But I learned to trust that as long as I am faithful to his call, God will always be there to guide me — regardless of how many stars I can see.

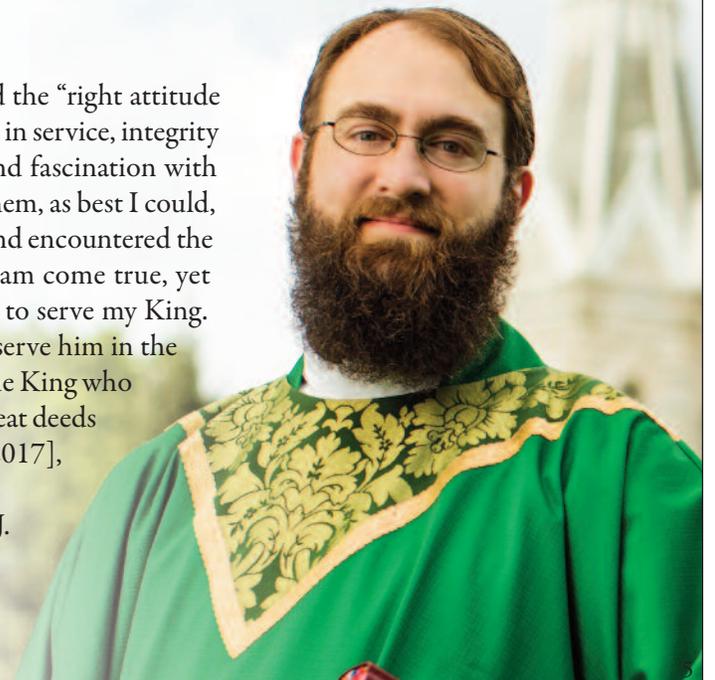
SISTER MARIE JEANNETTE LEWIS, O.P.
Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist
Ann Arbor, Mich.



‘I COULD DO STILL MORE TO SERVE MY KING.’

Shortly before high school, a cousin told me out of the blue that I had the “right attitude to be a priest.” I laughed it off. But I soon felt a deep desire to live my life in service, integrity and a witness to a truth greater than myself. My romantic idealism and fascination with Arthurian legend led me to take my own oaths of chivalry and to live them, as best I could, in the modern world. In college, I came to embrace my Catholic faith and encountered the Knights of Columbus. The thought of becoming a Knight was a dream come true, yet I realized this wasn’t enough to satisfy my heart: I could do still more to serve my King. I began to pray the rosary and encountered a God who wanted me to serve him in the footsteps of St. Ignatius of Loyola — to take up the Cross and follow the King who died for me, to trade armor for vulnerability, a sword for a chalice and great deeds for humble service. That was over 12 years ago, and now, as of June [2017], I am his priest forever.

FATHER JACOB BODDICKER, S.J.
Father Eugene Benda Council 11468
Tipton, Iowa



SHORT TAKES

Don't Miss Your Chance to Win a Trip to Dublin!

Imagine you missed the opportunity to take a trip to Dublin because you failed to talk to a prospect? Don't let the chance slip through your fingers! Recruit a new member before July 1 for a chance to win an all-expense paid trip for you and your wife to the World Meeting of Families in Dublin this August. Find out more by visiting worldmeeting2018.ie/en/.

Help Your Parish's Voice Be Heard Online

We're asking all councils to identify a tech-savvy Knight who can help their parishes use social media to build community and evangelize. Start by creating a parish Facebook page, offering to update and maintain it until the parish staff can take over. If your parish is already on social media, offer to provide content such as photos and council news.

Missing Time-Sensitive Info?

The Supreme Council regularly sends time-sensitive notifications and updates — including information on initiatives, videos, activities, press releases, public policy alerts and charity appeals — via email. Notifications about *Knightline* and other publications are also sent via email.

To take advantage of this system, provide your current email address to your financial secretary. Once he updates your membership information, the Supreme Council's records will reflect the change.

Have further questions on maintaining or updating your council's records? Email membershiprecords@kofc.org.

Star Council Facts — Father McGivney Award

The Father McGivney Award recognizes excellence in your council's membership growth. Your council must meet or exceed its yearly membership quota to be eligible. The quota for councils is a 7 percent increase of the council's membership as of July 1, which must equate to at least 4 people. Councils that attain Star Council status and achieve 200 percent of their net gain goal will receive the Double Star Council Award. If they achieve 300 percent of their net gain goal, they will receive the Triple Star Council Award.

Calling All Canadian Knights: Go All-In to Defend Life

Go all-in to defend human life by taking part in the National March for Life in Ottawa on May 10, 2018. For more information, visit marchforlife.ca or call 1-800-730-5358.



Going to the Ottawa march? Don't forget to order Choose Life signs (#9341) and other culture of life materials before it's too late!

To order, call 203-752-4403 or email william.obrien@kofc.org. Provide your name, address, council number, telephone number and the number of signs you would like. The signs are available in English and French; please specify language preference.

After Your Church Drive, Don't Forget Your Open House

An open house provides an opportunity to introduce the Knights to a broad audience of prospects at one time. The main objective is to highlight your council and all it has to offer.

Since your Church Drive, questions about the Knights of Columbus have likely been floating around your parish. An open house is the perfect opportunity to answer them. During the event, you can help potential members complete a *Membership Document* (#100). Alternatively, if your jurisdiction offers Online Membership, you might help him complete the online registration. (Just make sure he enters your council number when applying!)

Check out the "Membership" tab on the "For Members" section of kofc.org for detailed steps on hosting an open house.

RECRUITING TIP: Make your open house family-friendly so that a prospect's entire family can see firsthand what the Knights of Columbus has to offer.

Holding a Fraternal Benefits Night

As a best practice, every council should have at least one Fraternal Benefits Night per year.

A Fraternal Benefits Night allows council members, new and old alike, to learn about the Order's 135-year-old history and how we have protected families during that entire time.

When scheduling this event, grand knights should reach out to their council's field agent. If you are not sure who your field agent is, or if you do not have one assigned, ask your district deputy to get you in touch with your general agent.

A Fraternal Benefits Night should be open to members and their wives, provide a meal and consist of a presentation by the field agent. Your field agent should be able to take care of most of the logistics of the meeting, including the presentation and any handouts he wishes to distribute.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS INSURANCE

Five Ways to Promote K of C Insurance

The K of C offers a product line designed to provide life insurance, annuities, disability income insurance and long-term care policies to meet the needs of Catholic families, all while enjoying a stellar reputation for financial security and boasting one of the lowest lapse rates in the industry. It was the mission of Father McGivney to share such protection with families in need. Look no further than these five steps to see how you can continue his mission!

1. Actions speak much louder than words. When you buy a Knights of Columbus Insurance product, you send the message that you entrust the protection of your family to the Order's top quality insurance products.
2. Invite your agent to all council-sponsored events. This gives him the opportunity to get to know brother Knights and potential members, and to build relationships with them.
3. Communicate regularly with your council's agent, and help him communicate with everyone else. Encourage him to write for your newsletter or website. Include this statement at the end of every council communication: "Is your family protected? Your dedicated field agent is available to provide a complimentary, comprehensive analysis to assess your family's situation and provide a solution that fits your budget. Contact him today." Be sure to always link to his contact info, webpage or Facebook page.
4. Promote testimonials from your brother Knights (especially council leaders) about the ways they personally benefit from Knights of Columbus Insurance products. Ask your agent if he can share testimony from a Knight's family, either at a council meeting, in an email or on the council webpage.
5. Immediately send a copy of all new members' *Membership Documents* (#100) to your council's agent. Be sure to give all new members your agent's business card as well!

For detailed information on insurance products, visit kofc.org/insurance.

Did You Know?

\$8.78 billion in new insurance sold sets Knights of Columbus record in 2017

The Knights of Columbus recorded its 17th consecutive year of growth in insurance sales in 2017 with \$8.78 billion in new life insurance sold — an increase of more than \$245 million over the previous year. The K of C now has more than \$109 billion of life insurance in force, signifying a \$39.5 billion increase in the last decade due to record sales.

The Secret to Finishing the Fraternal Year Strong: Implement a 4th Quarter Action Plan

Check out the chart below and see how organizing a small monthly project will help you end the year strong!

APRIL	<p><i>Council Open House</i></p> <p>Invite parishioners to learn more about the Knights' work in your community.</p>	<p><i>Target RCIA Alums</i></p> <p>Organize one- to-one outreach to Catholics who joined the Church at Easter.</p>	<p><i>Council Activities</i></p> <p>Plan an Easter party for the newest members of your parish and their families.</p>
MAY	<p><i>Honor Those Who Serve</i></p> <p>Recognize those in the armed services. Provide support to veterans and invite Catholic servicemen to join your council.</p>	<p><i>Dynamically Recruit</i></p> <p>Recruit at least one new member before the end of May.</p>	<p><i>Council Activities</i></p> <p>Invite parish families — including those of veterans — to learn about the Order through a Fraternal Benefits Night featuring your council's field agent. See page 6 for details.</p>
JUNE	<p><i>Dads & Grads</i></p> <p>In many countries, June is the month of graduations and Father's Day. Find unique ways of reaching out to both fathers and their sons, especially those going to college or entering the workforce.</p>	<p><i>Engage Your Pastor</i></p> <p>Work with your pastor to recruit through pulpit announcements and "Knights' Corner" articles in your bulletin.</p>	<p><i>Council Activities</i></p> <p>Work with your pastor to honor your parish's recent graduates with a special Mass.</p>

KNIGHTLINE

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2018

2017

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