



KNIGHTLINE

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NEWS FOR KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS LEADERS

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K of C Commits \$1.4 Million to Flood-Damaged Churches

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson presents Missionary of St. Paul Father Martin Eke, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi, with a \$25,000 check to support the parish in its recovery efforts, Sept. 24, 2017.

The Knights of Columbus is providing \$1.4 million to help repair and rebuild churches that were either destroyed or badly damaged in the late summer hurricanes that assaulted Texas, Florida and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

“Getting parish facilities up and running again does not just meet a practical need,” said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. “The people in the affected areas see the revival of their churches as a spiritual joy and as an important signal of recovery for the larger communities that surround these churches.”

Knights of Columbus Charities raised \$3.8 million for disaster relief in the months following the hurricanes. In the immediate aftermath, more than \$720,000 was used to pay for food, water and other critical supplies. At the same time, many local Knights helped rescue neighbors stranded by rising waters and reached out to their communities in a variety of other ways.

Church repair and renovation has been a key component of Knights’ relief efforts in the past. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, which struck the New Orleans area in 2005, the K of C contributed \$6.7 million to various dioceses to help rebuild the Catholic infrastructure in the area, aiding in the repair of schools, churches and other buildings.

The Knights of Columbus has also earmarked a significant amount of money for upcoming church repair efforts in Puerto Rico. This donation will be in addition to the \$100,000 donation presented by the Order to the Archdiocese of San Juan in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, which provided generators, food, water and other necessities to aid relief efforts.

To read more, check out the full story on kofc.org.

Five Things to Tackle in 2018

As we head into January, we’re halfway done with the fraternal year. Here’s a list of priorities to tackle before the year’s end.

1. **Aim younger:** Make a concerted effort to recruit younger men into our councils.
2. **Be more family-centered:** Develop programs that focus on families.
3. **Generate increased awareness of who Knights are and what they do:** Make it a goal that every Catholic man, no matter his age, knows who we are and what we do.
4. **Develop strong relationships with the clergy:** This should occur Orderwide, but it particularly applies in Canada.
5. **Make spirituality our key focus:** We need to embrace a masculine Catholic spirituality, making it a part of our programs and culture.

Meet Mark McMullen, the New Head of Fraternal Mission

Appointed as senior vice president of the Membership and Fraternal Mission Department, Mark is now responsible for leading the Order's program and recruitment efforts worldwide. The K of C Communications staff spoke with Mark about his history with the Knights, which is nearly 20 years in the making!

Can you tell us a little about yourself? What led you to the Knights?

I'm from Cleveland, Ohio, born and raised. I'm married to the best person in the world — my wife, Jan — and we have five kids. ... Two followed in my footsteps; my background's been in marketing and management over the years.

When I was in Ohio, I had always heard of the Knights but was never really asked to join. However, after moving to Atlanta, back in 1999, I got a call from the membership director of what would become my council. He said, "Hey, I see you just moved here and joined the parish. Would you like to join the Knights of Columbus?"

Did you increase membership during your time in Georgia?

We did! My goal was Pinnacle two years in a row, and we got it. We have a great team in Georgia. The key to success really was the team. It was everybody — good membership directors, good program directors, good state officers, good district deputies. Everyone made sure we were working the plan for growth and retention. One of the things that I am proudest of is that we achieved a record high net-net number during my first year as state deputy!



When people ask what the Knights do,

I never lead with a program.

I usually say, "We do three things:

*We help people; we change lives;
and we save lives."*

What do you envision for the future of the Fraternal Mission Department?

We need to do a better job of engaging with the field and be a lot more proactive. I've started looking at the daily membership report and at those councils that are not where they need to be. We're reaching out to them through phone calls with the state officers, membership directors and MPCs. We're talking about what's going on, what the issues are, how we can help, and where they are with different things. We're not beating them up for being behind on numbers but offering to help them overcome issues.

The other thing we need to do is grow in Canada and the U.S. and among the Hispanic and young adult populations. We've formed task forces with the goal of developing plans to address these needs.

In terms of the Knights' different initiatives, what's our focus?

We've got to be more relevant to young families and young adults. It's the spiritual messaging, the enrichment, that they really want. We need to do a better job of that in terms of telling our story and evangelizing.

When people ask what the Knights do, I never lead with a program. I usually say, "We do three things: We help people; we change lives; and we save lives. And how do we do it? Through all of our programs."

The key to success is really understanding what a prospective member wants to get out of the Knights of Columbus and then giving him every opportunity to achieve it. We've got to offer something that makes each man see membership in the Knights as something he really wants to have because it'll make him a better person, a better father, a better Catholic.

Join the Pro-Life Movement Online!

Thanks to social media, our pro-life message can now be louder than ever. Councils traveling to the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., and other January pro-life events should multiply their impact by joining the movement online. It only takes seconds to upload a photo to Instagram, Facebook or Twitter with the hashtags #MarchforLife and #KofC and to make your support for the culture of life known across the world! If you're not savvy with social media, enlist the help of members who are. We expect to see a pro-life tweet or post from every council on Jan. 19. Let's be a part of a conversation so big it can't be ignored!



Archbishop of Iraq Speaks About Christians' Plight

During the Week of Awareness for Persecuted Christians, Nov. 26-Dec. 2, we spoke to Archbishop Bashar Warda of Erbil, Iraq, about the needs of his people and asked how Knights can help.

What is the experience being faced by the people coming home to the Nineveh Plains region?

Everyone who returned to their village was shocked by the horror of the scene that was there. Houses burned, houses damaged, roads, the power supply — everything was really collapsing — and yet, people were still hopeful that they could do some reconstruction. With the help of the Church, a good number of them — about 6,000 families — were able to return home. But I must tell you, these poor villagers are in a bad situation, bad shape. They need power supply, water supply, roads, clinics, housing, medical — they need everything.

What is the current involvement of the Knights of Columbus in the area, and what kind of difference is that making to the people?

The Knights of Columbus has engaged strongly in helping the Christians from the beginning of the crisis, providing food and shelter and other material help to the needy, to the children, in so many areas. ... The involvement of the Knights of Columbus is big — and appreciated!

What can North American Catholics, Knights and their families do to help their brothers and sisters in the Middle East?

Pray for the persecuted Christians in the Middle East, raise awareness about their persecution and about the stories and difficulties that they are facing, and help materially.

To help, we ask that all councils post a message on social media using the hashtags #ChristiansAtRisk, #SolidarityinSuffering and #KofC. Together, we can change the future of Christianity. Together, we can make a difference. Visit christiansatrisk.org for details.

How Will You Help This Lent?

“Lent is a favorable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognizing in them the face of Christ.” — Pope Francis

Pray, fasting and almsgiving are the three important Lenten traditions. This Lent, which begins Feb. 14, we should not simply go through the motions but really make this Lent a time of transformation. Whether it's by engaging in a Lenten activity such as a 40 Cans for Lent drive, praying together as a council, or raising funds for “the least of my brethren,” we can all embrace the season of Lent.

Share your Lenten practices across the world via social media — simply use the hashtags #KofC and #Lent.



Three children walk near a clinic sponsored by St. Elizabeth University's Project for Iraq in Need (STEP-IN). The clinic receives support from the Knights of Columbus Christian Refugee Relief Fund.



*Happy anniversary to our Knights!
This year marked the fifth anniversary of our Black Friday Coats for Kids distributions.
For details, visit kofc.org/coats.*

Gauging Your Council's Success

The most obvious gauge of a council's success is whether your council is growing. Growth is so much more than a number on a paper — it proves that the Knights of Columbus is pertinent to today's parishes and families. Growth shows that today's men still believe in Father McGivney's vision enough to share it with others.

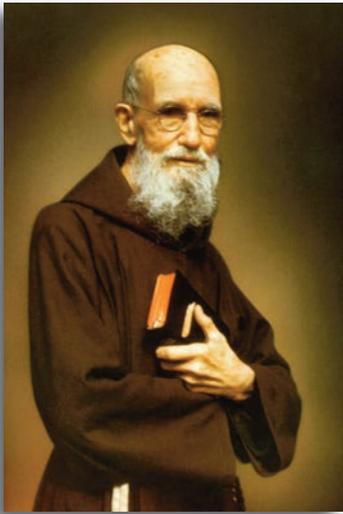
How can we do this in our councils? First, take a look at your past programs. Which of them has had most engagement among your members? Has one been particularly appealing to younger participants? What's caught the attention of your members' families?

Every program is an opportunity to gain new members. Each program should be so fun and engaging that everyone who sees it can't help but want to be involved. Participation should be something to be proud of and an experience everyone wants to share.

To accomplish this, take another look at those successful programs. Ask yourself how they were different. Was it their audience? The time of year? Whatever the reasons, keep a running list of successes. When planning programs in the future, be sure to refer to this list and determine how to apply what you've learned.

Your growth will be the first sign of your success.

What's In a Council Name?



While many of our councils are named for our parishes, sometimes a council has a different connection with their namesake. Such is the case of Solanus Casey Council 1632 in Stillwater, Minn. We caught up with Council 1632 just before the beatification of Solanus Casey this past November and spoke with the council advocate, brother Knight Dan Eder.

“**B**rother Knight Gene Keating proposed renaming our council after Solanus Casey back in 1995 — around the time he was declared Venerable by Pope John Paul II. I was just 23 years old at the time and was an officer in the Stillwater KC Council. I had never heard of Solanus Casey before, but the more Gene spoke of him and his connections to the Stillwater, Minn., area, I was convinced that this was the right thing to do.

A resolution was brought before the Council in 1995 and was passed unanimously to rename our council to Knights of Columbus Solanus Casey Council 1632. A solemn dedication of our renamed council was held on April 14, 1997. ...

A beautiful photo of Solanus Casey hangs in the entryway of our council's meeting place and is a daily reminder of his presence in our lives.

Barney Casey [the saint's birth name was Bernard “Barney” Casey Jr.] was confirmed in the Church of St. Michael in Stillwater, Minn. His uncle was instrumental in the building of the church and facilities.

Barney Casey grew up as a simple man and had a simple faith. Prayer and hard work was what he is known for. As a doorkeeper in a monastery in Detroit, he was always ready to listen to people and their stories at any hour of the day or night. We should follow in this and always be ready to listen to our brothers and sisters as we never know what problems each of us has to overcome. We all need to be there for each other.

Another blessing of Solanus Casey is his example that holiness is attainable for anyone. Even ordinary people can lead extraordinarily holy lives by following his example and living a life of faith.

I keep a relic of Father Solanus close and always replenish the stack of prayer cards whenever it runs low.

We are blessed to have had Father Solanus walk the same grounds as we do each day, but we are further blessed by the example that he led. We need to follow his lead now more than ever if we want to help our community and our world to be a better place. Please join us in praying to Solanus Casey and also help us to spread his wisdom so that others may see the good he continues to do and might be touched by his faith.”

*“Even ordinary people
can lead extraordinarily holy lives.”*

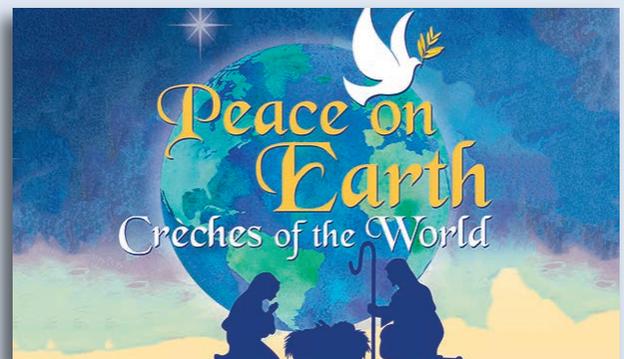
K of C Films Win Emmy Awards

Two short films produced by the Knights of Columbus were honored with Emmys at the 59th annual Chicago/Midwest Emmy Awards.

The two video shorts, *The Testimony of Fr. Donald Calloway* and *Witness of Mercy: The Story of Jennifer Trapuzzano*, are featured in the full-length documentary *The Face of Mercy*. For ordering information and further details on the film, visit faceofmercyfilm.com. It's also available to watch for free via Amazon Prime!



Crèche Exhibit at Knights' Museum



The Knights of Columbus Museum's 13th annual Christmas crèche exhibition, “Peace on Earth: Crèches of the World,” highlights its recent acquisitions of Polish *szopki*, stone sculptures from Zimbabwe and Hummel figurines. The exhibition is open through Feb 19, 2018, so if you find yourself in New Haven, stop by! For details, visit kofcmuseum.org.

40 Cans: The Easy Way to Get a Refund

This Lent, help people in your community while also helping your council! It takes less effort than you might expect but has a big payoff for those in need.

Just 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. Then, sit back and watch the cans roll in.

Once Lent ends, you only need to collect the cans and deliver them 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!*

It's so simple, why wouldn't you participate?

Visit kofc.org/community for details. Or, contact Fraternal Mission at 203-752-4270.

* The Supreme Council will refund \$100 for every 1,000 pounds of food that a council contributes to a parish food pantry, community food bank or soup kitchen — up to a maximum of \$500 per council per fraternal year. Also, by participating in a 40 Cans drive, your council could fulfill all four of the Family Activity requirements for the Columbian Award.



40 Cans: Reports From the Field

Last year, St. Paul the First Hermit Council 14222 in Summerfield, Fla., completed its third 40 Cans for Lent food drive for local soup kitchens. The council collected more than 6,000 pounds of nonperishable food and donations, valued in excess of \$4,000, that will be divided between St. Teresa Catholic Church's soup kitchen; the St. Vincent de Paul Society; and Sandy Acres Baptist Church.

In support of the Food for Families initiative, St. Stephen Knights of Columbus Council 9282 in Old Hickory, Tenn., sponsored a parish-wide 40 Cans for Lent food drive. The donations were earmarked for the Mt. Juliet Help Center, a local food bank. Food was collected and delivered weekly, with each load generally filling the bed of a pickup truck. The total donations amounted to 9,381 pounds of food.

For more reports on different programs and initiatives from our brother Knights, visit kofc.org/knightsinaction. To share your story, visit kofc.org/en/knights-in-action/kia_news.html.



Members of St. Mark's Council 12172 in Boise, Idaho, sort through some of the record 11,850 pounds of food collected during the 40 Cans for Lent campaign. The boxes were labeled by type of food to expedite organization of the donations.

SHORT TAKES

Star Council Rebate: Push Excellence to Qualify

Push excellence in your council and you may just qualify for a rebate! To do so, your council must earn the Star Council Award at any level in the 2017-18 fraternal year. They will then qualify to receive a credit of \$4.50 (\$3.50 per capita and \$1 Catholic Advertising) for each billable member on its roster as of July 1, 2018. Please note: The rebate is only available for councils located in insurance territories (United States, Canada, Puerto Rico and Guam).

If You Want to Be a Winner, Recruit

Growth is the lifeline of every council — new members can invigorate councils by bringing fresh ideas and taking on original programs. Because of this, the grand knight of every council who recruits one or more new members between now and Feb. 28, 2018, will receive a portrait of the Holy Family. Get started on bringing in a new member today! For tips, visit kofc.org/recruit.

Have You Heard? Recruiting Can Win You a Trip to Dublin!

Recruit a new member and you will be entered into a drawing for an all-expense paid trip for you and your wife to the World Meeting of Families in Dublin next August! The more men you recruit, the higher your chance to win. 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/.

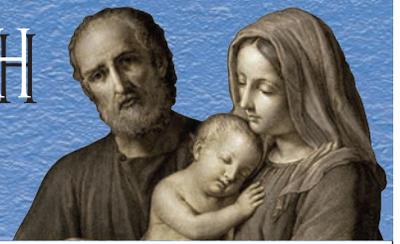
Take a Look at 2017

We saw some amazing milestones during the past year, including crucial disaster relief efforts and vital support for persecuted Christians in the Middle East! Check out these highlights and more by visiting kofc.org/yearinreview.

To stay up-to-date on all Knights of Columbus initiatives throughout the year, regularly check out kofc.org and follow us on social media.

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

In last month's *Knightline* we presented “A Quick Guide to Getting Started.” Now, in this issue, it's time to expand your council's involvement in this key initiative — and doing so is easier than you might think!

The first step is to regularly visit kofc.org/domesticchurch. At the website, you will find a brief description on each new domestic church program as well as an explanation of the benefits each offers. The Supreme Council also offers support materials along with a series of sequential action steps that will help you successfully implement these programs.

Take a look at the website. You'll be glad that you did.

Featured Program of the Month: Stations of the Cross



On Fridays during Lent, councils should partner with their parishes to sponsor a Stations of the Cross program. If your parish already conducts Stations of the Cross during Lent, offer the assistance of the council, providing help in any way that may be needed. If your parish doesn't already pray the stations together, ask your pastor if he would consider adding them to the parish calendar.

The prayers, meditations and hymns of the Stations of the Cross can be found in *The Way of the Cross: Traditional and Modern Meditations* (#363), available online at kofc.org/cis. Copies can also be ordered by visiting knightsgear.com. Questions should be directed to Catholic Information Service at cis@kofc.org or 203-752-4267.

The Way of the Cross is an excellent way to help Knights, families and all parishioners to experience the Passion and death of Jesus. Councils who sponsor this program should report their participation under the Church Activities section of the Columbian Award Application or the Parish Activities section of the Building the Domestic Church Action Plan.

Star Council In-Depth: The Columbian Award

This award recognizes excellence in your council's program-ming and charitable outreach. To qualify, councils must conduct programs that help Knights and parishes grow together in their faith.

The first step in demonstrating this is to conduct and report at least four programs in each of the six Service Program categories of Church, Community, Council, Family, Culture of Life and Youth. At least four of the 24 reported programs must be Domestic Church activities. The Knights of Columbus Domestic Church programs are listed at kofc.org/domesticchurch, but “home-grown” programs can also qualify as Domestic Church activities, provided they meet the following criteria:

1. They help members, families and parishioners become more fully formed in their Catholic faith.
2. They bring the council into closer unity with the parish.

Your Domestic Church programs can fall under any of the six Service Program categories. *The Columbian Award Application* (#SP-7) includes check boxes that allow you to indicate if your reported program is also a Domestic Church program.

Each Service Program category has at least one featured program:

- Church – Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP)
- Community – Habitat for Humanity, Global Wheelchair Mission
- Culture of Life – Ultrasound Initiative, March for Life
- Council – Special Olympics
- Family – Food for Families
- Youth – Coats for Kids

If your council completes a featured program, you'll fulfill all requirements for that category; in other words, you won't have to complete three additional programs in that category. However, as noted before, you need at least four Domestic Church activities overall.

Finally, you must complete and submit the *Columbian Award Application* (#SP-7) — if you don't tell us about you programs, we won't know about them. To find out more about the Columbian Award and becoming a Star Council, visit kofc.org/star.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS INSURANCE

Financial Fitness for the New Year

When a new year begins, we like to look at our lives and assess where we are. Many make resolutions to challenge themselves, improving on health and habits or setting new bars to which they may aspire. These are great practices. After all, no matter how good we're doing, we can always do better. Critical self-reflection and setting goals can help. This is true not only for our physical and spiritual health, but also our financial health.

As we begin 2018, here are a few suggestions to help you look at your financial situation and find opportunities for improvement.

Start With a Comprehensive Review

Take stock of your entire situation. Look at your assets and liabilities, as well as the plans and protection that you already have in place. Try to anticipate the future. Are you hoping to have more children? Do you want to help pay for your children's education? Are you nearing retirement?

This is a valuable and revealing process, and it is one that you don't have to do alone. As a Knight of Columbus, you can work with a dedicated, well-trained professional brother Knight field agent who can help you identify what you need to adequately protect your family.

Through your field agent, you can receive a comprehensive, complimentary financial needs analysis. This analysis, titled "Profiles & Forecaster," is a proven industry tool that helps you determine your needs. It's a fraternal benefit that costs you nothing but can tell you a lot. The Profiles & Forecaster analysis will help you identify surpluses, shortages, insurance and income replacement needs, final expenses and more. It's a great way to start.

Focus on the Future

Ask yourself a series of questions: What happens when you die? Will your family be adequately protected? Do you have life insurance? Is it privately owned or tied to your employment? Is it temporary or permanent? As a member, you have exclusive access to our extensive portfolio of permanent and temporary life insurance products that can be customized to fit your needs.

What happens if you get injured? If you're disabled and can't work, how long can your family survive without your income? Do you have disability income insurance? How much of your income does it cover? Is it privately owned or tied to your employment? The Knights of Columbus has recently introduced a disability income insurance product that can help provide critical protection for your paycheck.

What happens if you get sick? If you need extended care in a nursing facility or at home, will you have money set aside for those needs? Have you looked to see what care like that may cost? Members of the Knights of Columbus have the ability to purchase long-term care insurance that can provide the cash needed to pay for long-term care services while shielding the savings they've set aside for retirement and other purposes.

What happens when you retire? Do you have enough money tucked away? How do you know if it's enough? How will your retirement age and social security affect your financial situation? By working with your brother Knight field agent, you can establish a Knights of Columbus retirement annuity that takes out the guesswork by guaranteeing your principal. It also guarantees growth and — when properly structured — an income stream for life, no matter how long you live.

Prioritize Protection

Make protecting the most important things a priority. Think of all the things you insure in your life: your car, home, important electronic devices and major appliances. But how much more precious and valuable is your life? Shouldn't this be protected and prioritized as well?

Proper protection is much more affordable than you may think. Contact your field agent for your free needs analysis, and he can walk you through all your options and create a plan that is right for you and your family.

To find an agent, visit kofc.org/findagent. To learn more about the Knights of Columbus insurance program and product offerings, visit kofc.org/insurance.

Grand Knight's Checklist – January & February

- ✓ Verify that your council submitted its *Semiannual Council Audit Report* (#1295), due Dec. 31, and its assessments for the Council Per Capita, Catholic Advertising and Culture of Life fund, all due Jan. 1.
- ✓ Submit the *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.
- ✓ Continue planning your participation in a council church 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).
- ✓ Confirm that your council and jurisdiction 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.

KNIGHTLINE

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This Year,
Prioritize Your Family's Protection.

Find an agent at kofc.org
or call 1-800-345-5632



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