

# DID YOU KNOW???

## Recruitment Guide for Use by All Councils [Details](#)

### ***Who Are The Knight of Columbus***

The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic family fraternal service organization with 1.9 million members. It provides members and their families with volunteer opportunities in service to the Catholic Church, their communities, families and young people. The On-Line version of the publication "[\*These Men They Call Knights\*](#)" has additional information about who we are.

### ***Membership Benefits***

As a member of the Knights of Columbus you and your family enjoy many benefits, including 12 free issues annually of the Columbia magazine, the world's largest Catholic family magazine, eligibility to join the Knights of Columbus top-ranked life insurance program, and many more family and personal benefits.

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### ***Did You Know?***

The Knights ...

1. Created the \$20 million "Knights of Columbus Vicarius Christi" fund -- the earnings on which are conveyed annually to the Holy Father for his charities. Since its inception this fund has generated more than \$24 million for the Pope's good works, and the corpus remains intact.
2. Committed \$8.8 million to the U.S. Bishops' Pro-Life educational campaign since 1990, and budgeted an additional \$1 million for the production of pro-life materials, to overturn the pro-abortion mentality and defend the right to life.
3. Bring the Pope to the world at least three times a year by providing the uplink cost for the televising of papal ceremonies, especially at Christmas and during Holy Week -- and the downlink in poor mission countries.
4. Presented a new mobile television production unit to the Vatican Television Center for the taping, recording and transmission of Vatican ceremonies at a cost of \$600,000.
5. Established the \$2 million Count Enrico Galeazzi Fund for the Pontifical North American College for the benefit of the College and for U.S. Bishop -- and priest -- students there; the Bishop Charles P Greco Fund for the American College in Louvain, Belgium, and the Father McGivney Fund for the Pontifical Canadian College, the Father McGivney Fund for the Collegio Pontificio Filipino, the Our Lady of Guadalupe Fund for the Pontifical Mexican College, and the Father McGivney Fund for Advanced Studies for Priests in Puerto Rico.
6. Underwrote completely the renovation of the entire facade of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, the most famous church in the world, the statues of Sts. Peter and Paul in St. Peter's Square, and the historic Rooms of the Architects in the Basilica proper.
7. Raised \$1 million for the Bishop de Laval Fund, earnings on which annually support the work of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.

8. Financial help from 3,224 councils, assemblies and circles to future priests, sisters and brothers, exceeded \$3.7 million. Since 1981 the Order has provided more than \$60 million in aid through RSVP, helping more than 91,600 men and women follow their vocations. Also established the \$8.25 million Knights of Columbus Vocations Scholarship Fund, with earnings funding the RSVP rebates and annual \$2,500 scholarships based on need to seminarians in theology.
9. Erected the Knight's Tower and carillon of bells at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, completely renovated it recently, and raised a \$500,000 memorial fund in honor of Past Supreme Knight Luke E. Hart to promote Marian devotion at the Shrine and to preserve the Shrine in perpetuity.
10. Provide the entire budget of the National Family Planning offices of the U.S. and Canadian Bishops, and assist the NFP office of the Mexican Bishops.
11. Created the Father Michael J. McGivney Memorial Fund for New Initiatives in Catholic Education in the amount of \$1 million, annual interest on which funds projects designed to improve religious education in the U.S. and Canada.
12. During 2012, in addition to raising and donating more than \$167.5 million to charitable needs and projects, Knights volunteered more than 70 million hours of their time to charitable causes. These figures represent an increase of 6% and .1% respectively over 2011 figures.
13. Sponsor the Pope John XXIII Center's seminars for the Bishops of the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico, the Caribbean and the Philippines on vital life-death issues.
14. Underwrite, through an annual assessment of 800 per member, the Order's Catholic Advertising Program, which provides free information on the Catholic faith to interested inquirers - more than 8 million responses and more than 750,000 enrollees in correspondence courses.
15. Have distributed millions of special Knights of Columbus rosaries at the rate of 10,000 per month, especially to new members, and now to former members who are readmitted.
16. Support a multimillion dollar Student Loan Program for members and their children pursuing higher education, with all seminarians eligible.
17. Provide support for such varied apostolates as the Eternal Word Television Network; the National Clergy Conference on Alcoholism; Morality in Media; the National Catholic Office for Persons with Disabilities; the National Apostolate with Mentally Retarded Persons.
18. Make available to dioceses and religious institutions a mortgage loan program at favorable interest rates. Over the years \$245 million were provided to 271 entities, mostly local parishes.
19. Renovated St. Mary's Church in New Haven, the birthplace of the Order, and entombed the remains of the founder, Rev. Michael J. McGivney, therein on March 29, 1982. Completed the 110-year-old construction plan of the church by erecting a 179-foot steeple, including a carillon of three bronze bells, atop St. Mary's.
20. Support the spiritual welfare of armed services personnel and their families around the globe through a \$900,000 fund for the Archdiocese for Military Services.
21. Sponsor daily Mass for deceased Brother Knights at St. Mary's Church in New Haven and enable widows of Knights to receive *COLUMBIA* magazine each month.

22. In 2012, we paid well over \$487 million in death claims and other benefits, and more than \$349 million in dividends to our policyholders. Even more impressive is the fact that in the past decade, the Knights of Columbus paid more than \$3.4 billion in dividends to insured members.

23. Established a North American campus of the Lateran University's Pope John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family in Washington, D.C.

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**The Knights of Columbus, the world's largest lay Catholic organization, marked its 133rd anniversary March 29, 2015. Founded in 1882 by Father Michael J. McGivney, along with a few parishioners in the basement of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn., the group has grown to an international organization of more than 1.9 million members.**

**The Knights of Columbus is also one of the most successful fraternal benefit societies in American history, providing life insurance and related products for the financial welfare of members and their families.**

**The K of C has not only remained true to its founding principles of charity, unity and fraternity, but also included patriotism as a fourth principle by which its members are to be defined. The organization is renowned for its dedicated support of both church and country. Its affiliates, known as councils, are largely parish-based and provide regular support to their local church and community.**

In addition to protecting the financial well-being of its members, the Knights of Columbus is one of the most active charitable organizations in North America.

According to the figures from the 2016 Fraternal Survey the Knights gave \$177,500,673 in charitable donations. This is up from \$175 million donated in 2015. In addition, the Knights volunteered \$75,112,694 hours to charitable initiatives, up from the 2015 total of 73 million hours. In the past decade, Knights donated 700,765,880 hours of service for a total worth more than \$15 billion in current dollars.

"These numbers are a clear indication that we are keeping faith with our founding principle of charity," said Knights CEO Carl Anderson. "The Knights of Columbus are men who, by their actions, witness to the love of neighbor that is central to our Catholic faith."

According to the K of C's annual Fraternal Survey for the year ending Dec. 31, 2015, donations grew by more than \$1.5 million compared to 2014. The number of service hours donated grew by 2 million hours, marking an increase in giving in both categories for the 17th consecutive year.

"We are answering Pope Francis's call to go to the peripheries," said Anderson. "Those on the margins and in need can be halfway around the globe or right next door, and wherever the needs are greatest, you will find the Knights of Columbus."

The top 10 jurisdictions in charitable donations in order of giving were Texas, California, Florida, Quebec, Illinois, Michigan, Ontario, New York, Missouri and New Jersey. For volunteer hours, the top 10 were: Luzon North (the Philippines), Texas, Illinois, Florida, California, Luzon South (the Philippines), Ontario, Michigan, Visayas (the Philippines) and Pennsylvania.

The Knights' Christian Refugee Relief Fund saw donations grow for humanitarian assistance to Christians and other religious minorities suffering persecution and dislocation in Iraq, Syria and the region.

The Knights also continued to support their local communities in 2015 through such programs as the Black Friday Coats for Kids program, Food for Families (food drives) and blood drives. Knights also gave assistance to such organizations as Special Olympics, Habitat for Humanity and the American Wheelchair Mission.

The K of C was founded by Venerable Father Michael McGivney, a New Haven parish priest, in 1882. The organization was formed to provide charitable outreach and care for the financial well-being of Catholic families, focusing on the protection of widows and orphans, and on strengthening the faith of its members. It has grown to include 1.9 million members throughout North and Central America, the Philippines, the Caribbean and Europe.

**Its charitable work also includes substantial support for the Catholic Church in Rome. The K of C funded the restoration of the façade of St. Peter's Basilica during the 1980s, and annually underwrites the cost of satellite TV broadcasts of liturgical celebrations from Vatican City, including the Christmas Midnight Mass. The organization has also established a \$20 million endowment called the Vicarius Christi Fund. The annual proceeds are provided to the pope in support of his charitable initiatives.**

**In its dimension as a fraternal benefit society, the Knights of Columbus provides its members a variety of life insurance products for the financial stability of their families. One of the most highly rated insurance companies in North America, the K of C has more than \$72 billion of life insurance in force and consistently earns the industry's highest independent rankings for fiscal management and ethical business practices.**

**The Knights of Columbus has also been actively involved American public policy initiatives. Before and throughout World War I, the Knights ran "Army Huts" – facilities that provided recreation, snacks and comfort items to the troops near bases and near the front.**

**The huts – whose motto was "Everyone welcome. Everything free," were a predecessor to the USO. During the 1920s, in direct opposition to the Ku Klux Klan, the Knights lobbied President Calvin Coolidge to pressure the Mexican government to stop its persecution of Catholics in Mexico.**

**Ultimately, the demands paid off, and an accord was reached between the Church and the Mexican government. In the 1950s, it was the Knights of Columbus that led the effort to have the words "under God" added to the Pledge of Allegiance. The organization continues to speak out on important social issues today, especially human life matters. Among the many notable Knights over the past 125 years were: Babe Ruth, Connie Mack, Joyce Kilmer, Vince Lombardi, Al Smith, John F. Kennedy, Sargent Shriver, and Ron Guidry.**

## THE K OF C MEANS SERVICE

The K of C's Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity for the year ending Dec. 31, 2014, reports that Knights donated record amounts of money and hours of volunteer service — nearly \$173.5 million and more than 71.5 million hours.

Contributions increased for the 16th consecutive year, growing by more than \$3.3 million to \$173,500,000.

“Charity has been at the heart of the Knights’ mission for the past 134 years,” said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson said after announcing the figures. “Whether with funds or service, and whether quietly helping someone overcome a personal tragedy or assisting in the aftermath of a widely known humanitarian disaster, the outpouring of charity by our members produces meaningful results, especially by helping to bring peace of mind to those who find themselves in incredibly difficult situations.”

In 2013, Anderson explained, “Knights were part of relief efforts for a number of tragic events, including two enormous natural disasters in the Philippines; tornados in Moore, Oklahoma; floods in Alberta, Canada; the factory explosion in West, Texas; and the Boston Marathon bombing. The year also saw the Knights continue their support for the victims of Superstorm Sandy, and for the people of Newtown, Conn, as they recovered from the school shooting that took the lives of 26 residents, most of whom were young children.”

The response to unexpected tragedies was accomplished while the Knights continued their strong support within their communities through initiatives like the Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids and Food for Families, programs supporting those with intellectual disabilities, organizing blood drives, and providing funding and volunteer time to organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics and the Global Wheelchair Mission.

The number of volunteer service hours rose in 2013 by 421,071 hours over the 2012 total. At an average value of \$22.55 per service hour as estimated by Independent Sector, the value of the Knights’ volunteer service last year was nearly \$1.6 billion.

Cumulative figures show that during the past decade the Knights of Columbus has donated nearly \$1.5 billion to charity and 683 million hours of volunteer service in support of charitable initiatives.

Organizing educational, social, service and athletic programs for young people. Local councils and assemblies sponsor Columbian Squires circles, Scout troops, programs to help teens deal with alcohol, drugs, suicide and other problems, as well as opportunities simply to have fun.