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KNIGHTLINE

NEWS FOR KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS LEADERS

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Faith, Family and Good Friday

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Your faith — and that of your families, councils and parishes — is strengthened when you get involved in the traditional Lenten practices of fasting, almsgiving and prayer.

One of the most important ways to pray in Lent is on Good Friday at your parish's Liturgy of the Lord's Passion and Death.

Every Knight of Columbus, if possible, should attend the Good Friday liturgy on April 19. Bring your wives and children, friends and other parishioners. It's an important way of building up and sharing the joy of your own domestic church.

Help your pastor promote your local Good Friday Liturgy. Visit kofc.org/goodfriday for details.

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Lenten Fish Fry: The First Step in Becoming a Knight

Lent is a time of prayer and sacrifice, but it's also a time to welcome men to share in the joy and charitable work of our brotherhood. Many men and their families attend KofC Lenten suppers and Fish Frys. It's the perfect place to show that the Knights of Columbus puts faith into action through charity, unity and fraternity.

At these events, always have recruitment material on hand to distribute. Use Knights of Columbus placemats to advertise the work of the Order. Talk to families, and share stories of your council's charities. Collect their emails via your Prospect Landing page (see details on page 6) or simply direct them to kofc.org/joinus. They can join in seconds.

Make a Difference This Lent

Many of our fellow parishioners are unaware of opportunities to get involved in traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. That's where your council comes in.

The Faith In Action program model lets your council organize events — such as a 40 Cans for Lent drive — that help support local charities and embraces the spirit of Lenten giving.

Your council can make a difference in your parish this Lent. You can transform even the most uninvolved parishioners into Catholic volunteers — and it starts with a 40 Cans for Lent drive.

1. Ask each Knight in your council and each family in your parish to check their pantries for non-perishable food items or to pick up items at the local grocery store.
2. Set up a collection box in your church or parish hall, with a sign asking that each parishioner contribute one can of food for each of the 40 days of Lent. Ask your pastor if you can announce the campaign at Mass and promote it in the bulletin.
3. Donate the food items to a local parish food pantry, soup kitchen or food bank.
4. Finish off your can drive with a prayer — add the intentions of each donor and each recipient of the food to your council's monthly prayers.



*A family participates in a council-organized pancake breakfast — a popular Mardi Gras activity. Similar family breakfasts, suppers and Fish Frys are among the most popular K of C Mardi Gras and Lenten activities.
(© 2014 Ian M. Stewart Photography)*

Or, try this:

- Collect money for a local food bank.
- Invite parishioners to help deliver these donations to a local center or parish food pantry. Ask them to volunteer with you — they'll see how their small gift of a can of food can change a life.

If you collect 1,000 pounds of food, your council could qualify for a refund.* Visit kofc.org/food for details. Or, contact Fraternal Mission at 203-752-4270.

** For every \$500 or 1,000 pounds of food donated, the Supreme Council will refund \$100 back to a council — up to a maximum of \$500 per council per fraternal year. By participating, your council could fulfill the Family Activity requirements for the Columbian Award.*

Note: *Participating in Food for Families Program does not satisfy the programming requirements for the Helping Hands program. The two activities are separate and cannot be double-counted.*

Lenten Dinner Helps Fight Sex Trafficking

Lenten food drives and fish dinners are a staple of council activities, and their impact can be great. In Hawaii, Windward Oahu Council 6307 uses money raised from their Lenten fish frys to help fund *Hō'ola Na Pua*, an organization that helps girls escape from the abuse of sex trafficking.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS INSURANCE

Recruit With Your Agent. Here's 5 Reasons Why.

General Agent Chris Stark from Fort Worth, Texas, explains how your local K of C insurance agent is your council's best recruiting tool.

1. Agents love talking about the Knights of Columbus.

"As agents, we are generally talking about the Knights of Columbus two to three times a day, if not more. This gives us an advantage when welcoming men to join the Knights."

2. Agents have connections with other agents — and can connect local councils.

"The field agents in our agency team up and help each other at their respective councils."

3. Agents love to attend council-sponsored parish events to recruit men to join.

"Think about your fish fry and other events you put on at the parish. Invite your field agent to mingle and ask men to join. Put him in roles to interact with prospective members."

4. Agents can help you promote your council — even when they aren't around.

"Agents can help councils place the "www.kofc.org/join" on banners, newsletters, bulletins, emails, and promotional items. All councils should have a banner up at the school gym or parish hall to promote membership. This way, we are welcoming future Knights even when we are not there."

5. Agents help your councils look to the future.

"We must move into the future with online membership. This tool helps us recruit 365 days a year with ease. Leveraging this technology will lead us to unprecedented growth if we all use it."



(Image courtesy Chris Stark)

"This past Sunday, I was talking to a friend after Mass and I asked him if he was a Knight. He said 'No, I don't have time for that right now.' I simply responded, 'This is an opportunity to belong to the largest Catholic organization that does so much for our Church, not an obligation.' I texted him the link to www.kofc.org/join and he joined right then. It took five minutes. He plans to attend his First Degree soon and will likely get involved with helping out the council."

*Live in Fort Worth and need insurance? Email chris.stark@kofc.org.
You can also find an agent in your area by visiting www.kofcinsurancefw.com or kofc.org/findagent.*

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*Joining online is the new first step
in a man's journey
with the Knights of Columbus.
Imagine if we had 100,000 Knights
share www.kofc.org/join with
just 10 men a year, just 10.
That would be 1,000,000 men
asked to join. If only 10 percent
actually joined, that is more than
100,000 new members.
Think of all the good we could do
in the world with an additional
100,000 members!
The sky is the limit and the future
of the Knights of Columbus
is very bright in my opinion.
— Chris Stark*

”

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Plans are underway for the 2019 Warriors to Lourdes Pilgrimage, which we co-sponsor with the Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.A. The pilgrimage offers 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. And by donating that amount or more, your council can fulfill the featured program requirement in either the Faith or Family categories. The check must come from your council and processed through the Charities Department.

Visit warriorstolourdes.com to donate, watch videos of pilgrimage experiences and more.



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.

Small K of C Council Provides International Aid

The personal connections of Council 15676 in New Orleans extended their charitable outreach to Ukraine and Haiti. K of C Communications Specialist Andrew Fowler found out more.

The Background

Orphans in Ukraine lack basic necessities, including toothpaste, vitamins, shoes and shampoo.

That's what Father Herb Kiff, member of Mater Dolorosa Council 15676 in New Orleans, learned from a single phone call with Galina Kuleshova-Baricev, founder of *Gavroche Ukraine* — a nonprofit organization working to give children living on the streets the security of a safe environment, an education and a hopeful future.

"When she hung up, my heart was torn in half" said Father Kiff.

Meanwhile, another Knight from the council, Edward Ready, was volunteering in Haiti. He was astonished by the everyday living conditions.

"There's no running water, there's no electricity. The roads are not roads. You go through rivers and you have to push the Humvee out to get across to the other side," said Ready. "It's like living in the 17th century, except without bridges."

Ready and Father Kiff immediately shared these stories with their council back in New Orleans. Their brother Knights took up both causes.



Father Herb Kiff, member of Council 15676, collects and distributes supplies to orphans and families in Ukraine (Image courtesy Father Herb Kiff).

Supplies In Ukraine

First, the council created a sister organization to *Gavroche Ukraine* — calling it *Gavroche USA* — to specifically help the Kodazhenk Schevchenko orphanage in Kherson, Ukraine. Since then, the Knights have sent backpacks filled with supplies to the orphans and bought a boiler for the orphanage.

"In Ukraine, anything that gets you warm is not just a luxury, it is a necessity," Father Kiff said.

Then members of the council, including Father Kiff, traveled to Ukraine from Oct. 29 – Nov. 15. They delivered food and shoes to several orphanages. They didn't forget the youngest orphans, delivering diapers as well.

They teamed up with members of local Ukraine Council 16460, getting the opportunity to enjoy both volunteering and comradery with brother Knights from half way around the world.

The group finished their trip by visiting refugees in Kherson, who lost their homes as a result of ongoing conflict between pro-Russia separatists and Ukrainian forces.

"We went to visit a family and got to hear their story — it was a mother, grandmother and a daughter," Father Kiff said. "They were telling us their story — their house and neighborhood got bombed and they had to leave."

The refugees now live in a government-sponsored dormitory, where six to seven families share a kitchen. The Ukraine Knights bring food and supplies to these refugees.

To help fund the work in Ukraine, Mater Dolorosa Council sold roughly \$5,000 worth of t-shirts. And now the U.S. council is developing a plan to assist Ukrainian families in adopting the orphans; the families will then be vetted by Ukrainian Knights.

Helping in Haiti

Meanwhile in the Caribbean, the council is helping fund the construction of a local mission and medical clinic in Jacsonville, Haiti.

"Jacsonville will have the only free hospital clinic within a 30-40 mile radius, which is huge because people in the area don't really have cars or other transportation," Ready said. "[It is] the only town where people will see western medicine for possibly their entire lives."

Ready has traveled to Haiti several times in the past couple of years. He is planning to take a few Knights next January to see the completion of the mission and clinic, which is being run by the healthcare organization *Sante Total*.

"We are not just making people happy, we are saving lives," Ready said.

To assist the organization, the council sold artwork and threw an Oktoberfest raising close to \$25,000.

Personal stories and witness inspired the council to help in Haiti and Ukraine. And their dedication will keep the work going. Let us know about the impact your council has made around the world. Email andrew.fowler@kofc.org or knightline@kofc.org.

Growing Your Council: Three Easy Steps

Remember the last time you bought something big? Like a car? Remember the research you did? Men go on a similar “customer journey” before they decide to join the Knights.

Here are three easy ways for your council to put its best foot forward at every step of that journey!

Step 1 — Maintain your council’s website.

At some point in a prospect’s journey to Knighthood, he will almost certainly check out your council’s website. Make sure you keep it up to date with council accomplishments, upcoming events (which a prospect might come to) and easy to find contact information. You should also provide a link to the Online Membership Application at kofc.org/joinus to make joining even easier.

Step 2 — Be social.

Most people are on at least one social media site, with Facebook leading the pack. If your council has a Facebook page, keep it up to date with charitable programs and initiatives so a prospect can see how you can help him put his faith into action. Link to the Online Membership Application, and invite men to join. *Remember to follow the K of C Social Media Policy — you can find it in the Officer’s Desk Reference.*

Step 3 — Revamp your in-person pitch.

Every Knight has his own “elevator pitch” for the Knights, but when is the last time you thought about yours? Be ready to tell prospects about one or two flagship council charitable programs and one or two events for entire families. Then, have him check out kofc.org/joinus. Remind him to check off the “I want to join a local council” field, and to enter your council’s number in that field.

Invite a man to join today; kofc.org/joinus.



Social Media Can Provide What You’re Missing


There has never been a more exciting time to follow the Knights on social media. Don’t miss out on:

- **Faith resources.** Get your faith in shape this Lent.
- **Videos.** Get motivated by videos such as a recent profile of Pittsburgh Pirates pitcher and brother Knight Trevor Williams.
- **Stories.** Find inspiration from stories of Knights worldwide putting their faith in action.

Follow the Knights today.

 Facebook: facebook.com/knightsforcolumbus

 Twitter: [@kofc](https://twitter.com/kofc)

 Instagram: [@kofc_official](https://www.instagram.com/kofc_official)





BE LIKE THE PRODIGAL SON'S FATHER: MAKE THE FIRST MOVE

A CHALLENGE AND MESSAGE FROM SUPREME CHAPLAIN ARCHBISHOP LORI

*“So he got up and went back to his father.
While he was still a long way off,
his father caught sight of him,
and was filled with compassion.
He ran to his son,
embraced him and kissed him.”*

— Gospel for March 31, Lk 15:20

My brother Knights, here we encounter some of the most beautiful words in the entire Gospel: the reunion of the prodigal son with his father. As Jesus describes the scene, I invite you to put yourself in three different sets of shoes. First, imagine that you are the father, seeing your own flesh and blood, your son, coming home. Second, imagine that you are the prodigal son, expecting the worst, but finding that your father is moved with compassion. Third, imagine that you are the hardworking older brother, watching this reunion from a critical distance. We can learn from all three: embracing others with the mercy of the father; running to our heavenly Father like the prodigal; and with the older brother, hearing the father's words spoken to us: “Everything I have is yours” (Lk 15:31).

This Month's Challenge

This month, I challenge you to be like the prodigal son's father by making the first move: Take the first step toward another person in your life to encourage or forgive him or her. Second, I challenge you to prayerfully write a list of things in your life for which you are grateful.

Grand Knight's Checklist

Upcoming Deadlines

- April 10 — Per Capita Tax, Catholic Advertising Fund and Culture of Life Fund assessments due.
NOTE: 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.

Planning

- Regularly meet with your pastor to discuss Faith In Action programs.
- Work with your council's field agent to organize a Fraternal Benefits Night.
- Schedule First Degree ceremonies to take place in April, May and June.

Things to Do

- Remain compliant with updated Safe Environment requirements (see kofc.org/safe).
- Use the new *Programs Report Form* (#10784), available at kofc.org/forms. The revised all-in-one form replaces 24 individual reports.
- Invite men of all ages to join, using the Form #100 or kofc.org/joinus.

Thank you to all councils who submitted the *Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity* (#1728) to date. If you have not yet submitted the form, please submit it as soon as possible so that your contributions can be tabulated. Use the online form available at kofc.org/forms.

Don't Miss This Recruitment Tool

Does your council have a Prospect Landing Page? This webpage helps make church drives, parish suppers and even a trip to the grocery store a powerful recruitment opportunity. Any time you meet a prospective Knight, you can use a Prospect Landing Page to collect his email address and stay connected. Interested? Go to info.kofc.org/pagerequest to get a page personalized to your council's needs.

Enjoying this *Knightline*?

Want to share *Knightline* with a fellow Knight? Invite them to visit kofc.org/myinfo — there they can automatically sign up to receive it with no extra steps.

As always, we want your questions, feedback and advice. Email us at knightline@kofc.org.

Changing the Lives of Youth One FREE THROW at a Time

Encourage the values of sportsmanship and healthy competition by sponsoring Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship — a Knights tradition since 1972. Boys and girls compete within their own gender and age groups, and progress from local level to district, regional and state/province competitions. This program is a great way to introduce families to the Knights' family-friendly programs.

WHO WE HELP

Youth ages 9 to 14.

WHAT IT IS

The championship encourages good sportsmanship and healthy competition. Participants compete by gender and age, progressing from local level to district, regional and state/province competitions.

WHERE WE CONDUCT IT

A basketball court at a local park, school, community center or other location selected by your council's Free Throw Championship chairman.



PLAN AND SHARE SUCCESS

It is the perfect time to share your success stories with local media and start planning for next year.

EXPLAIN AND PROMOTE THE PROGRAM

Talk to local schools and youth centers. Suggest that the schools or youth centers consider using this activity as part of their physical education classes.

THE FREE THROW PLAYBOOK (#1928)

The playbook has all the guidelines, volunteer requirements and information you need to run the event

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BASKETBALLS

Use K of C-branded basketball at council competitions. You can also use them as awards for council winners (knightsgear.com).

THESE KNIGHTS IN ACTION SHINE ON THE COURT

Members of Sacred Heart Council 8012 in Belleview, Fla., support their many youth activities — including its educational programs, soccer challenge and basketball free-throw competition — by selling pierogis at the St. Theresa Catholic Church parish kitchen. Every month, members and parish volunteers collect more than \$1,000 through pierogi sales.

QUESTIONS? Visit kofc.org/freethrow for details.

DID YOU ORGANIZE A FREE-THROW COMPETITION? Tell us your story. Email knightline@kofc.org.

A minimum of two volunteers at your K of C Free Throw Competition must be Safe Trained in the K of C Safe Environment protocols (kofc.org/safe).

MCGIVNEY AND SPORTS

K of C founder Father Michael McGivney didn't play basketball, since it was invented the year after he died, but he was an avid sportsman. Young McGivney played baseball for a seminary team in Niagara Falls, N.Y. His spirit of infusing faith into sports lives on through the Knights of Columbus Free Throw contests.

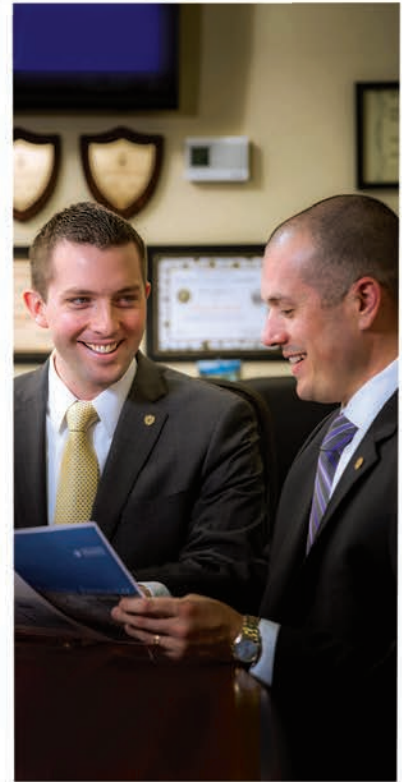
Visit fathermcgivney.org to learn more or report favors received through his intercession.



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