



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Knights of Fraternity



ANNUAL REPORT of the SUPREME KNIGHT

138th Supreme Convention
NEW HAVEN • 2020

2020 Annual Report of the Supreme Knight



(Photo by Tamino Petelínšek)

This year was unlike any the Knights of Columbus has ever faced. Never before have so many people had so many urgent needs. And never before have we done so much to help, guided by our principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism.

It has been said that “where there’s a need, there’s a Knight,” and we proved it once again. Through our Leave No Neighbor Behind initiative, we supported parishes, families and communities reeling from the coronavirus. Our Building the Domestic Church initiative helped men lead their families through uncharted waters. In countless ways, large and small, we have stepped up to help those around us, living out our faith more fully.

Even as we met challenges head-on, we brought the Knights to new heights. We reached the historic milestone of 2 million members and maintained our position on the FORTUNE® 1000 list.

In this annual report, you will gain a glimpse of our accomplishments over the past year. And you will see how we continue to advance the mission given to us by Father Michael McGivney, who will soon be called “Blessed.” We are proud to follow in his footsteps.

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Knights of Fraternity



St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn., pictured around the time that Father Michael J. McGivney served there as curate. (De Silva, New Haven, Conn., 1880-1889 approx.)

As history attests, the Knights of Columbus is something very special.

We know that the Knights of Columbus is much more than a typical service organization. Our dedication to charity and unity is exemplary. But what really sets us apart is our commitment to fraternity.

It is our fraternal approach to charity and unity that makes us so different from other charitable organizations. And it is our fraternal approach to insurance — by brother Knights for brother Knights — that sets us apart from other life insurers.

Our fraternal character defines all we do. Through the spiritual genius of Father McGivney, the Knights of Columbus became the way for Catholic men to transform friends into brothers — brothers who care for one another.



Father Michael J. McGivney postcard portrait.
(John T. Tierney, *Knights of Columbus Multimedia Archives*)



Pope Francis receives a copy of the Italian edition of *Parish Priest: Father Michael McGivney and American Catholicism* from Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori, at the Vatican Feb. 12. The Holy Father then entered the Pauline Chapel of the Apostolic Palace to greet and bless the members of the Board of Directors on pilgrimage to mark the centennial of the Order's presence in Rome. (Photo by Tamino Petelinšek)

This is why we so often refer to the Knights of Columbus as the Order of the Knights of Columbus. We do not claim some special juridical status. But like religious orders throughout history, we seek a community based on brotherhood.

We are all familiar with the great religious orders: the Benedictines, Franciscans, Dominicans and Jesuits. These men enter a brotherhood. They take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

But what about the men who marry and have families? Men who are called to be active in their parish. Is there a brotherhood for them?

We know the answer Father McGivney gave: The Knights of Columbus offers men a Catholic brotherhood.

Membership in the Knights of Columbus is not a casual commitment. It is a commitment to being a brother.

When we invite a man to join the Knights of Columbus, we are not simply inviting him to do something. We are inviting him to be someone. We are inviting him to be a man of charity, unity and fraternity.

But being who we are means that we must act. As Catholic men committed to charity, we are compelled to act. We are a community of brothers who see all those who suffer and all those who are in need as our brothers and sisters.

It is this fraternal character that is at the heart of each one of the millions of dollars and millions of volunteer hours we provide each year. This fraternal character is not only the source of our past success — it is the foundation of our future.



Leave No Neighbor Behind

An unprecedented global response in an unprecedented time.



The Knights of Columbus is no stranger to pandemics. Our forefathers faced one in 1890 — when Father McGivney died — and again in 1918 with the Spanish flu. So, when the novel coronavirus swept the world in 2020, the Knights swung into action.

From the start, councils stepped up to support their parishes and communities. They put their faith into action to help the people who were hardest hit. To help focus and strengthen these efforts, the Supreme Council quickly launched a new initiative called Leave No Neighbor Behind.

Leave No Neighbor Behind provides detailed guidance on how councils can make the biggest difference. It is built on five pillars:

- 1 Support Your Brothers.** *Because brother Knights always come through for each other.*
- 2 Support Your Parishes.** *Because councils are meant to help their pastors shepherd the flock.*
- 3 Support Your Communities.** *Because people facing hardship need someone to help.*
- 4 Feed the Hungry.** *Because no one should have to go without food.*
- 5 Participate in Blood Drives.** *Because millions of people have urgent medical needs.*

While councils across the world implemented this guidance, the Knights of Columbus also announced an unprecedented campaign to support food banks in the United States and Canada. We have provided nearly \$1.3 million US and \$180,000 CAN to food banks in areas that have seen the greatest suffering.

COVID-19 relief at Native American reservations, N.M. (Photo by Johnny Jaffe)





Leave No Neighbor Behind COVID-19 relief. (Photo by Archdiocese of Los Angeles)

The Order has also offered million-dollar lines of credit to Catholic dioceses facing financial trouble. We helped the Vatican’s Bambino Gesù Hospital create a dedicated COVID-19 treatment area for infants. And to support Pope Francis, we sponsored several special broadcasts from Rome, including the Holy Father’s extraordinary *Urbi et Orbi* blessing from an empty St. Peter’s Square on March 27.

The needs have been great at every stage of this pandemic. But our commitment to meet those needs has been greater still. The world can always count on the Knights of Columbus — even in a pandemic.

District Deputy Mike Leyden prepares to donate at a blood drive sponsored by Mother Seton Council 5410 in Flanders, N.J. (Photo by Bill Grant)



The Knights March On(line)

These days of challenge require us to be creative and to be faithful. Across the world, the Knights of Columbus did just that.

The coronavirus forced the cancellation of nearly all in-person K of C events. Councils moved their meetings to a remote format, with the support of the Fraternal Mission Department. Videoconference calls replaced parish halls, enabling Knights to keep their councils active and to organize relief efforts.

State conventions followed suit. Between April and June, state councils from Alaska to Ukraine hosted their conventions using virtual platforms. Attendance was strong, and so was morale.

Field agents continued their work by moving client meetings to teleconferences. With countless families facing health and financial challenges, K of C Insurance provided urgently needed peace of mind.

Membership recruitment remained strong as well.

With the impossibility of in-person exemplification ceremonies, the Supreme Council hosted a weekly online exemplification of the new combined

ceremonial unveiled in late 2019. The Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity proved popular, enabling more than 25,000 men to become Third Degree Knights. In addition, more than 4,500 men joined as eMembers between March and July.

Living Our Principles in a Pandemic

During the pandemic, our members took the Order to new heights of charity — in some cases literally. A number of K of C chaplains and other Knights took to the skies to provide blessings from on high.

Father Brian Gannon of St. Thérèse of Lisieux Council 8013 in Trumbull, Conn., imparted an airborne eucharistic blessing over the Diocese of Bridgeport on March 24. He was flown by Kevin Bradberry and John DeCastra Jr., brother Knights who had taken inspiration from a viral video of a priest flying over Italy with the Blessed Sacrament and a statue of the Virgin Mary.

Two days later, Daniel Schachle, a general agent and past grand knight in Tennessee, piloted an aerial eucharistic blessing over the Diocese of Nashville. He and his son were accompanied by Father Gervan Menezes, chaplain of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati



Little Sisters of the Poor receive supplies from Maryland Knights of Columbus. (Photo by Spirit Juice Studios)

Council 15020 in Nashville, who carried the Blessed Sacrament for the two-hour, 20-minute flight.

When Charles Hahn, a member of Vicksburg (Miss.) Council 898, read about these flights, he called up Dan K. Fordice III, a brother Knight who pilots a 1930s-style biplane at the Vicksburg-Tallulah Regional Airport. Within a few days, Fordice was flying over the area with Father Rusty Vincent, pastor of St. Paul Catholic Church and co-chaplain of their council, sprinkling holy water over their city.

	\$4,996,997 total U.S. dollars donated 947 units contributing		673,783 lbs. of food donated 405 units contributing
	\$1,540,125 donated to Leave No Neighbor Behind Fund		8,630 pints of blood donated 287 units contributing
	\$828,489 donated to parishes 429 units contributing		201,124 man-hours in response 1,041 units contributing
	\$743,482 donated to food banks/pantries 500 units contributing		16,980 brother Knights assisted 892 units contributing
	\$1,250,000 donated by Supreme to food banks/pantries		57,828 parishioners assisted 467 units contributing
	\$634,901 donated to other causes 409 units contributing		1,073,428 people impacted

Leave No Neighbor Behind

Charity

Where there's a need, there's a Knight

Charity is often the first word that comes to mind when people think of the Knights of Columbus. No wonder: Knights are known the world over for their generosity.

Every day our members rise to meet the needs of their parishes and communities. From food drives to fundraisers, clothes donations to disaster relief, providing wheelchairs to caring for the wounded, Knights are always there to lend a hand.

Why do we do so much for so many? Because Christ commands us to. We've answered God's call to "love your neighbor as yourself." As Knights, we are willing to give of ourselves for the sake of others.

And we know that nothing spreads the Good News like good works. At a papal audience with the Knights of Columbus Board of Directors in February, Pope Francis declared that the Knights embody "evangelical charity." By serving and sacrificing for those in our parishes and communities, we not only meet needs — we also change hearts.

Indeed, charity is more than our first principle — it is our way of life. Helping others is the heart of who we are.



Leave No Neighbor Behind COVID-19 relief food distribution, Arlington, Va. (Photo by Jaclyn Lippelmann)



Charity by the Numbers

Another year, another record. Once again our brother Knights increased the dollars they donated and hours they served.

All told, we gave more than **\$187 million** to charitable causes. In volunteer time, we contributed more than **77 million** hours in service.

With each hour in 2019 valued by independent research at **\$27.20**, our volunteer work is worth more than **\$2 billion**. This brings the total value of our charitable contributions over the past year to more than **\$2.2 billion**.

Mexico and Texas Knights deliver supplies to a migrant facility, Juárez, Mexico. (Photo by Spirit Juice Studios) 



Charity in Action Hope By Sea

Larry DeMichele had no idea what was coming. As a program manager of Pope Pius XII Council 5295 in Narragansett, R.I., he was in charge of managing a new charitable drive. The council was gathering goods to donate to a home for adults with disabilities in Jamaica. The Narragansett Knights visited the facility every year, and they wanted to do everything they could to help those in need.

But the outpouring of support shocked everyone. The goal was to send a modest shipment down to help. After just three weeks, the campaign had collected more than 3,000 pieces of clothing, nearly 12,000 adult diapers and a huge amount of construction materials that would enable the home to expand. And more donations kept pouring in.

By the time they were done, the Knights had 19,277 pounds of donations — nearly 10 tons — worth \$55,000. The donations had to be picked up by truck and taken to the Port of Newark, where they were put on a cargo ship bound for Kingston, Jamaica.

When it arrived in February, it made an instant difference for the disabled men and women. The Narragansett Knights came through for them — big time.

Farm to Lunch Table

What do you do when your parish has enough land to plant crops? For the members of Swift Current Council 3031 in rural Saskatchewan, the answer was simple: Grow and sell food to raise money and help feed hungry children.

For the past eight years, the council has grown potatoes on a single acre next to its parish. The Knights till the soil, plant the seeds, tend the crop, harvest the potatoes and sell them on the open market. Then they give the money to local school lunch programs for children in need.

On average, they donate \$2,000 every year. One recent donation was especially timely — a local school's budget had run out. As Grand Knight Gord Hagen explained, the money was enough to “tide them over until the end of June.”



Coats being distributed to the homeless in Denver. (Photo by Spirit Juice Studios)

The principal of one of the participating schools expressed her gratitude for the help: “It is a means of reaching vulnerable families and children in the most subtle yet significant way. What a blessing it is to have the Knights of Columbus take such initiative to support not only the learning but also the physical well-being of our students.”

The project supports not only neighbors in need but also the hungry throughout the world. A portion of the funds raised from the crop sales supports the Development and Peace Project of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, which helps provide for the needs of developing countries.

A Place of Refuge

Every Sunday after Mass, the Knights of Thomas O’Reilly Council 4358 in Decatur, Ga., get in their cars and head out to an 8-acre estate which features plenty of walking trails and a ranch-style home. Once they arrive, they pull out their tools and get to work.

“We show up with our hammers, crowbars, electric drills, work boots and knee pads,” said Joel Peddle, the council’s chancellor. “You see guys working without complaint, with joy in their hearts.”

These Knights aren’t flipping the house for resale; they’re turning it into a place of refuge for sex-trafficking victims.

“This is a place where young ladies are going to be taken and find some peace of mind, some counseling, recover their sense of self-worth and get help,” Peddle explained.

More than 20 Knights and their families have gone to the property to renovate the home, which is now called the Safe House. The effort is in collaboration with Out of Darkness, the organization that purchased the property, and the Freedom Now Movement. And Knights are not only helping build the house, but also maintaining it and providing ongoing financial support after it opens.



Coats for Kids distribution for Native American children from the Rosebud and Pine Ridge Indian reservations, both in South Dakota. (Photo by Spirit Juice Studios)



Coats for Kids in Dallas. (Photo by Spirit Juice Studios)

Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids

Every kid deserves to be warm in winter. Through the Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids program, we ensure they are.

This year saw a record 124,211 coats donated to children in need, with 2,144 councils participating in the program. On Giving Tuesday alone — Dec. 3, 2019 — the Knights raised \$175,000 to help give the gift of warmth to young boys and girls. From the time that the Coats for Kids program began in 2009, Knights have donated more than 700,400 coats to help bring the gift of warmth to children in need.

To make an even bigger impact, individual councils and jurisdictions are forging partnerships in their communities. Texas Knights partnered with the Dallas Cowboys to host a major Coats for Kids event. In less than 24 hours, more than 1,000 coats were distributed.

“The Knights of Columbus are such a gift from God and a gift for the Church,” said Bishop Edward J. Burns of Dallas, reflecting on the Coats for Kids program in his city. “You can’t really get any more sincere in living out a Gospel message than [by] taking care of our children.”

Global Wheelchair Mission

For more than a decade, the Knights of Columbus has partnered with the Global Wheelchair Mission to provide the gift of mobility to people in need. Altogether, the Order has donated nearly 100,000 wheelchairs throughout the world.

This past year alone, we provided more than 8,100 wheelchairs to men, women and children in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Poland, the Dominican Republic, the Bahamas, Jamaica, Costa Rica, Colombia, Paraguay, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Vietnam, Iraq and the Holy Land. No matter where these donations occur, each wheelchair represents a life changed.

That was certainly true for Alexander Wyznowski in Edmonton, Alberta. At 79 years old, his previous wheelchair had been stolen off his front porch. It wasn't long before St. John Bosco Council 10986 in Edmonton stepped in. As Wyznowski says, his new wheelchair has "given me hope that God still cares about me."

Knights of Columbus take part in an American Wheelchair Mission distribution in Mexico. *(Photo by Randy Hale)*



540,381
donors



A Knights-sponsored blood drive at the Minneapolis Convention Center. *(Photo by Tamino Petelinšek)*

Blood Donation

Knights have been holding blood drives for more than 80 years. Our work has broken ground and set national standards.

Our experience has been especially helpful during the coronavirus pandemic. Hundreds of councils hosted new and expanded blood drives to meet demand in their areas.

Before the pandemic, St. Edward the Confessor Council 10876 in Granville, Ohio, hosted an American Red Cross blood drive in honor of Army Capt. Nicholas Vogt, a local veteran who was wounded in Afghanistan and whose injuries had required a record-breaking 500 blood transfusions. The blood drive had 40% more donors than expected, and two-fifths were first-time donors. Capt. Vogt and his wife, Navy Lt. j.g. Lauren Vogt, were previously the recipients of the third smart home sponsored by the Knights of Columbus in partnership with the Gary Sinise Foundation.

Food for Families

No one should go hungry. That simple belief is at the heart of the Food for Families program, one of the most effective initiatives of the Knights of Columbus.

This year, councils donated more than 2.3 million pounds of food and more than \$1.8 million to feed those in need. Our members also worked hand-in-hand with local pantries and food banks to get food directly to those in greatest need. Our efforts helped countless families put healthy meals on the table. Since 2015, through the Food for Families program, Knights have collected more than 37 million pounds of food and provided \$19 million dollars in donations for food.

Carroll Council 504 in Wheeling, W. Va., went above and beyond to feed the hungry. On Leap Day, Feb. 29, the council helped organize and staff an event at which volunteers prepared 80,000 meals for children and families in need.

 Knights from Mexico and Texas offer relief at the Casa del Indigente in Matamoros, Mexico. (Photo by Spirit Juice Studios)

- **37 million** people struggle with hunger in the United States, including more than **11 million** children.¹
- Over **840,000** people in Canada turn to food banks each month.²
- **The Knights of Columbus** in 2019 donated more than **2.3 million** pounds of food and **\$1.8M**

1. www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/facts
2. www.canadahelps.org/en/giving-life/connecting-with-charities/hunger-in-canada-a-sobering-reality



Knights unload food and supplies for migrant families at Casa del Indigente in Matamoros, Mexico, Dec. 13. The event was part of the Order's initiative to provide vital humanitarian assistance to migrant families in cooperation with dioceses and councils near the U.S.-Mexico border, as announced at the 2019 Supreme Convention. Knights in Texas and Mexico have similarly distributed aid in Piedras Negras and Ciudad Juárez, where Central American immigrants seeking asylum await lawful entry into the United States.



Habitat for Humanity

The Knights have long supported Habitat for Humanity. The volunteer organization has a 44-year history of building homes and providing hope for families with neither.

This year, our members provided nearly 860,000 volunteer hours and \$735,000 in direct financial support.

The volunteer support is especially important. On home construction sites near and far, Knights show up with hammers, paintbrushes and wrenches in hand. When they leave at the end of the day, a family is that much closer to getting the home they've always wanted.

In late 2019, the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council donated \$75,000 to Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Haven to help build a new home for a family in need. In November, a group of volunteers from the Supreme Council headquarters worked at the site to help finish the home in time for Christmas.

A Habitat for Humanity event held during Knights of Columbus Week in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

Special Olympics

The Knights of Columbus has a long tradition of caring for those with intellectual and physical disabilities. This includes our support of Special Olympics since it began in 1968. Last year more than 88,000 Knights volunteered at Special Olympics events, contributing a combined 876,000 hours at approximately 10,600 events worldwide. In addition, local councils contributed \$4.5 million to the organization.

Knights of all ages engaged in this good work — holding fundraisers, providing food for athletes, organizing events, serving as competition judges and assisting with logistical support, equipment and awards.

Michigan councils donated \$230,000 to Special Olympics, the most of any jurisdiction for the eighth year in a row.

(Photo by Randy Hale)



Catholic Education

The Book of Proverbs tells us, “An intelligent heart acquires knowledge” (18:15). Knights have enabled young men and women to obtain knowledge through education since the 1880s.

This year, the Supreme Council provided more than \$1 million in scholarships to university and seminary students. Councils and assemblies also provided more than \$7,870,000 in scholarships within their parishes and communities.

Knights support students of different backgrounds and with varied interests, but the desire is always the same. We seek to enable men and women to discover their gifts and use them for the good of humanity and to the glory of God.

Academic Scholarships

In addition to general scholarship funding, the Supreme Council operates many specific academic scholarship programs. They are generally reserved for students with special circumstances or in difficult situations, including the death of a family member. Thanks to our support, many of these students are able to obtain a degree that would otherwise be out of reach.

Some of the scholarships we offer include:

The Francis P. Matthews and John E. Swift Educational Trust Scholarships — These are available to children of members in good standing who are killed or permanently disabled by hostile action while serving in the U.S. armed forces in a combat zone designated as such by the Knights of Columbus Board of Directors. They’re also available to the children of full-time firefighters and law enforcement officers who died as a result of criminal violence directed at them while in the lawful performance of their duties.

Fourth Degree Pro Deo and Pro Patria Scholarships — These scholarships are awarded to students in the United States who attend a Catholic college or university and maintain high academic standards,

Cumulative Donations

\$6.6 million – Francis P. Matthews and John E. Swift Educational Trust Scholarships

\$8.3 million – Fourth Degree Pro Deo and Pro Patria Scholarships (US)

\$3.4 million – John W. McDevitt Scholarships

\$791,000 – Father Michael J. McGivney Vocations Scholarship Fund (Canada)

\$1 million – Father Michael J. McGivney Fund for Advanced Studies for Canadian Priests (Canadian Pontifical College in Rome)

\$142,000 – Father McGivney Fund for Advanced Studies for Puerto Rican Priests

\$867,000 – Father Michael J. McGivney Fund for Advanced Studies for Filipino Priests (Pontifical Filipino College in Rome)

\$5.3 million – Count Enrico P. Galeazzi Fund for the Pontifical North American College in Rome

\$1 million – Our Lady of Guadalupe Fund for Advanced Studies for Mexican Priests (Pontifical Mexican College in Rome)

or to students in Canada who attend any college or university and maintain high academic standards. These scholarships can be awarded for a total of four years per student.

John W. McDevitt Scholarships — These scholarships are awarded to students entering their freshman year at a Catholic college or university. Recipients are chosen based on academic performance and can include students who are Knights or the wife, widow, son or daughter of a member.

Vocations Scholarships

The Knights of Columbus is proud to support the next generation of Catholic priests and religious. As an organization founded by a parish priest, we see supporting seminarians and vocations as an important outgrowth of our mission.

The *Father Michael J. McGivney Vocations Scholarship Fund* and *The Bishop Thomas V. Daily Vocations Scholarship Fund* — These flagship scholarship programs are available to seminarians for their years of formation theological studies at the graduate level.

Count Enrico P. Galeazzi Fund for the Pontifical North American College, Father Michael J. McGivney Fund for Advanced Studies for Canadian Priests, Our Lady

of Guadalupe Fund for Advanced Studies for Mexican Priests, and Father Michael J. McGivney Fund for Advanced Studies for Filipino Priests — These four scholarship programs enable priests to attend their respective pontifical seminaries in Rome.

Beyond the Supreme Council, local councils and assemblies provided \$3,823,960 in donations to the Refund Support Vocations Program, known as RSVP. This funding helped 6,333 men and women discerning vocations. Over the past 39 years, RSVP has provided nearly \$80 million to more than 131,000 people.

Councils and assemblies also directly support people pursuing a religious vocation — often because of direct personal connections in their parishes and communities — as well as students in Catholic high schools and grammar schools. This year, they provided \$9.4 million in funding.

Finally, under the leadership of the Fourth Degree, the Knights of Columbus continues to support the Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, which educates future military chaplains. This year's grant of \$200,000 raises our cumulative support for the formation of military chaplains to \$1.8 million since the program's inception in 2011.

St. Mary's Seminary

Father McGivney received financial assistance so he could attend St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore. Today, the seminary hosts a bust of Father McGivney. It was commissioned by a group of seminarians who, in gratitude for the Order's support of priestly vocations, contributed the bulk of its \$10,000 cost.



Disaster Relief

When crisis strikes, the Knights strike back – with courage and compassion

Knights are no stranger to natural disasters. Whether hurricanes, earthquakes, fires, floods or tornadoes, we are often among the first on the scene — and the last to leave.

No matter what form a disaster takes, the response from Knights is always the same.

First, those closest to the crisis spring into action. They do everything in their power to meet the most urgent needs, routinely putting the concerns of others above their own, and sometimes even saving lives.

Second, Knights across the world pitch in. As the disaster fades and long-term challenges become clear, councils raise funds. Some men jump in the car and drive all night to lend a helping hand. They know that the needs will only grow with time, and they're determined to be there every step of the way.

We've seen this proven time and time again, and this year was no exception. All told, through the Supreme Council, Knights of Columbus Charities Inc. and Knights of Columbus Canada Charities Inc., we gave more than \$1.3 million to disaster relief, with an additional \$3.5 million donated directly by local councils and assemblies.

But more important are the countless ways that our members provided hands-on help to those who suffered. They never asked for attention. They may not have told anyone what they did. But they didn't have to. The only thing they wanted was to fulfill their duty to their neighbor in need.

The devastation of the Puerto Rico earthquake, to which Knights came to the rescue. *(Photo by Rafy Vega)*





Rebuilding the Bahamas

Just a few hundred miles off America's Atlantic Coast, the Bahamas was struck by the worst natural disaster in its history. On Sept. 1, Hurricane Dorian brought 185-mile-per-hour winds and 23-foot storm surges that devastated the islands. Tens of thousands became homeless overnight.

Lilian Ferguson and her husband had never seen anything like it. They'd lived through five hurricanes, but this was the only one she feared she wouldn't survive. Water filled her house to the windows, and the roof barely held together. After the water receded, much of her home was in ruins, and she didn't know what to do next.

When members of the Knights of Columbus heard about her situation, they rushed to support her, cleaning up debris and putting tar paper on the roof to prevent more water damage. "They are always helping out,"

Ferguson said. "Every occasion, every disaster they step in and help."

Even the Knights whose homes were badly hit found ways to help their neighbors. That was true for Nolan Dean, a member of Grand Bahama Council 10647, who spent all night with his family praying in the attic while the storm destroyed the main floor of their house. Patrick Ferguson, a member of the same council, was forced from his home into a shelter along with his family, including his 90-year-old mother-in-law.

When the waters receded, Dean and Ferguson immediately started giving supplies to get their neighbors back on their feet. "We feel good doing something for the people right now even though we've got our own damage," Dean said. "That makes me proud to be a Knight."

The Florida State Council also swooped in to help. "To see brother Knights and other councils whom I've never met coming to the aid of the Bahamas, that's something that really warms my heart," said Augustine Hall, a member of Nassau Council 10415. "There is often

Help After Hurricanes

Hurricane Dorian put much of the Bahamas under feet of saltwater. With basic necessities hard to find, the Knights delivered countless pallets of fresh water, devoting the greatest attention to the areas with the greatest needs.



In the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian, Knights unload and distribute supplies in the Bahamas. (Photo by Spirit Juice Studios)





Nuns in Need

Twenty-five Dominican sisters found themselves without a convent after a series of earthquakes struck Puerto Rico in January. Knights quickly set up shelters. Then they shipped in plenty of food and supplies. With eight of the nuns bedridden and 17 requiring walkers, the Knights helped transport them to safety in a nearby city.

Knights of Columbus General Agent José Lebron-Sanabria meets with Dominican Sisters after the Puerto Rico earthquake. (Photo by Rafy Vega)

a tendency to feel helpless and hopeless. And I think that mainly is why the Knights are here: to reassure people, to be there for people.”

In addition to volunteering, the Knights of Columbus coordinated relief efforts with the Archdiocese of Nassau and raised more than \$620,000 through its Disaster Relief Fund. The Supreme Council also sent blankets, air mattresses, portable gas stoves, solar generators and other basic necessities.

Putting Puerto Rico on Solid Ground

Just two years after Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico, a series of devastating earthquakes struck the island’s southern coast. Tens of thousands lost their homes, three parish churches were destroyed and some towns were completely leveled. For many Puerto Ricans, it looked like a blow they couldn’t recover from.

But even before the shaking stopped, Knights on the ground stepped up.

When the earthquakes struck, the Puerto Rico jurisdiction had no money in its disaster relief fund, so many Knights provided aid out-of-pocket. Within weeks, Knights across the world came through with further donations.

Puerto Rico State Deputy Jose Vazquez-Padilla and other Knights purchased 20 canopies to bring to displaced people now living outside of San Antonio Abad Parish in Guánica. More than 300 Knights then cooked 1,000 hot meals for those affected by the earthquakes.

Elsewhere on the island, Knights of Columbus General Agent José Lebron-Sanabria, who led the Knights’ recovery efforts after Hurricane Maria, worked with the Diocese of Ponce to bring food, water and supplies to a monastery with 25 elderly nuns.

After the quake razed the buildings of La Inmaculada Concepción Parish to the ground, Knights brought canopies so the priests could protect their congregations from the elements while celebrating Mass outdoors.

Culture of Life

Knights pledge their lives to those whose lives are most at risk

To be a Knight is to defend life. We recognize that every human being is precious and worth protecting, from conception to natural death. That is why we advocate for the end of abortion — one of the greatest evils of our time.

We made our message clear at the 47th annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., the biggest annual gathering of pro-life Americans. Supreme Knight Carl Anderson led thousands of Knights who came from near and far to join the more than 100,000 people who proudly marched for life.

We brought buses full of supporters and held banners for all to see. The March for Life lasts just one day, but our defense of life lasts all year long, and Knights participate in pro-life marches throughout the United States.

Globally, Knights have also played leading roles in pro-life marches and events in Canada, Mexico, the Philippines, Poland and other countries in which the Order is present.

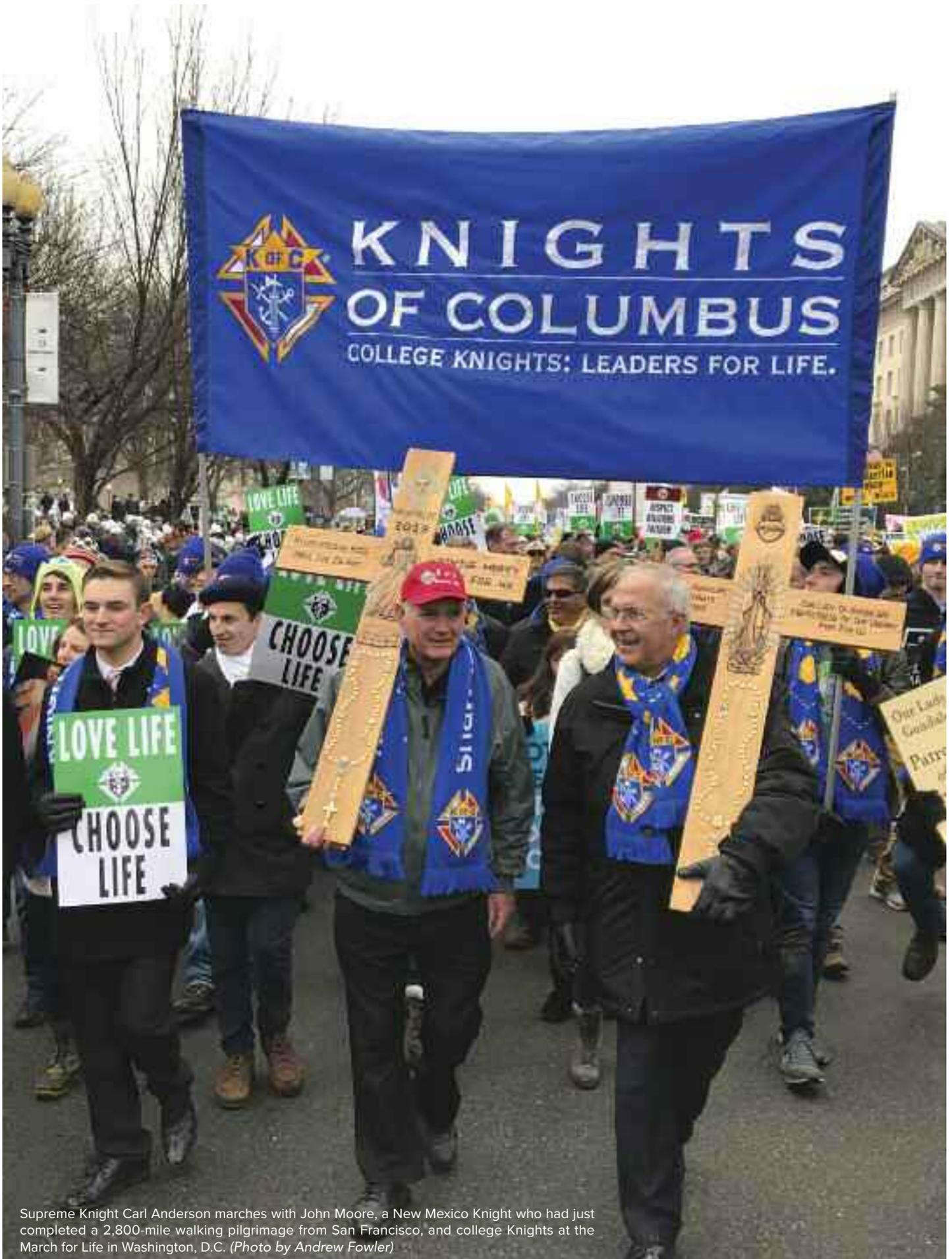
We fight for life in countless ways. This year, we supported state legislation to end the most barbaric abortion practices. We supported pregnancy resource centers that help young women in tough situations. And we spoke for the quiet American majority that wants to roll back unrestricted abortion and restore a culture of life.

Native Americans for Life

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson met with Life Is Sacred, a Native American pro-life organization, after the 47th annual March for Life. The group's mission statement says: "Too few stood by to defend the lives of our people. ... We stand for the lives of all people, born and unborn."

Supreme Warden Graydon Nicholas (center), former lieutenant governor of New Brunswick and a member of the Maliseet First Nation, marches with members of the Native American pro-life group Life Is Sacred.
(Photo by Matthew Barrick)





Supreme Knight Carl Anderson marches with John Moore, a New Mexico Knight who had just completed a 2,800-mile walking pilgrimage from San Francisco, and college Knights at the March for Life in Washington, D.C. (Photo by Andrew Fowler)

Saving Lives in Florida

Florida is now the first jurisdiction to place 100 ultrasound machines in pregnancy resource centers. One of the newest machines was given to the Sarasota Medical Pregnancy Center, which expects to serve almost 1,000 new clients in 2020. The ultrasound donation was made possible by four councils who worked with the Florida State Council to raise funds through annual baby bottle drives.

The Sarasota machine is already making a difference. As Jordan, a client at the clinic, said, “When I first had my ultrasound at Sarasota Medical Pregnancy Center, it made me realize how real this blessing was. Not only was the reality hitting me that I would be bringing a beautiful life into the world, but I wasn’t alone.”

Jordan (a client of Sarasota Medical Pregnancy Center) and her daughter.
(Photo by Cody Davenport)



Knights from Councils 15332, 13307, 14845 and 7826 stand with leaders of the Florida State Council and staff of the Sarasota Medical Pregnancy Center. *(Photo by Linda Wenck)*

Pro-Life in Pandemic

The pandemic has not stopped pregnancy centers from serving mothers in need. Across the country, centers like Sarasota Medical Pregnancy Center remain open and offer essential supplies like diapers, wipes and baby clothes, host remote educational programs, and provide medical services including ultrasounds to women at risk of abortion.

In April, a couple came to Sarasota searching for abortion services. They were scared, jobless and in fear of COVID-19. They thought abortion was their only option. After the center’s staff discussed all the couple’s choices and offered them words of hope and support, the couple chose life. This story is but one of many examples of the life-saving work carried out by centers supported by the Knights of Columbus.



Nichole M. King, an ultrasound technologist for Sarasota Medical Pregnancy Center, shows a sonogram to a client. *(Photo by Blake Harcup)*

Marist Poll Numbers

70% of Americans would limit abortion to, at most, the first three months of pregnancy.

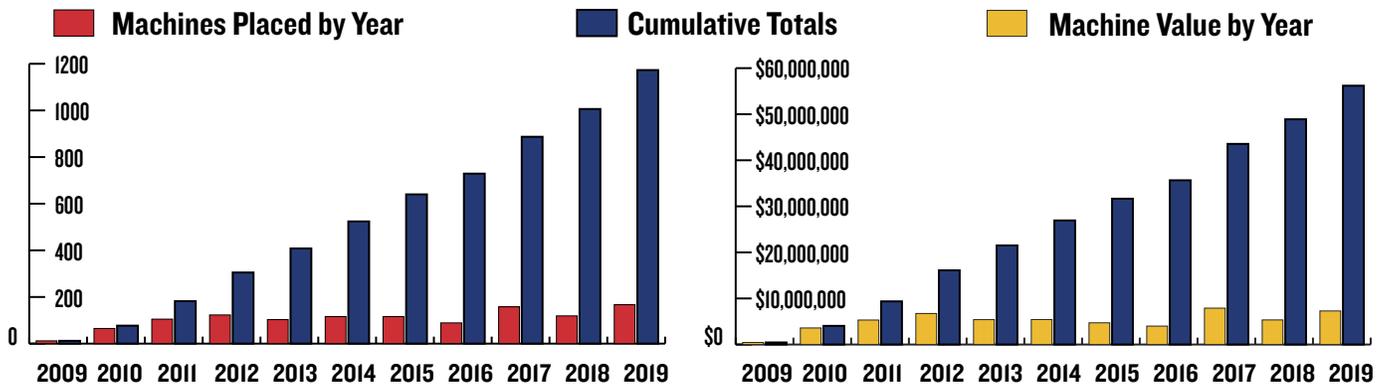


60% of Americans oppose taxpayer funding of abortion.

Ultrasound Initiative

The greatest humanitarian project in Knights of Columbus history continues to gain ground. Last year, we placed our 1,000th ultrasound machine in a pregnancy resource center.

All told, we have now placed 1,255 machines valued at more than \$60 million. The cost is well worth it. Every life we save is priceless. When a mother sees her baby and hears that heartbeat, it closes a door that should have never been opened. And it opens another door that the whole family can walk through.



Persecuted Christians

The Knights of Columbus is proud to support persecuted Christians in the Middle East and beyond. The supreme knight made this a major initiative in 2014, and since then, the Order has committed more than \$25 million to help those who have been targeted for genocide by ISIS and who still suffer from religiously motivated attacks.

This year, the supreme knight reflected on the Order's matchless record of support for persecuted Christians:

The financial and humanitarian support we have given is only part of the story. The other part is our engagement with the United States government to successfully change our nation's foreign policy.

In 2015, we urged the Obama Administration to declare what was happening to Christians and other religious minorities in Iraq to be genocide. When the State Department replied that it did not have sufficient evidence, we sent researchers to Iraq and compiled a 300-page report that included the names of Christians murdered and churches destroyed. It also included an official ISIS price list for Christian women and girls to be sold as slaves. Based on the overwhelming evidence and legal analysis we submitted, Secretary of State John Kerry declared that genocide was occurring.

Speaking on behalf of the Knights of Columbus, I testified numerous times before Congress, which led to the Iraq and Syria Genocide Relief and Accountability Act that passed Congress and was signed into law in 2018. The Supreme Council has also worked closely with the U.S. Agency for International Development to help American foreign aid more effectively reach the devastated Christian communities.

Bishop Oliver Dashe Doeme inspects a burnt church in Maiduguri, Nigeria, which has been severely affected by terror inflicted by the Islamist group Boko Haram, which was founded there in 2002. (Photo © Aid to the Church in Need)







Pope Francis blesses a Knights of Columbus Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians icon at the Vatican, Nov. 16, 2018. (*L'Osservatore Romano*)

I can report to you that our efforts made a tremendous difference. But while the threat from ISIS has been reduced, the persecution of Christians in other parts of the world has increased. Last year, the British government reported that the persecution of Christians around the world is at “near genocide levels.”

The situation is especially extreme in Africa. For example, reports estimate that tens of thousands of Christians have been killed in Nigeria alone in the past two decades. Recently, the European Union and the Catholic bishops in the European Union have condemned that violence against Christians in Nigeria. Yet much more needs to be done to bring attention to this jihadi attempt at a new genocide.

I am pleased to announce today that the Knights of Columbus will launch a new initiative to report on the situation in Nigeria, similar to what was done in

Iraq, in the hope that greater attention by American diplomacy and humanitarian aid can make a difference there. Christians in Africa, just as in the Middle East, have a right to exist and we will stand in solidarity with them.

One of the most important expressions of our support for persecuted Christians throughout the world has been the unique prayer service we launched as part of our Pilgrim Icon Program. We dedicated the past two years to Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians. It received the blessing of Pope Francis and has been one of the most effective ways to increase global awareness of this worldwide crisis. I urge Catholics everywhere to continue to pray in solidarity with our suffering Christian brothers and sisters throughout the world.

Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians, icon by Fabrizio Diomedì, Knights of Columbus commission, 2018.



Patriotic Degree *and the* Armed Forces

**Standing for our
Church, standing
for our countries.**

Love of country has long been part of who we are as Knights. Just as we want to provide for our families, friends and neighbors, we want to ensure that our societies enable every person to flourish. And we proudly support the heroes who defend our freedom and keep our families safe.



The Fourth Degree

The Patriotic Degree continues to expand. This year, 11,140 men joined its ranks. Total membership now stands at 367,697. Some 34 assemblies also formed, with a total of 3,531 now spread across the Order.

Why do men of all ages join the Fourth Degree? Because their love of God leads them to their love of country. By taking this step, they see a new dimension of our brotherhood. They form new friendships, find new opportunities to serve and foster new camaraderie in their communities. These men make all of us proud and strengthen their countries.

Military Councils

Serving in the U.S. armed forces often takes Knights far from home. But wherever they go, their desire for fraternal friendship remains strong. They can find like-minded Catholic men at the 68 military councils and nine military assemblies around the world. As Knights in uniform can attest, these councils provide a place for continued growth in charity, unity and fraternity.



Knights of Council 17363, based at Naval Station Rota, Spain. (Photo by Tamino Petelinšek)



Supreme Knight Carl Anderson and Supreme Director Carmine Musumeci are pictured with members of Council 8250 at the United States Military Academy at West Point. (Photo by Daniel Isabel)

Serving Those Who Serve

Members of the Fourth Degree are loyal friends to men and women in uniform. All told, Knights volunteered 97,000 hours of service at more than 120 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers this year. They cared for injured heroes and comforted grieving loved ones.

Jim Surman of Stephen P. Barry Assembly 940 in McKeesport, Pa., noticed veterans in his area often had a particularly difficult time at night. After he read about veteran depression and suicide rates, he decided to do something to help these heroes get through lonely nights.

At the next council meeting, he suggested the Knights provide a telescope. Interest was so high that council members reached out to the Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh to start the Astronomy for Disabled Veterans program.

The first astronomy program at a VA hospital is now up and running at Pittsburgh's H.J. Heinz campus. Surman and his brother Knights raised more than \$21,000 from 50 local councils. The money provided for an observatory on the hospital's grounds. Now they're trying to raise \$65,000 to fund other technology, including a telescope that can connect to NASA.

On many other occasions, councils, assemblies and individual Knights went out of their way to help members of the U.S. armed forces and uphold their patriotic duty.

Thanks to the generosity of New Jersey Knights, 160 military personnel stationed in Garden State were able to travel home during the Christmas season through the Send a Hero Home for the Holidays program. To date, these Knights have provided this service to more than 500 active-duty service members.

In Carroll County, Md., multiple councils have banded together to restore 26 graves of veterans from various U.S. military conflicts, from the Civil War

to the Korean War. The graves are located in a cemetery founded in 1876 by six African American veterans of the Union Army. At that time, people of color had no other burial grounds within the city due to discriminatory policies.

The restorations started when Tom Greul, a member of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Council 7612 in Eldersburg, noticed that the headstones were in disrepair due to vandalism and neglect. The Knights partnered with the Carroll County Community Foundation to raise money and get supplies to maintain the grounds and identify the veterans. And Charlie Kohler, a member of St. Bartholomew Council 9127 in Manchester, has been working with military services for new headstones. Dan Kloss, a member of the same council, has been working with other Knights to provide general care and maintenance for the cemetery.

In France, the Knights commemorated the 100th anniversary of the canonization of St. Joan of Arc, a model of patriotism known the world over. The Knights from her hometown of Domrémy collected prayer intentions and left them at the foot of the statue of Our Lady of Beaumont, the same statue St. Joan of Arc prayerfully visited before leaving her village to fight in the Hundred Years' War. The statue is currently located in the Basilica of Bois-Chênu in Domrémy, which was dedicated to the French saint in the late 19th century.

Arnaud Boutheon, the Knights of Columbus' special consultant for French affairs, said: "The principle of patriotism invites us to place our steps in those of the saints who bequeathed the Catholic faith to us."

Remembering Our POWs and MIAs

"You are not forgotten" is a slogan that reminds Americans of U.S. servicemen and women who were last known to be prisoners of war or missing in action from military conflicts.

For the past several years, Our Lady of the Lakes Council 8903 in Oakdale, Conn., has set up a display at Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church on Memorial Day weekend to honor these POWs and MIAs.

Past Grand Knight Joseph Tycz explained, "A tradition since the end of the Vietnam War at some military functions and military veteran associations is to set a small, round, unoccupied table in full view of the audience – the Prisoners of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) table." He noted the idea was first proposed two years ago by Master Chief Marc Dube, USN (Ret.), himself a past grand knight.



Some items in the display arranged by Council 8903 in Oakdale, Conn., have both secular and religious symbolism. Symbols that require no explanation include the American flag, a Bible, a rosary, a crucifix, a candle and the Divine Mercy image.





Membership

Two million members – and counting

This year, the Knights of Columbus reached a historic milestone: 2 million members.

This accomplishment was unimaginable to Father McGivney and our first members. They started with only a handful of faithful Catholic men in the basement of a simple parish. Now, 138 years later, 2 million good and godly men gather in church basements, parish halls and community centers the world over.

As impressive as that number is, what matters more is what it means — namely that 2 million men are now leading lives of charity, standing for unity and joining together in Christian fraternity. Two million men are being transformed, and they are transforming their parishes, communities and countries in turn. This milestone reminds us that the Knights of Columbus is truly a worldwide movement of faithful and strong Catholic men.

We can be found in every state and most U.S. territories. We likewise have a powerful presence in every Canadian province and territory, and our brother Knights can be found across every state in Mexico. Virtually every city and town in the Philippines has a Knights of Columbus presence. And in recent years, the Order has expanded to Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, South Korea and France. From the Americas to Europe to Asia, the Knights of Columbus is strong and growing stronger.

We are worldwide in our vision and impact. Our 2 million members not only step up to meet the needs of their parishes and communities, they also rise to help people near and far. From supporting the victims of natural disasters to rebuilding gutted Christian communities in the Middle East, our members know that while charity starts close to home, it doesn't end there.

**2,000,000
Members**

**397
College Councils**

**16,242
Councils**

**367,697
Fourth Degree
Knights**

**38,201
College Knights**

**21,284
eMembers**



Every man who becomes a Knight multiplies his effectiveness by orders of magnitude. In our fraternity, we find new ways to serve. Even more important, in fraternity, we find new ways to become who God calls us to be. We become better men, better husbands, better fathers, better friends, better citizens and better Catholics.

This milestone is meaningful, and how we reached it is equally important.

Over the past fraternal year, we saw 70,507 men in total join the Order.

The Knights continue to grow at the collegiate level, too. This year, we added 2,205 new college Knights, bringing our total college council membership to more than 38,000. We also established nine new college councils to reach a total of 397. With so many young men searching for truth and meaning in their lives, college Knights are essential to reaching the rising generation.

The 2-million-member mark is something for all Knights to celebrate. It should also spur us to continue inspiring others to join us. On the day of Supreme Knight Carl Anderson's election, he said we

have a moral obligation to offer the benefits of membership to every eligible Catholic man. What was true then is true now: Every Knight should extend the hand of friendship and fraternity to other faithful Catholic men.

New Exemplification

This past year, the Supreme Council announced one of the most important changes in the Order's recent history: a new combined ceremonial, rooted in our past, tailored to the present and vital to our future.

Starting Jan. 1, the traditional system of three separate exemplifications was supplemented with a new Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity. The new ceremony, which harkens back to the simple ones first approved by Father McGivney, focuses on the history and extols candidates in the three basic principles of our Order. It presents a richer understanding of who we are, what we stand for and what a Knight is called to be.

The new combined ceremonial also better reflects our commitment to our communities and our Church. While it can be held in a council chamber, it was

designed be held in the parish church, with families and friends seated in the pews. They will see firsthand the organization their husbands, fathers, brothers, sons and friends are joining, as well as the principles and values to which they are committing. They will be encouraged to bring those same values into their own lives and families.

The response has been overwhelmingly positive. In past years, some councils and assemblies were unable to organize ceremonial teams. This left many candidates waiting months to join the Order. Others were unable to advance through the degrees, precluding them from leadership roles. For some, the wait was so long that they gave up. Now, councils are able to simply and quickly arrange an exemplification. Younger men in particular have expressed appreciation for the new ceremony.

The Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity will be a cornerstone of recruitment in the years to come. All councils are encouraged to watch it online and host a ceremony as soon as possible.

The Growth of eMembership



Michael Cloninger of Montana participates in an online exemplification.



The supreme knight celebrates reaching the milestone of 2 million members with the Fraternal Mission Department. (Photo by Stephen Feiler)

It has never been more convenient to join the Knights of Columbus.

Since 2017, men have simply had to go to our website, fill out a form and attest that they are practical Catholics to receive confirmation of their membership.

This year, 11,861 men joined the Order in this way.

Online membership has been especially important during the coronavirus pandemic. With parishes closed and in-person events largely prohibited, it has been an ideal avenue for men to join.

In the future, eMembership will only grow more important. Councils should feature it prominently in recruitment efforts. The more we do, the more we will recruit the men of the rising generations, and the more we will secure a future of good men and good works for the entire Order.

The Many Facets of Faith in Action

FAITH



More than 5,000 gather in Phoenix for the 44th annual Arizona Rosary Celebration in October 2019. The Knights of Columbus had been a primary co-sponsor of the Rosary Celebration since 1985, when Knights first teamed up with the Legion of Mary. In 2006, Arizona Knights became the primary sponsor.



(Photo by John Cadell)

The Knights of Columbus were honored on the playing field during the Faith Day celebration prior to the Washington Nationals baseball game on Sept. 26, 2019. Supreme Secretary Michael O'Connor is pictured with the state deputies of the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia, and other Knights of Columbus families.

FAMILY



The children of Maria-Laura and Francisc Vives of Holy Trinity Council 12353 in Edmonton, Alberta, sit beneath Stations of the Cross they colored. The Supreme Council designed a special Way of the Cross coloring book based on the mosaics of Jesuit Father Marko Rupnik and Centro Aletti to help children observe Lent when stuck in their homes due to COVID-19.



Members of Most Holy Trinity Council 5774 in Balic-Balic, Luzon South, serve a meal in the Most Holy Trinity Parish gymnasium as part of the council's Adopt-a-Family program. Each family was also given a basket of food to take home.

COMMUNITY



Jay Lechner, a member of Christ the King Council 12165 in Tampa, Fla., helps with a blood drive at Christ the King Catholic Church.



(Photo by Brion McCarthy)

Tom Greul (left) and Dan Kloss of James Cardinal Gibbons Assembly 379 in Westminster, Md., install cross markers at Ellsworth Cemetery, a neglected burial ground for African American veterans of the U.S. Civil War.

LIFE



Bishop Enrique Sánchez Martínez of Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, blesses bystanders with the K of C Silver Rose, which he received from Bishop James Tamayo of Laredo, Texas, at the Gateway to the Americas International Bridge connecting Mexico and the United States. Each year, from early March through mid-December, Silver Roses travel with the aid of K of C councils along routes from Canada to Mexico. At every stop, Knights, parishioners and community members pray for respect for life, for the spiritual renewal of each nation and for the advancement of Our Lady of Guadalupe's message.



Grand Knight Nicholas Arico of Our Lady of Peace Council 11378 in North Brunswick, N.J., visits with a young guest at the Special Bowl, a council-sponsored party for people with special needs.

International Activities



CANADA

For three years, St. Christopher's Council 12372 in Mississauga, Ontario, has conducted a refundable bottle drive, collecting empty bottles at St. Christopher's Church. Last year, the council distributed "bottle banks" to parishioners wishing to donate spare change. Since the program began, the council has raised more than \$10,000 for local charities.



PHILIPPINES

Filipino Knights from Rev. Father Vincent O'Brien Council 10103 in Zambales, Luzon South, hosted a free dental clinic at the hall where the council meets, arranging for local dentists to provide checkups and other services for approximately 50 people who were unable to pay for dental care.





MEXICO

Prior to the pandemic, the Mexico Central State Council organized the Faith in Action Spiritual Reflection program throughout its jurisdiction. Knights and their families participated in a series of three-day retreats, which many participants said was a life-changing experience. After witnessing how these retreats have boosted both membership and the Knights' commitment with the Order, the state council team plans to continue sponsoring them on a regular basis.



POLAND

Polish Knights lead the Way of the Cross at the Jasna Góra Shrine during the 6th Annual Family Pilgrimage of the Knights of Columbus to Częstochowa, which took place Oct. 11-12, 2019. During the pilgrimage, the Knights collected medical supplies to support a hospice for people with cancer in Łomża in northern Poland. More than 500 people — Knights, families and council chaplains — attended the pilgrimage.



(Photo by Jacek Pisz)

International Activities



UKRAINE

As a part the of the Leave No Neighbor Behind initiative, Knights of St. Volodymyr Council 15800 in Kyiv, together with the Vineyard community, organized a program called SoborHelp. Together, they provided groceries, medicine, hygiene products and other support to more than 80 people, including disabled persons, single mothers, retirees and the temporarily unemployed. All told, a team of 30 volunteers put in 2,500 volunteer hours to help those in need.



LITHUANIA

Members of St. Casimir and Blessed Jurgis Matulaitis Council 17187 in Vilnius worked with Cathedral Caritas on the Ministry of Hearing program to help people in need. One recipient was a single mother whose apartment was in shambles due to a fire. Unable to fix it herself while caring for her three children, she turned to a Catholic charity organization that brought in the Knights. The Knights cleaned debris from the apartment, repaired and replaced its wooden floors, and installed new electrical wiring.





SOUTH KOREA

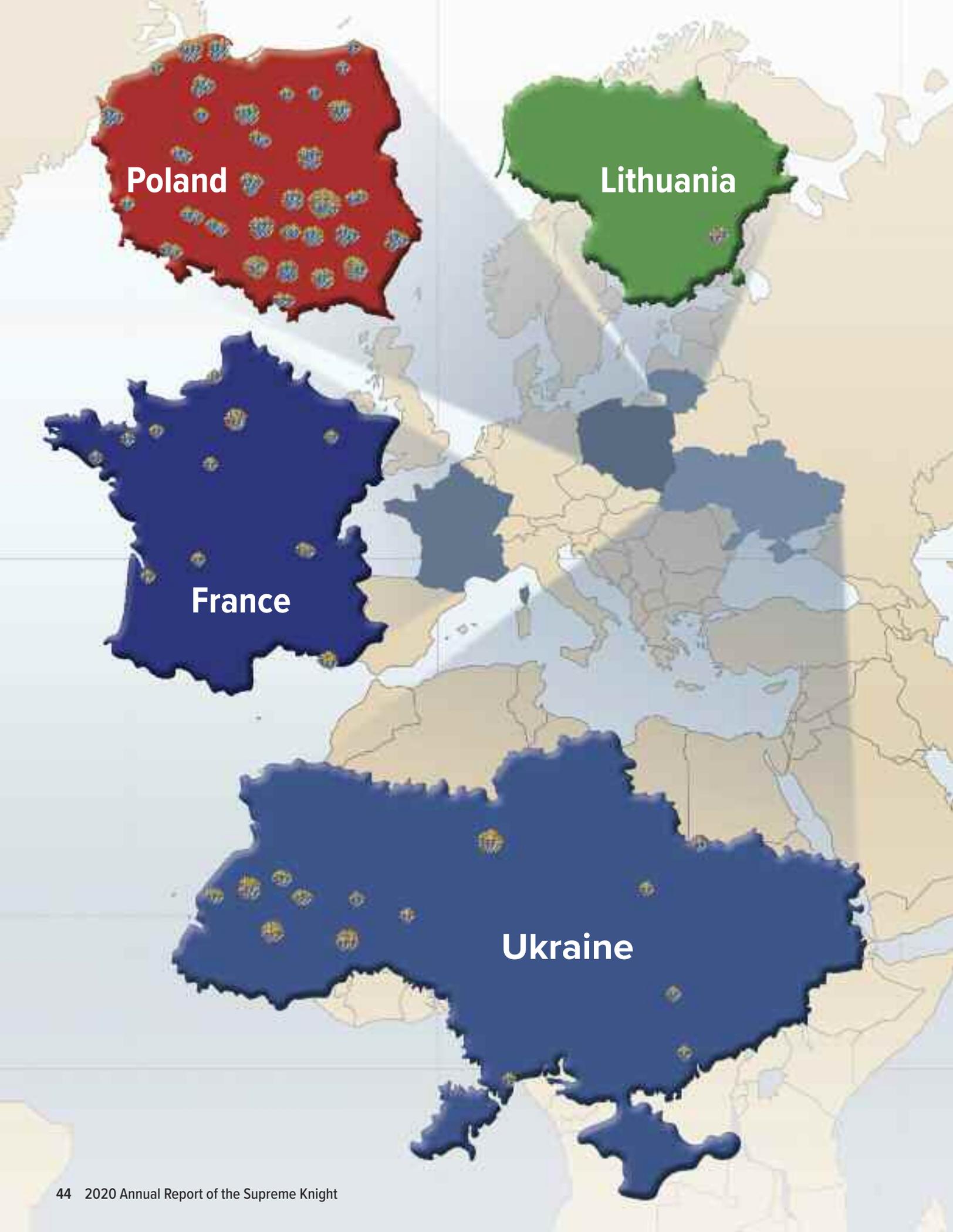
Knights at Camp Humphreys military base in South Korea led a huge community effort to supply a South Korean orphanage and hospice for the elderly with basic necessities as well as a new van and patio. These donations were especially helpful during the coronavirus pandemic.



FRANCE

Knights in Paris hosted an auction that raised 215,000 euros for L'Œuvre d'Orient and Fraternité en Irak, nongovernmental organizations that support Christian communities in the Middle East. The funds will go toward eight economic projects designed to help Christian families rebuild sustainable livelihoods by revitalizing agriculture, crafts and trade.



A map of Europe with four countries highlighted in different colors and patterns. Poland is red with a repeating coat of arms pattern. Lithuania is green with a single coat of arms. France is dark blue with a repeating coat of arms pattern. Ukraine is dark blue with a repeating coat of arms pattern. The rest of the map is light tan with faint outlines of other countries.

Poland

Lithuania

France

Ukraine

2001-2020

Supreme Knight Anderson has led a global expansion of the Knights of Columbus. His intentions were clear, as he chose the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City as the location for his installation in February 2001. There, he spoke of the “spirit of unity that transcends all national boundaries,” and he has done his part to extend our brotherhood beyond those boundaries.

The Knights’ subsequent international growth has been impressive. In 2005, the Order officially entered Europe, choosing Poland as the first expansion country. Speaking to Polish Knights in 2018, the supreme knight stated: “By establishing the Knights of Columbus in Poland, we fulfilled a request of Pope John Paul II that we bring our work of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism to his homeland.”

The past decade saw the Knights expand into three additional European countries — Ukraine, Lithuania and France. And in 2014, the Order established a new presence on the mainland of Asia, in the nation of South Korea. As this growth demonstrates, the mission of the Knights of Columbus is particular to no nation, for we address the needs of the Church Universal.



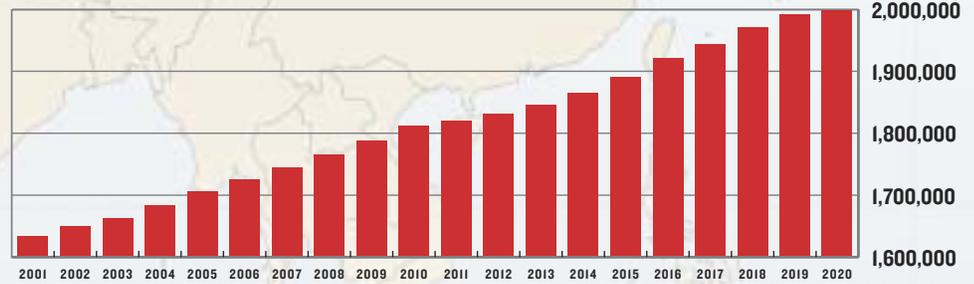
2006		Poland	119 councils	6,143 members
2013		Ukraine	33 councils	1,592 members
2014		Lithuania	2 councils	214 members
2014		South Korea	7 councils	214 members
2015		France	20 councils	502 members

Progress by the Numbers

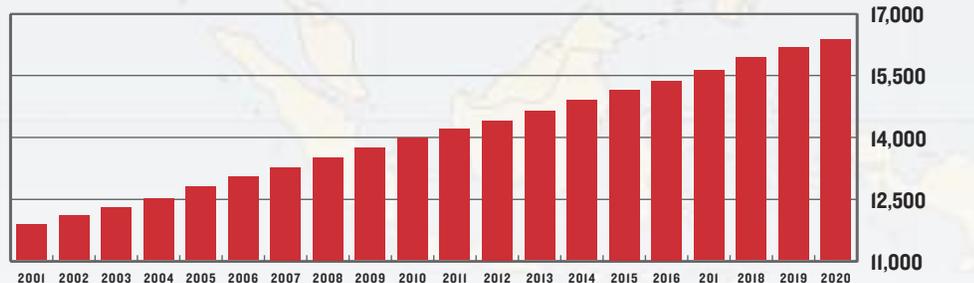
On the first day of his administration, Supreme Knight Anderson said we have a moral obligation to offer the benefits of membership in the Knights of Columbus to every eligible Catholic man. We have made significant progress toward this goal over the past two decades.

Between 2000 and 2020, membership in the Knights of Columbus rose from 1.6 million to 2 million. The number of councils also saw dramatic growth, rising from 11,860 to 16,242. Behind these numbers are men who have been transformed by our brotherhood, and who are transforming the world in turn.

Membership



Councils





Into the Breach

A groundbreaking new video series for men of all ages

Ash Wednesday saw the launch of an important new initiative, the *Into the Breach* video series. The series calls men to wage and win the spiritual battle in our society. It consists of 12 episodes, each one dealing with a different and timely topic. The videos are designed to give men the tools and knowledge to become who we were born to be — men of charity, unity and fraternity. *Into the Breach* builds on the apostolic exhortation of the same name, written by Bishop Thomas Olmsted of Phoenix and then reprinted by the Knights in 2018. Bishop Olmsted begins with a call to action:

I begin this letter with a clarion call and clear charge to you, my sons and brothers in Christ: Men, do not hesitate to engage in the battle that is raging around you, the battle that is wounding our children and families, the battle that is distorting the dignity of both women and men. This battle is often hidden, but the battle is real. It is primarily spiritual, but it is progressively killing the remaining Christian ethos in our society and culture, and even in our own homes.

The video series flows directly from these words of wisdom. Episodes run about 12 minutes, with each focusing on a different aspect of authentic Catholic masculinity and featuring interviews with well-known Catholic commentators and everyday Catholic men. Not only are the episodes designed for easy understanding, they are also designed for easy sharing. They are accessible to men of all ages. Every man who watches them will walk away with a better understanding of who they are and what it means to be a Catholic man and a Knight of Columbus.

Into the Breach will air on EWTN this fall, and the Supreme Council will also soon provide study guides to accompany each episode.



Father Michael McGivney

America's Next Blessed

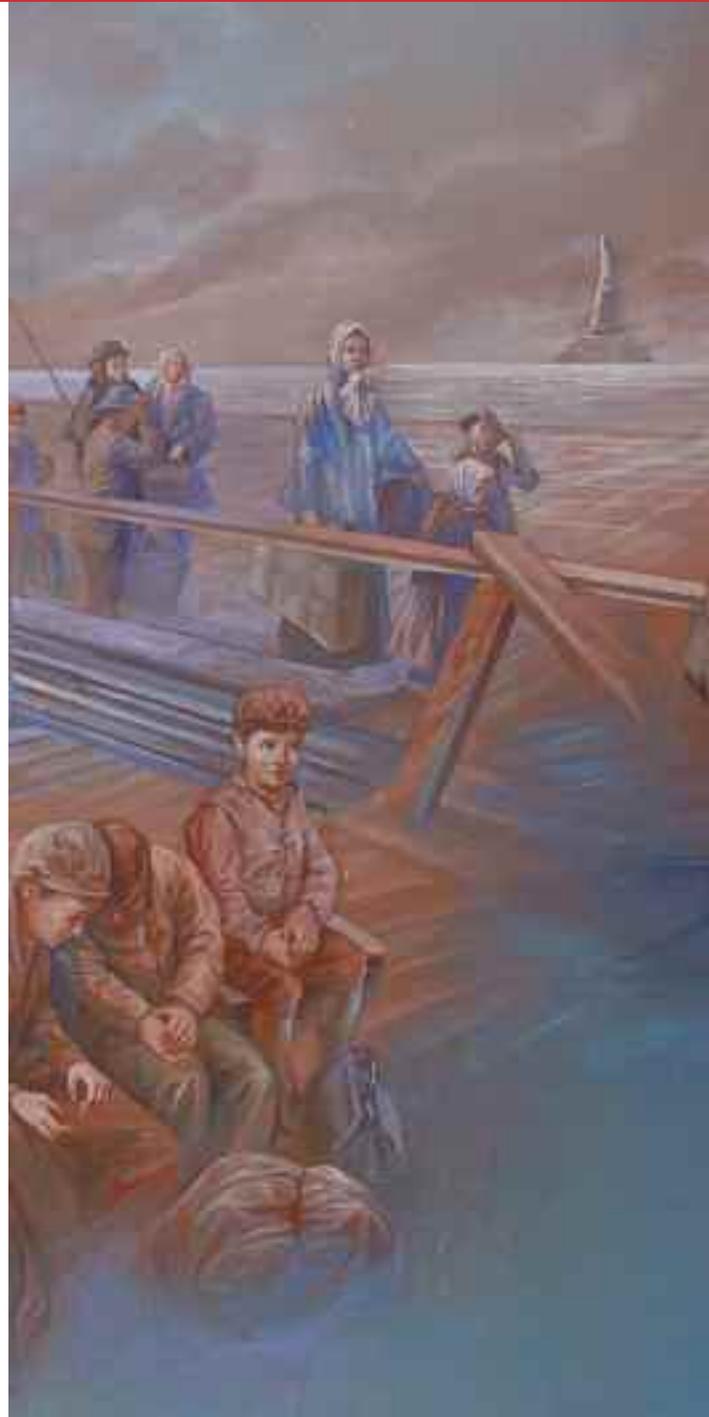
Our Founder's Vision and Mission is an Example for the Church

May 27 was a historic day for the Knights of Columbus. The Vatican announced that Pope Francis approved a decree recognizing a miracle attributed to Father McGivney's intercession. The confirmation of this miracle clears the way for Father McGivney to be beatified, at which time we will begin calling our founder "Blessed Michael McGivney." This announcement builds on 23 years of hard work by the Knights of Columbus, the Father McGivney Guild, the Archdiocese of Hartford and many others involved in Father McGivney's cause for canonization.

The miracle involved an unborn child who, in 2015, was healed in utero of fatal multi-organ failure after prayers by his family to Father McGivney. He is the 13th child of Michelle and Daniel Schachle, a K of C general agent in Tennessee who named his son after the Order's founder in thanksgiving. Today, little Michael McGivney Schachle is 5 years old, healthy and playful with his many siblings, and living very well with Trisomy 21. The Scachles have learned that a child with Down syndrome is a gift who inspires greater compassion and love within a family.

The Vatican's announcement of the miracle came at a providential time during the height of the coronavirus pandemic. Father McGivney died of pneumonia on Aug. 14, 1890 — two days after his 38th birthday — after falling ill amid the 1889-1890 pandemic, known as the "Russian flu" or "Asiatic flu." Recent scientific evidence indicates that pandemic may also have been caused by a coronavirus. As Supreme Knight Carl Anderson has noted, "Catholics may soon have a new pandemic patron."

The supreme knight paid tribute to our founder's unique vision and impact: "Father McGivney has inspired generations of Catholic men to roll up their sleeves and put their faith into action. He was decades ahead of his time in giving the laity an important role within the Church."



Founding Vision: Father Michael J. McGivney and the Knights of Columbus (Painting by Antonella Cappuccio)



Milestones of Father McGivney's Cause



I. Cause Opens

Dec. 18, 1997 – Father McGivney's Cause for Sainthood is officially opened in Hartford by Archbishop Daniel A. Cronin. Father McGivney is given the title "Servant of God."

2. Diocesan Review Completed

March 6, 2000 – Diocesan investigation into Father McGivney's life, holiness and virtues is closed.

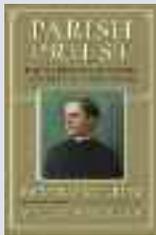


3. Positio Submitted to Rome

Summer 2002 – A 1,000-page document (*Positio*) laying out the case for Father McGivney's cause is presented to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints at the Vatican.

4. John Paul II Commends K of C and Founder

Oct. 2003 – In a message to the Knights of Columbus, St. John Paul II praises the Order and its founder: "In fidelity to the vision of Father McGivney, may you continue to seek new ways of being a leaven of the Gospel in the world and a spiritual force for the renewal of the Church in holiness, unity and truth."



5. Biography Published

July 2006 – *Parish Priest: Father McGivney and American Catholicism*, a biography by historians Douglas Brinkley and Julie Fenster, is published by William Morrow/Harper Collins.



6. Declared Venerable

March 15, 2008 – Confirming Father McGivney's heroic virtue, Pope Benedict XVI declares him a "Venerable Servant of God." The decree states, in part, "Concerning the theological virtues of Faith, Hope, and Love both toward God and neighbor ... they existed to a heroic degree in the Servant of God Michael McGivney, Diocesan Priest and Founder of the Fraternal Order the Knights of Columbus."

9. Pope Francis Praises Father McGivney's Vision

Feb. 2020 – Pope Francis tells the K of C Board of Directors that the Order has been faithful "to the vision of your founder, Venerable Michael McGivney, who was inspired by the principles of Christian charity and fraternity to assist those most in need." Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori presents Pope Francis with a copy of *Parish Priest* in Italian.



8. Miracle Investigated

Sept. 2017 – Results of an investigation into a possible miracle attributed to the intercession of Father McGivney is sent to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.



(AP Photo/Vincenzo Pinto, Pool)

7. Pope Benedict XVI Cites 'Exemplary American Priest'

April 2008 – During his visit to St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, Pope Benedict XVI cites the "remarkable accomplishment of that exemplary American priest, the Venerable Michael McGivney, whose vision and zeal led to the establishment of the Knights of Columbus."

II. Beatification

Oct. 31, 2020 – Father McGivney's beatification will be held at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Hartford, Conn.



10. Miracle Approved for Beatification

May 27, 2020 – After extensive medical and theological reviews, the Holy See announces that Pope Francis has authorized a decree regarding the miracle attributed to the intercession of Father McGivney, opening the way for his beatification.



Our Beloved Founder

Across the world, Knights continue to draw inspiration from Father McGivney's life and legacy.

Born of Irish immigrant parents in 1852 in Waterbury, Conn., Father McGivney was a central figure in the dramatic growth of the Church in the United States in the late 19th century. Ordained in Baltimore in 1877, he ministered to a heavily Irish American and immigrant community in Connecticut.

Father McGivney is best known for founding the Knights of Columbus. With a group of New Haven's leading Catholic men, he established the Order in 1882 at St. Mary's Church. The fledgling group soon became a major force in the areas of evangelization, charity, racial equality and integration, and the defense of religious freedom.

Today, more than 2 million Knights work tirelessly to advance Father McGivney's vision. The Order looks forward with great joy to his beatification on Oct. 31 in Hartford's Cathedral of Saint Joseph.

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PRICE TWO CENTS

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DAY.

The Spirit of Our Founder: A Friend's Testimony

Although few of Father McGivney's own words remain, writings about him by contemporaries provide inspiration even today. Just this past year, the Knights of Columbus rediscovered a speech given by Father J.H. O'Donnell to Knights on pilgrimage to Father McGivney's grave on June 10, 1900, a decade after our founder's death. His powerful testimony, published at the time in the *Waterbury Evening Democrat*, shows the esteem in which Father McGivney was held by those who knew him.

"Well shall it be with the Knights of Columbus as an order, if its individual members possess the spirit that dominated its founder. ... Genial, approachable, of kindly disposition, cheerful under reverses, profoundly sympathetic with those upon whom had fallen the heavy hand of affliction. A man of strict probity and sterling integrity in his business transactions. ... He was charitable to a fault, if I may so speak. The poor found in him a good Samaritan and were the frequent recipients of his bounty. ... There are few clergymen in my recollection who enjoyed in a greater degree than he the respect of his colleagues and the reverence of the people. His life was an open book, whose pages all might read, and the influences that radiated from his active, energetic and zealous personality, brought many a poor wanderer to the house of God, back to the faith of his childhood, and to the sacred tribunal of penance where with faith, contrition and humility, he became reconciled to his Heavenly Father. ... Father McGivney was nothing, if not active. His energy was restless, ever seeking new outlets. And to this disposition are we indebted for the existence of the Knights of Columbus."

Promoting Pilgrimage

The Knights of Columbus is preparing the way for pilgrims traveling to pay homage to Father McGivney.

As part of the centennial anniversary of the Knights of Columbus in 1982, Father McGivney's body was moved from Waterbury, Conn., and reinterred in St. Mary's Church in New Haven to better promote devotion to him. After Father McGivney's beatification, the Order hopes that Father McGivney's body will be moved from the back of the church to a place of honor at the front.

The supreme knight has also announced that the Knights of Columbus "will begin the transformation of the Knights of Columbus Museum into the new Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center. While the Museum's mission of recounting our history will continue, it will also broaden its appeal by focusing more on the spirituality and charitable vision of our founder. Along with St. Mary's — the birthplace of the Order — the new McGivney Pilgrimage Center will enhance the formative experience of a pilgrimage to the tomb of Father McGivney."

The Father McGivney Guild

Every Knight can play a role in advancing Father McGivney's cause for canonization by joining the Father Michael J. McGivney Guild. With nearly 175,000 members, the guild spreads the word about Father McGivney's life and vision. It is the central hub for information about his life, works and spirituality.

Signing up is free. Members receive a quarterly newsletter and their intentions are remembered in a weekly Mass. Learn more about the guild at fathermcgivney.org.



Restoration of St. Mary's

The Knights of Columbus is helping to restore the church where Father McGivney founded the Order.

The need for a repair became clear in February 2019. During a Sunday Mass, a basketball-size chunk of plaster came crashing down from a pillar near the front of the church. It was discovered that the plaster lining the interior walls and ceiling — original material dating from 1874 — was completely deteriorated.

The Supreme Council quickly provided the funds needed for the extensive repair and restoration to begin. “We are committed to supporting the preservation of our Order’s historic home,” Supreme Knight Carl Anderson said. “By amplifying the fundraising efforts of the parish, Knights of Columbus everywhere will help ensure that this venerable church will remain a vibrant center of faith and worship for generations to come.”

This is not the first time the Order has stepped up to support St. Mary’s. In 1958, after a devastating fire destroyed the altar, donations from individual Knights and councils poured in to help. An altar was dedicated to Father McGivney, and the entire sanctuary was repainted and adorned with carved wood paneling.

A second, larger project was initiated by the Supreme Council in anticipation of the 1982 centennial of the Knights of Columbus. That year, Father McGivney’s remains were transferred from Old St. Joseph’s Cemetery in Waterbury, Conn., where he was buried in 1890, to a granite sarcophagus in St. Mary’s Church — giving Knights an additional reason to make pilgrimages to the Order’s birthplace.

(Photo by Mark Nofsinger)



Supreme Knight Anderson and Dominican Father John Paul Walker review plans for St. Mary's Church during its restoration. *(Photo by George Hosek)*

St. Mary's Church under restoration. *(Photo by Tamino Petelinšek)*

The centennial renovations also included the installation of a new pipe organ, a rosewood floor and a 400-pound bronze Carolingian crucifix over the altar. Each state council was invited to fund the reconditioning of one pew and the flooring beneath it. The Order also raised money to purchase an elevator, making the church more accessible.

The current project builds on these historic efforts. The first Masses in the newly renovated church will be our convention's Opening Mass and Memorial Mass, and the church will reopen in the coming weeks to parishioners and pilgrims alike.





Supreme Knight Anderson delivers the eulogy for his predecessor at the Church of the Nativity in Leawood, Kan., on Feb. 22. (Photo by Stephen Feiler)

In Memoriam, Virgil C. Dechant

Past Supreme Knight Virgil C. Dechant passed away in his sleep at age 89 on Feb. 16. He was the Order's longest-serving supreme knight, holding the office from 1977 to 2000.

Dechant left the Knights of Columbus much stronger and more vibrant than he found it. He oversaw tremendous growth in the Knights' membership, which rose from 1.23 million to 1.62 million under his leadership. He also guided a dramatic expansion of the Order's insurance business and assets, with insurance in force standing at \$3 billion in 1975 and growing to about \$40 billion by his retirement in 2000.

Under Dechant's leadership, the Knights of Columbus became synonymous with the pro-life movement — a cause that was near and dear to his heart. He placed a special importance on promoting vocations, which has immeasurably strengthened the Catholic Church across the world and continues to this day.

He also welcomed greater involvement in the Order from the wives and families of Knights. In addition, he forged a close relationship with the Vatican during the pontificate of St. John Paul II, leading the Order to sponsor numerous renovation projects — including that of the facade of St. Peter's Basilica — and working with the pope to promote the faith in Eastern Europe, which was then behind the Iron Curtain.

Virgil Dechant was especially determined to honor the Order's founder. His leadership was essential to the opening of Father McGivney's cause for canonization.

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, who succeeded Dechant, honored his predecessor in a eulogy: "The best tribute to Virgil Dechant can be found in the 25th chapter of St. Matthew's Gospel: 'Well done good and faithful servant.' That is how I will always remember Virgil."

20 Years of Vision and Progress

Carl A. Anderson was elected supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus in October 2000. In February 2001 in Mexico City, standing at the foot of the miraculous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe imprinted on St. Juan Diego's tilma, he dedicated his tenure and the Order itself to the Patroness of the Americas and the Philippines. Under his leadership, and under the protection of the Virgin Mary, the Knights of Columbus has made tremendous strides in charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism.

Supreme Knight Anderson has overseen some of the most impressive growth in the Order's 138-year history. In his 20 years at the helm:

- **Membership has grown from 1.6 million members to 2 million.**
- **Insurance in force has grown from \$40.4 billion to \$113.5 billion.**
- **Annual charitable donations have grown from \$116 million to \$187.7 million and volunteer hours from 56.7 million to 77.1 million.**
- **The Order has expanded into Europe and mainland Asia.**

The Order has also launched many historic initiatives at Supreme Knight Anderson's direction. For example, Building the Domestic Church has fostered stronger families. Faith in Action has refocused how Knights serve their parishes and communities.

Under his leadership, the Knights of Columbus has been the global leader in helping devastated Christian communities in the Middle East recover and rebuild. He also directed historic outreach to members of the military and placed an even greater emphasis on pro-life work, including launching the Ultrasound Initiative — the greatest humanitarian project in the Order's history.

In short, the supreme knight has enabled two decades of action and accomplishment. And he has set the stage for even greater achievements in the years ahead.





2001

In his first full year, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson oversaw the setting of new records in charitable giving and volunteering by members of the Order.

The year saw the opening of a new Knights of Columbus Museum in New Haven.

The supreme knight announced a “special emphasis” upon the Order’s growth in Mexico. The Knights had been present there since 1905 but suffered during the persecution of the Church there in the 1920s.

The day after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, the supreme knight convened a special meeting of the Executive and Finance Committee and proposed the immediate establishment of the \$1 million Knights of Columbus Heroes Fund.

In his inaugural annual report, he reflected on St. John Paul II’s call earlier that year to “to remember the past with gratitude, to live the present with enthusiasm and to look forward to the future with confidence.” The supreme knight declared: “My brothers, Pope John Paul is speaking to us, the Knights of Columbus! He is challenging us to new initiatives and new boldness.” It was already clear that under Supreme Knight Anderson’s leadership, the Order was preparing to do just that.

2002

In February, with the memory of the Sept. 11 attacks still fresh, the supreme knight launched a program in which local councils were encouraged to sponsor “Blue Masses” to honor law enforcement personnel.

At the supreme knight’s urging, the Order played a central role in the organization and execution of World Youth Day, which brought Pope John Paul II to Toronto. In addition, a Eucharistic Congress was convened at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

The Order commemorated the 150th anniversary of Father Michael McGivney’s birth by launching a new yearlong initiative to promote the holy priest’s life and support his cause for canonization.

The Knights launched a new nationwide advertising campaign to heighten the Order’s positive and compelling identity and inspire membership growth. The campaign’s theme was reflected in its first television commercial: “In service to One, in service to all.”

The Supreme Council initiated a pilot program to recruit Hispanic men, focusing on 10 jurisdictions. The effort enabled stronger membership growth in one of the fastest-growing U.S. demographics.



Pope John Paul II blesses an image of Divine Mercy that would be used by Knights during an Orderwide prayer program celebrating the 25th year of his pontificate. The intention was for the pope and all priests.

2003

The Order unveiled a comprehensive branding campaign. It included the launch of a new website, the creation of a new tagline for insurance — “Making a Difference for Life” — and a redesign of *Columbia* magazine. New promotional and information materials were also produced for the Fourth Degree, Columbian Squires and College Councils.

The Knights filed a brief before the U.S. Supreme Court in the case to decide whether the words “under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance were constitutional. The Order’s position ultimately prevailed.

The Fourth Degree launched a new program, “Serving Those Who Served.” Through this effort, every assembly was asked to provide support to veterans at area Veterans Affairs medical facilities.

On the 35th anniversary of the Knights’ support for the Special Olympics, the Order provided a \$1 million grant to enable teams from the United States, Canada and Mexico to attend the 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Ireland.

Working with the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, the Knights published and shipped 100,000 copies of *Armed With the Faith*, a special handbook of Catholic prayers and catechesis, sized to fit in the breast pocket of a military uniform.

On the 30th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, the Order launched a new and extensive training program for Knights of Columbus pro-life activities. The Knights also launched a legislative alerts initiative to keep members apprised of critical life-related legislation in their jurisdictions.

2004

The Knights organized global celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception.

The year saw the launch of a new website dedicated to Father McGivney, the Father Michael J. McGivney Guild, and his cause for canonization.

The Order designated Sept. 11 as the Knights of Columbus World Day of Prayer and Peace, and invited people of all faiths to join in prayer.

The Order was also well represented at the dedication of the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

A new Knights of Columbus charitable endowment — United in Charity — was launched, enabling Knights and councils to make tax-deductible donations to help the Order achieve charitable goals at all levels.

The Order funded the historic “Concert of Faiths, the Papal Concert for Reconciliation” for Jews, Christians and Muslims. The Vatican concert, performed by the Pittsburgh Symphony under the direction of Maestro Gilbert Levine, was attended by Pope John Paul II; Elio Toaff, the former chief rabbi of Rome; and Abdulawahah Hussein Goma, imam of the Rome mosque.

The supreme knight announced an initiative to strengthen the Order’s solidarity with priests. The Sacred Heart Program for the Sanctification of Priests supported and encouraged all priests in their call to holiness of life and their generous service to God’s people. The centerpiece of the program was the Sacred Heart Holy Hour, designed for use by laity and priests together.

Supreme Knight Anderson attended the ceremony at which President George W. Bush signed the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act. The legislation had passed with the Order’s strong support.

The Order began a dramatic transformation of its information technology infrastructure, converting paper insurance files into digital files and launching a five-year initiative called Officers Online.

In cooperation with the Sisters of Life, the Knights announced the creation of Villa Maria Guadalupe, a first-of-its-kind international retreat center dedicated to providing spiritual sustenance for the pro-life apostolate.



Supreme Chaplain Bishop Lori incenses the altar of the renovated Holy Family Chapel featuring new mosaics depicting events from Christ’s life.



Supreme Knight Anderson joins state deputies from Mexico in a procession to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. During the procession, the supreme knight carried the relics of the Mexican Knights who were martyred for their Catholic faith during the Cristero War.

2005

The Knights of Columbus reached 1.7 million members and 12,000 councils.

The Order celebrated the centennial of its expansion into Mexico and the Philippines. The Order also formally expanded into Europe with the creation of new councils in Poland. The supreme knight praised Poland and said it was a fitting choice: “It is a country where the Catholic faith is strong, and it stands out in a Europe where religious practice has been in decline.”

Knights everywhere mourned the passing of Pope John Paul II. The supreme knight said of the Holy Father: “Few popes in the 2,000-year history of the Catholic Church have had so momentous an impact on the Church and the world at large as this courageous and holy man.”

Supreme Knight Anderson was a member of the presidential delegation to the inaugural Mass of Pope Benedict XVI on April 24, 2005.

In response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the Knights mobilized one of the biggest relief efforts in the Order’s history. Thousands of Knights helped organize soup kitchens and temporary shelters. All told, the Knights raised \$10 million for hurricane relief.

2006

Knights of Columbus Insurance surpassed \$60 billion of insurance in force.

The Supreme Council launched a new program to bring the benefits of membership to more men in the U.S. military. Working with the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, the program resulted in new councils and roundtables on military bases and kept track of members when they were deployed.



The Order institutes its first council in Poland in January 2006.

The Order provided \$1.1 million in funding for construction of the military archdiocese's new headquarters in Washington, D.C., in addition to \$3.4 million in financing through the Order's *ChurchLoan* program.

The Order facilitated the publication of the first biography of Father Michael McGivney — *Parish Priest: Father Michael McGivney and American Catholicism*. Co-authored by noted historian Douglas Brinkley and Julie M. Fenster, it became a *New York Times* best seller. Another book, *By Their Works*, was published to tell the story of 65 Knights, including six Mexican priests martyred during the Cristero War. These martyrs became the first Knights to be canonized.

The Knights of Columbus United States Flag Manual was published. It was designed to be the definitive guide for Fourth Degree color corps in the United States and the source of flag protocol for U.S. councils.

2007

The Order celebrated its 125th anniversary with the slogan: "125 years of Faith in Action."

Membership in the Fourth Degree surpassed 300,000 — a historic first.

The Knights of Columbus Incarnation Dome was dedicated at the National Shrine in November. The Order raised \$1 million to fund construction, with half coming from the Fourth Degree.

The Order produced and aired two hour-long television programs for the History Channel and Biography Channel. The first was a documentary on the history of the Knights of Columbus. The second was a history of the Order's founder, Father McGivney.

The Knights provided \$1 million to the Archdiocese of Guadalajara to help build a new shrine to the Holy Martyrs of Mexico.

2008

Pope Benedict XVI declared that Father Michael McGivney had led a life of heroic virtue, declaring him "Venerable." The supreme knight hailed this development, saying that "2008 will undoubtedly be regarded as one of the most momentous years in our history."

Several weeks later, the Knights helped prepare the way for the pope's historic visit to the United States with a special television program, a website created for the occasion, a special issue of *Columbia*, and public opinion polls conducted before and after the visit. In his homily at New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral, the Holy Father hailed "that exemplary American priest, the Venerable Michael McGivney, whose vision and zeal led to the establishment of the Knights of Columbus."

The supreme knight launched a new initiative called Fathers for Good, urging men to be faithful to their calling as husbands and fathers.

The Supreme Knight's first book, *A Civilization of Love: What Every Catholic Can Do to Transform the World*, was published by HarperOne and became a *New York Times* bestseller.

With the onset of a global economic crisis, the Knights of Columbus dramatically increased charitable work. Members of the Order raised nearly \$145 million and volunteered for more than 68 million hours — both records.

2009

Despite a severe recession, Knights set new all-time records for charity. While charitable giving by the public in the United States fell by 2%, the Order's charitable contributions rose by 3.5%, surpassing \$150 million for the first time.

The supreme knight launched the Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids program, distributing the first 1,200 coats in Washington, D.C., on Martin Luther King Day Jr., Jan. 19. Thousands more were distributed in the weeks that followed, by Knights in Chicago, Detroit, Minneapolis and Duluth.



Supreme Knight Anderson addresses the 22,000 faithful gathered for the Order's Guadalupe Festival in Phoenix, Aug. 8, 2009.

The Knights launched the Food for Families program, collecting food and providing financial support for food banks throughout the United States and Canada. Nearly 2,000 local councils participated in the first year. The Order also launched its partnership with the Global Wheelchair Mission, providing wheelchairs to people in need.

Special Olympics celebrated its 40th anniversary. The Knights helped celebrate by donating \$1 million to support its activities in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family — a graduate school of theology established in 1988 with major support from the Knights of Columbus — celebrated its 20th anniversary by moving into McGivney Hall, newly renovated and renamed for the Order’s founder, on the campus of The Catholic University of America.

The supreme knight launched the Ultrasound Initiative, through which the Culture of Life Fund matches state and local council contributions to purchase ultrasound machines for qualifying pregnancy resource centers. The first ultrasound machines were donated to the Choices Medical Clinic in Iowa City, and the Women’s Help Center in Jacksonville, Fla., on the 36th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*.

2010

When a devastating earthquake struck Haiti, the Knights provided an initial \$50,000 donation to Catholic Relief Services within hours. The Order then responded with additional donations of more than \$600,000. The Knights of Columbus Board of Directors also committed



Supreme Knight Anderson visits with victims of the earthquake in Haiti during a distribution of wheelchairs in Port-au-Prince.

\$1 million to provide every child in Haiti who lost a leg with a prosthetic device.

The Capitoline Museum of the City of Rome opened an exhibit on the 90-year history of the Knights’ charitable work in the Eternal City and beyond. It told the story of how the Knights of Columbus first made its mark in Europe during World War I, when K of C huts provided a respite from battle for allied soldiers in France.

The Knights adopted a new theme for the life insurance program: “Your Shield for Life.” The shield represented the protection K of C Insurance provides to Knights and their loved ones, and the strength of the program that stands behind it. The supreme knight announced that insurance sales set a record in the previous year, rising 13.3% while the broader industry shrank by nearly 5%.

The Order bestowed its highest honor — the Gaudium et Spes Award — on Cardinal Jaime Ortega y Alamino, archbishop of Havana, Cuba, for his lifetime of service to the Catholic Church’s mission of charity and the defense of religious freedom.

2011

The supreme knight announced the launch of the Knights of Columbus Disaster Response Program. Designed to enable the Order to respond to crises more quickly and effectively, the program’s first leader was brother Knight and 9/11 hero New York City Fire Department Capt. Alfredo Fuentes.

The Order began a partnership with the Apostles of Jesus to assist AIDS orphans in Africa.

Knights in Puerto Rico celebrated their 100th anniversary. At the time, the island was home to 77 councils and more than 3,700 members.

The supreme knight represented the Order at the beatification of John Paul II in Rome and joined many Knights from Canada at the canonization of Brother André Bessette.



John Paul II statue by Chas Fagan (Photo by John Whitman)

The Order opened the Blessed John Paul II Shrine in Washington, D.C. — a welcoming place for pilgrims from across the world to learn about the life and faith of the pope who shaped the hearts of billions and changed the course of history, and prayerfully invoke his intercession.

Volunteer hours by Knights and councils tops 70 million for the first time. Independent Sector, which estimates the value of volunteer time each year, found that members of the Order provided charitable service worth at least \$1.5 billion.

2012

In the Philippines, the supreme knight conducted a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new Father Michael McGivney Multimedia Studio. This state-of-the-art facility, a gift from the Supreme Council, has enabled the Church to use the most modern technology to educate and evangelize in the largest Catholic country in Asia.

In South Korea, the supreme knight presented the charter to the first overseas military Fourth Degree assembly. And the Order officially expanded into Ukraine with the establishment of two councils.

The Knights of Columbus began a nationwide Campaign for Civility in America, including an online petition drive to give the American people a voice in speaking up for a respectful public discourse.

2013

Knights everywhere celebrated the election of Pope Francis and thanked Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI for his lifetime of faithful service to the Catholic Church.

A Knights of Columbus roundtable was established in Lithuania, which became the third European country with Knights of Columbus councils. As the supreme knight said, this “gives us even deeper roots in Europe.”

The Knights of Columbus began sponsoring the Warriors to Lourdes Pilgrimage in partnership with the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA. The event allows wounded, ill and injured military personnel, together with their designated caregivers and volunteers, to travel to the Marian shrine. The supreme knight joined veterans, active-duty military, and Archbishop Timothy Broglio for the pilgrimage, forming the U.S. delegation to the 55th annual International Military Pilgrimage.

The Knights of Columbus Stand With Boston Program provided assistance to three individuals who lost limbs in the Boston Marathon bombings the previous year, after their insurance didn't cover their upgraded prosthetics or necessary additional devices. The Order's business portfolio continued to expand. K of C assets under management grew 7.6 percent and totaled more than \$20 billion. Insurance in force reached \$91.7 billion, nearly double what it was a decade before.

The Order began sponsoring EWTN's new show: *EWTN News Nightly*.

The Knights' Catholic Information Service began a new series of booklets covering various themes of the New Evangelization.

2014

The supreme knight announced the establishment of the first non-military council in South Korea, the third international expansion in as many years. The total number of councils worldwide closed in on 15,000.

The supreme knight launched a new initiative — Building the Domestic Church: The Family Fully Alive — to help Knights and their families grow in the faith and service to their parishes. The initiative encourages family prayer, catechesis, charity and better communication.

The Order established the Knights of Columbus Christian Refugee Relief Fund at a time when Iraqi and Syrian Christians, as well as other religious minorities, faced violent persecution and the very real



Students — many left orphaned by AIDS — hold Father McGivney prayer cards outside their newly constructed school in Uganda, built through a partnership between the Knights of Columbus and the Apostles of Jesus. Father Paul O. Gaggawala, director of Mission Promotion for the Apostles of Jesus and a former state chaplain of Pennsylvania, stands alongside the children.



To assist the victims of Typhoon Haiyan, the Knights of Columbus launched an initiative called the Livelihood Project. The program employs carpenters who lost their businesses to build boats for fishermen whose boats were destroyed.

prospect of extinction in their ancient homes. Through the new fund, the Order donated \$2.2 million in less than a year.

After a devastating typhoon season in the Philippines, the Order launched the Livelihood Project to help fishermen and farmers who lost everything get back to work. The project employed carpenters who lost their businesses to build boats for fishermen who also lost their businesses.

The Knights of Columbus was recognized by the Ethisphere® Institute as a 2014 World's Most Ethical Company® — one of only two life insurance companies so recognized.

Following the canonization of Pope John Paul II, the Saint John Paul II National Shrine was officially renamed and hosted his relics. A permanent 16,000-square-foot exhibit on his life and teachings, titled "A Gift of Love: The Life of Saint John Paul II," opened at the Shrine.

2015

The Knights of Columbus expanded into France, giving the Order a stronger foothold in Europe.

Building on previous programs, the supreme knight announced Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening Our Parish. He said the new initiative "combines two great traditions of the Knights of Columbus: building up Catholic family life and strengthening parish life."

The Order created Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors to manage investments for Catholic institutions. The supreme knight said, "We launched this initiative because we believe that the Knights of Columbus investment model, committed to sustainability, transparency, prudence and Catholic values, offers a more compelling approach for Catholic institutions than money managers with a non-Catholic focus."

The Knights released a new documentary film titled *John Paul II in America: Uniting a Continent*. Narrated by actor Andy García, the film explores how John Paul II transformed the cause of human rights throughout the Western Hemisphere by his concern for the poor and his defense of democracy.

To honor Pope Francis, the first Jesuit pope, the Knights of Columbus made a \$600,000 donation to help save the historic Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs in Auriesville, N.Y., which honors the North American Jesuit martyrs and St. Kateri Tekakwitha.

The Knights played a leading role in the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia with Pope Francis. The K of C emblem was everywhere, including on backpacks given to each participant. The Order was a major financial sponsor of the closing papal Mass, for which it printed 350,000 copies of the Mass booklet and provided 350 volunteers.

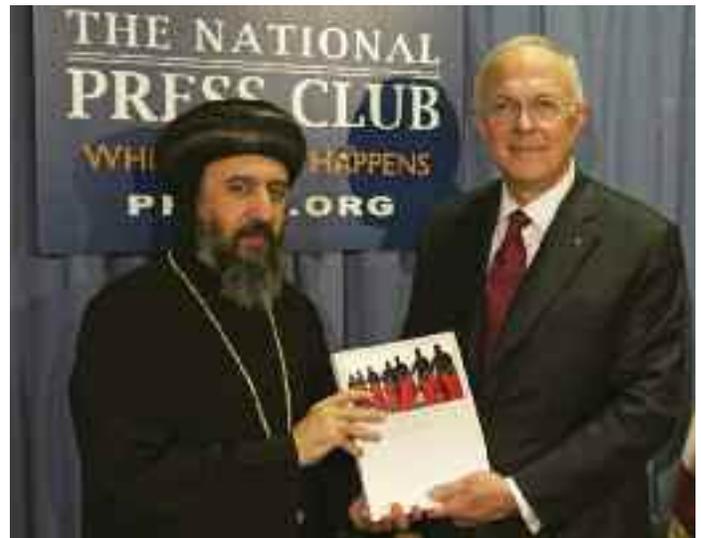
2016

The Knights of Columbus surpassed \$100 billion of life insurance in force. As the supreme knight said in his annual report, "One hundred billion dollars of life insurance in force means an unprecedented level of protection for our families."

The supreme knight led a wheelchair distribution outside the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. The occasion marked a major milestone in the Knights' charitable giving: 50,000 wheelchairs distributed through its partnership with the Global Wheelchair Mission.

As part of the Order's \$11 million in donations to persecuted Christians in the Middle East, Knights provided more than \$800,000 to help feed 13,500 families in Erbil, Iraq. This was in addition to supporting medical clinics and long-term infrastructure projects, including 120 apartment units being built to provide permanent housing.

The Order sent staff to the Middle East to collect firsthand evidence of the violence being done to Christian communities. This led to a nearly 300-page report that documented conclusively the genocide perpetrated by ISIS against Christians. The Knights of Columbus was credited by the speaker of the House of Representatives and senior



Coptic Orthodox Bishop Anba Angaelos of the United Kingdom and Supreme Knight Carl Anderson display the report detailing the genocide against Christians in the Middle East at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., March 10, 2016.

officials at the State Department with being a crucial element in Obama administration's subsequent declaration that Christians in Iraq faced genocide.

The supreme knight bestowed the Gaudium et Spes Award on the Little Sisters of the Poor, who fought back against the federal government's attempt to force them to offer contraception, sterilization and abortifacient coverage in their health plan.

2017

The Order introduced a men's spirituality program based upon *Into the Breach*, Phoenix Bishop Thomas Olmsted's apostolic exhortation to Catholic men. The printed booklet is soon used by councils around the world to help prepare members to wage and win the spiritual battle happening in society.

The Knights of Columbus Museum commemorated the 100th anniversary of the United States' entry into the war with its exhibit "World War I: Beyond the Front Lines."

The new Fourth Degree uniform debuts during the 135th Supreme Convention in St. Louis.



(Photo by Matt Barrick)

The Order participated in the Holy Year of Mercy declared by Pope Francis and produced a documentary film, *The Face of Mercy*. Narrated by Jim Caviezel, the film uses powerful testimonials to highlight the impact of God's mercy on people's lives. It aired on more than 130 ABC affiliates throughout the United States.

The Knights released *Liberating a Continent: John Paul II and the Fall of Communism*, which recounts how St. John Paul II's spiritual leadership ensured a peaceful revolution of conscience that brought freedom and democracy to Eastern Europe. The film received two regional Emmy awards.

The 1,000th ultrasound machine donation in Manassas, Va., January 2019. (Photo by Victoria Verderame)

2018

The supreme knight introduced the "Faith in Action" program model. Designed to replace the "Surge With Service" model, it features a simplified structure with four categories: Faith, Family, Community and Life.

The Knights' eMembership initiative, launched the previous year in pilot markets, became available across the United States and Canada. The program allows eligible Catholic men to join the Order quickly and easily.

The Knights debuted a video series highlighting the work of our Everyday Heroes, with each episode telling the inspiring story of a Knight living out the Order's mission of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism.

The Order celebrated the 50th anniversary of Special Olympics. The supreme knight declared, "We are proud of our long partnership with this extraordinary organization, which empowers people with intellectual disabilities and welcomes them into a community of inclusion and friendship."

The Knights partnered with the Archdiocese of Paris to commemorate the centennial of the First World War with a stunning light show projected on the facade of Notre Dame Cathedral, titled "Queen of Hearts."

The Knights celebrated the completion of the mosaic on the interior of the Great Dome at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. One of the largest mosaic installations in the world, it was completed with a \$1 million contribution from the Knights and financing from the *ChurchLoan* program.

The Knights played a pivotal role in the unanimous passage of the Iraq and Syria Genocide Relief and Accountability Act of 2018. Passed unanimously in Congress and signed into law by President Trump, it





Supreme Knight Carl Anderson joins more than 100 Knights gathered for a combined exemplification ceremony Feb. 13 at the Cathedral of Saint-Louis des Invalides in Paris. (Photo by François Régis Salfran)

provides humanitarian relief for victims of genocide in Iraq and Syria. The Order also entered into a historic Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to establish a greater level of support for Christian communities in Iraq.

2019

The Knights of Columbus marks 20 consecutive years of growth in the number of dollars donated and hours volunteered by members. An independent analysis puts the value of the Order's volunteer hours at \$1.9 billion, with a further \$185 million in charitable giving.

The Order's Ultrasound Initiative, launched 10 years earlier, surpassed its goal of placing 1,000 ultrasound machines in pregnancy resource centers. The 1,000th machine was donated by Father Herman J. Vegar Council 5561 in Warrenton, Va., to the Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic in Manassas.



To further help Iraq's Christians, the supreme knight launched a project known as Adopt-a-Parish. This initiative allows councils to directly support one or more of the parishes spread across Iraq. Work was also completed on McGivney House, a 140-unit apartment building for Chaldean and Syriac Christian families in Iraq. This came about thanks to more than \$1 million in donations from brother Knights.

The supreme knight expanded the Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Program with a new video for parents titled *Protecting Our Children: A Family's Response to Sexual Abuse*. The video suggests concrete steps parents can take to keep their children safe.

The Shrine of Ars, France, entrusted to the Knights of Columbus the major relic of the incorrupt heart of St. Jean Vianney for a pilgrimage across the United States. In total, the relic traveled more than 35,000 miles and was available for more than 1,200 hours of public veneration in 99 dioceses, allowing more than 250,000 pilgrims to spend time in prayer and venerate the relic.

The supreme knight launched a new initiative focused on supporting Native Americans and First Nations peoples. The Order worked with the Diocese of Gallup, N.M., and the Southwest Indian Foundation to break ground on a new St. Kateri Tekakwitha Shrine.

The Order launched the Knights of Columbus Charitable Fund, allowing donors to make potentially tax-deductible contributions that are safe, secure and confidential — and in line with Catholic values.

Supreme Knight Anderson and his wife, Dorian, participate in a candlelight procession during the 2019 International Military Pilgrimage. (Photo by Tamino Petelinšek)

Saint John Paul II National Shrine

Telling the story of a great pope and modern-day saint

The Knights of Columbus continues to welcome thousands of Catholic pilgrims to the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, D.C. In the past fraternal year, more than 80,000 people visited the shrine. Through liturgy, prayer, art, cultural events and religious celebrations, visitors encountered the life of one of history's greatest popes and saints.

In October, more than 429 people joined a walking pilgrimage from Silver Spring, Md., to the Shrine in celebration of St. John Paul II's feast day. A few months later in December, the Shrine held its annual Marian Festival of Lights and annual Our Lady of Guadalupe Vigil Mass.

The Shrine created the Totus Tuus Pilgrimage Program, which aligns with the Knights of Columbus' Faith in Action program model and is designed to encourage councils to make annual pilgrimages to the Shrine and to consecrate their families to Christ through Mary. This pilgrimage program is a half-day retreat filled with prayer, confession, Mass, spiritual talks, reflection and a family consecration.

During the 2020 March for Life, the Shrine welcomed a record 14,000 visitors. March for Life celebrations at the Shrine also featured rarely displayed relics of St. Faustina Kowalska that were made available through an ongoing collaboration with the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy.

Additionally, the Shrine has responded to the coronavirus shutdown by creating virtual programs. These include daily livestreams of Mass, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and other prayers offered at the Hour of Mercy. They have also been producing webinars on celebrating the Gospel of Life and various other topics.

(Photo by Tamino Petelinšek)







Supreme Knight Carl Anderson joins a group of Christian leaders at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial in Washington, D.C., for a news conference Oct. 2, 2017. Together, they endorsed Rev. King's message of nonviolence, famously outlined in his 1957 essay *Nonviolence and Racial Justice*. From left: the Rev. William Bass; the Rev. Eugene Rivers III, founder and director of the W.J. Seymour Institute for Black Church and Policy Studies in Boston; Bishop Edwin Bass, president of the Church of God in Christ Urban Initiatives; and Bishop George Murry of Youngstown, Ohio, then-chair of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism. (Photo by Thom Wolf)

Faithful Citizenship

The Order has always stood against hatred, bigotry and racism

The Knights of Columbus has a long history of supporting racial integration and opposing racism, which is why the Order has lent its voice to calls for justice and reconciliation over the past year.

Nowhere was this clearer than in the wake of international protests in May and June. “We ask all people to come together in solidarity to forge a path forward — free of discrimination and hate — for our nation,” said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. “The Knights join Pope Francis in urging all to express their anger and cries for justice in nonviolent ways to end the sin of racism.”

In early June, the supreme knight called on all Knights to join in praying a Novena for National Unity & an End to Racism: “May we pray for the strength to learn from the courageous example of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and from the leadership of our Holy Father, and to continue to work to build a society that recognizes the dignity and brotherhood of all.” He has also asked every Knights of Columbus council and parish community “to implore the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe to heal our countries.”

The supreme knight has directly addressed the current challenges and the role of the Knights of Columbus in responding:

I’m sure that like me you’ve watched what has been happening in our nation with a sickness in your heart. Many of our fellow citizens are still treated differently because of the color of their skin. Whenever and wherever this happens, it is wrong. And it must be righted. As the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, in his famous “I have a dream” speech: “Now is the

time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood.”

My brother Knights, still today, we see around us the quicksands of racial injustice. But where do we find the solid rock of brotherhood? Who can show this to us — and to our nations? Brotherhood can not be mandated by legislation or executive order or compelled by the platform of a political party. Brotherhood is a commitment of the heart. This is the time for the Knights of Columbus to step forward and to be more present in our communities. Our example of brotherhood can show our nation a better way. Where others tear down, let us build up with charity. Where others seek to divide, let us promote unity. And where racism festers, let us build fraternity. And let us begin today.

This witness is what our society desperately needs today. And there is no other organization as well suited as the Knights of Columbus to bring a new sense of brotherhood to our nations. And so, let us begin — in our councils, our parishes and our neighborhoods.

The answer for our countries is not a “cancel culture” that destroys. The answer is fraternal communities that work to build a new fraternal culture. Today, a true patriot will work for unity and fraternity, and he will do so with charity in his heart. This is the Knights of Columbus way. And there are few others who can do what we can.

Cancel Culture

In addition to supporting calls for racial justice, the supreme knight has also spoken out about vandalism and the calls to remove historic statues across America:

Our children should know that we honor the memory of Thomas Jefferson not because he owned slaves, but because what he wrote and what he did would one day make it possible to abolish slavery. The monument honoring the

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was placed across from Jefferson's to remind every American, as Dr. King said, "that when the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to ... every American." My brother Knights, it is time this promissory note be fulfilled. And as I have said, we have a role in that fulfillment.

Pope Francis and lawmakers pause in front of a statue of St. Junípero Serra in Statuary Hall at the U.S. Capitol in Washington Sept. 24, 2015. Pope Francis canonized Serra during a Mass the preceding day on the steps of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. *(CNS photo/Michael Reynolds, pool)*





Columbus

The past year saw renewed calls to tear down statues of Christopher Columbus, after whom the Order is named. Statues have also been vandalized and defaced nationwide. The Knights of Columbus strongly opposes the anti-Columbus campaign.

Reflecting on these trends, the supreme knight has said:

Several years ago, when calls were made to remove the statue in New York City's Columbus Circle, we supported the efforts of New York's governor, and many others, to protect this historic monument.

That statue was built not only for the 400th anniversary of Columbus' voyage of discovery — it was paid for by Italian Americans following the 1891 murder of 11 Italian Americans in the largest mass lynching in American history.

For Americans of Italian descent, who often experienced violence and bigotry, Columbus represented not only heroic achievement but their own contribution, pride and legacy as Americans.

Only a decade before the 1892 Columbus celebrations across the United States, the men who gathered in the basement of St. Mary's Church looked to Christopher Columbus — who was regarded as a hero by most Americans — as a way to signal that Catholics were integral to the history of America from its earliest days.

My brother Knights, now a radical, one-sided narrative asserts that Columbus — the same man who severely punished those under his authority when they mistreated indigenous peoples — represents all that is evil in the American experience.

This is a disservice to the truth. We must all strive to honestly examine and faithfully remember our history. We must all give credit to what was done well in the past, and be mindful of what should have been done differently.

We do not fear an honest review of the work and legacy of Columbus. Indeed, we welcome it. That is necessary, but it is not sufficient. We urge every city, state and province to undertake a public and careful review of its own treatment of the Native peoples, both past and present.

That review will find no trace of Columbus. He was not there when the Puritans in Connecticut destroyed the Pequot Nation. Nor was he there along the Trail of Tears walked by the Cherokee or at the massacres of Sand Creek or Wounded Knee, or in the hunting down of Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce. Columbus never called for the “extermination” of the Native people of California as did the governor of that state after gold was discovered there.

Scapegoating one man for what has happened throughout the United States is easy, but it masks the real history.

Native peoples have a right to have their story told with accuracy and integrity. They have a right to an honest recounting of their history. Only in this way can we find a path of reconciliation, healing and justice. The Knights of Columbus is prepared to walk that path with them.

Religious Freedom

When Father McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus in the 19th century, anti-Catholic sentiment was rampant in America. Attacks on the Catholic faith and religious freedom are once again on the rise.

The past year has seen many instances of vandalism against Catholic churches and religious statues, including St. Junípero Serra, St. Louis, and even the Blessed Virgin Mary. At the same time, there are increased efforts to drive faith from the public square and the workplace, as lawmakers pursue policies that would force religious believers to violate their consciences. The Knights of Columbus strongly opposes these attacks on religion and strongly supports the right of all people to practice their faith.

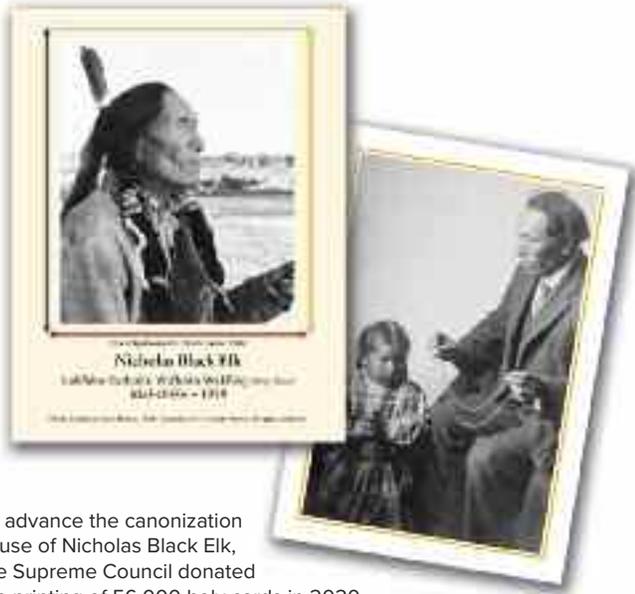
This year, the Order will begin a pilgrim icon program devoted to St. Michael the Archangel. This will build upon the ecumenical aspect of our recent program in honor of Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians. That icon shows Our Lady spreading her protective mantle not only over Roman Catholic martyrs, but also over Coptic and Orthodox Christians. As the supreme knight has said, “May St. Michael the Archangel, most powerful Prince of the heavenly host, defend us!”

This anti-Catholic cartoon shows the antipathy that Catholics often faced in 19th-century America. (Thomas Nast)



Native American Initiative

One year ago, the supreme knight launched a historic effort to strengthen the Order's outreach to Indigenous communities in the United States and Canada. As he said at the announcement of this initiative, "As many as one in four Native Americans are Catholic, and yet, in many ways, these brothers and sisters in the faith have been forgotten."



To advance the canonization cause of Nicholas Black Elk, the Supreme Council donated the printing of 56,000 holy cards in 2020.

The supreme knight traveled to Gallup, N.M., last August for the groundbreaking of the new St. Kateri Tekakwitha Shrine. The Knights helped support the project in partnership with the Diocese of Gallup and the Southwest Indian Foundation. Designed by architect Erik Bootsma, a member of Father William J. Nolte Council 11533 in Richmond, Va., the shrine complex will feature a 200-foot-tall crucifix, a chapel and a museum dedicated to St. Kateri, other Native American Catholics and saints who evangelized the Native peoples.

In September, the supreme knight led a group of Knights who visited the Rosebud and Pine Ridge Indian Reservations, where they handed out hundreds of coats at Catholic Mission schools in anticipation of the harsh South Dakota winter.

In October, South Dakota Knights returned to the Rosebud Reservation to donate 280 wheelchairs, and Knights in New Brunswick distributed 100 coats to students at Mah-Sos School, located on the Tobique First Nation Reserve.

In addition, the Supreme Council has strengthened its collaboration with the Black and Indian Mission Office in Washington, D.C., and has encouraged local councils to become more involved with Catholics living on reservations and tribal lands.



Insurance

By brother Knights, for brother Knights

Insurance is the original sign of our fraternal commitment to one another. It is the embodiment of brother Knights coming together in mutual support.

The roots of our insurance program stretch back to 1882 and the basement of St. Mary's Church. Then, we were a small mutual aid society, providing \$1,000 to the widows of our departed brothers. Today, we also offer much more, to many more people. We offer our members life insurance, annuities, disability income and long-term care policies.

While managing for such growth, the Order has accelerated efforts to make K of C Insurance better positioned to withstand today's challenges and those of the future. The Supreme Council has focused on a series of initiatives to "harden the core" of our operations, to achieve higher levels of professionalism, and to bring greater efficiency and productivity to our operations.



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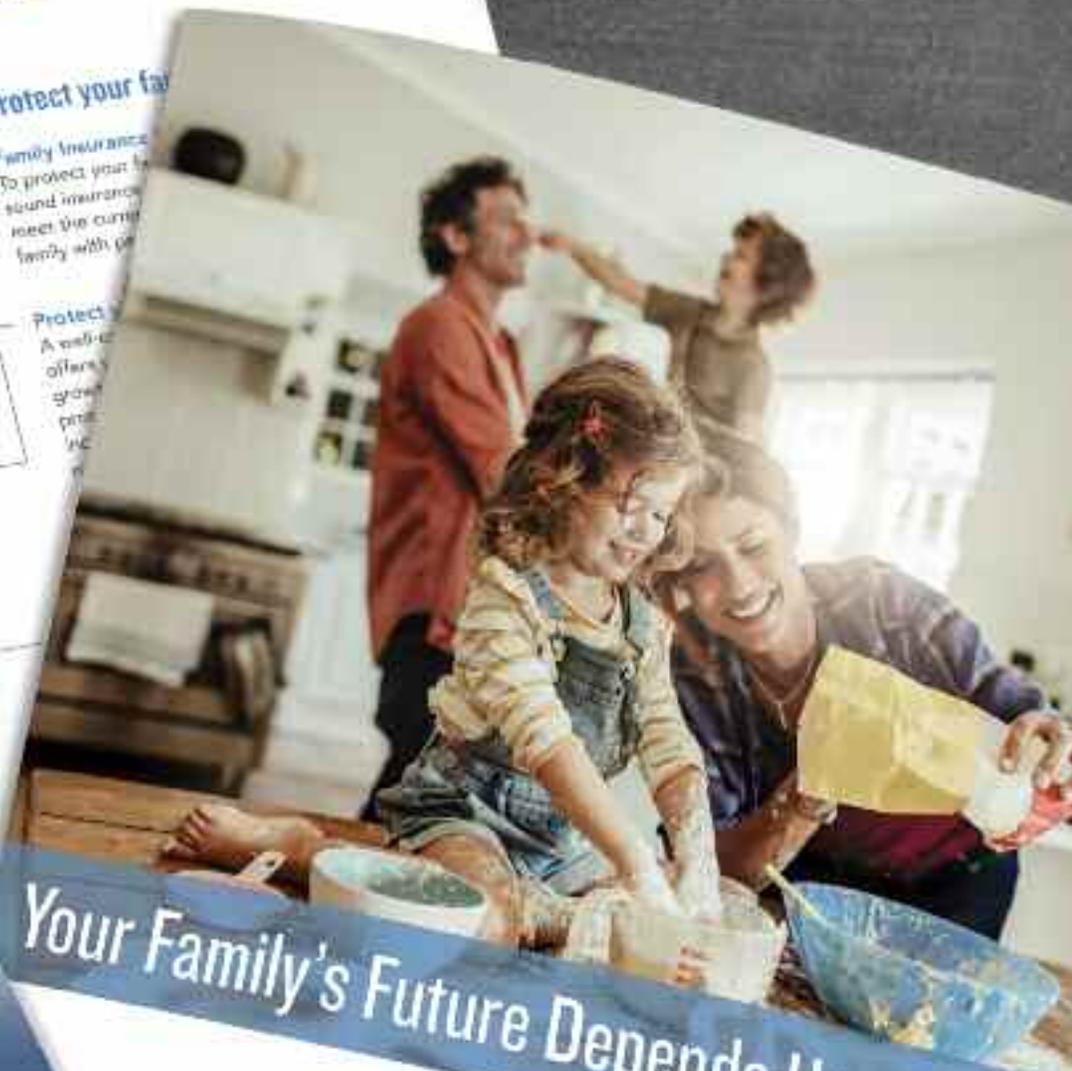
Proper insurance planning will provide a lifetime of financial security.

What plans have you made to protect your family?



Family Insurance
To protect your family, sound insurance must meet the current needs of your family with plans for the future.

Protect Your Future
A well-structured plan offers growth and protection for your family's future.



Your Family's Future Depends Upon You

KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE

Profiles⁺ Forecaster

KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE

The Order has undertaken a major restructuring and enhancement of the IT department, reorganized and strengthened the insurance field force of more than 1,100 general and field agents, and brought greater productivity to the business departments and customer service.

Performance during the current global pandemic is dramatic proof that these initiatives are succeeding. Once again, our business is ranked in the Fortune 1000. We earned a financial strength rating of A+ (Superior) from A.M. Best.

In April, as the coronavirus pandemic spread, Standard and Poor's released its review of North American life insurance companies, ranking them from strongest to weakest based on their financial strength. Out of hundreds of companies, only six received the highest rating. The Knights of Columbus was one of them.

The Knights of Columbus Difference

Our approach to insurance can be summed up in a simple phrase: "Insurance by brother Knights, for brother Knights."

This phrase defines all of our insurance products: life insurance, long-term care insurance, disability income insurance and retirement annuities. We have recently expanded our life insurance offerings to include Universal Life. All of our products are designed with one goal in mind — financial security for our families. In the past year, we provided that security to more families than ever before.

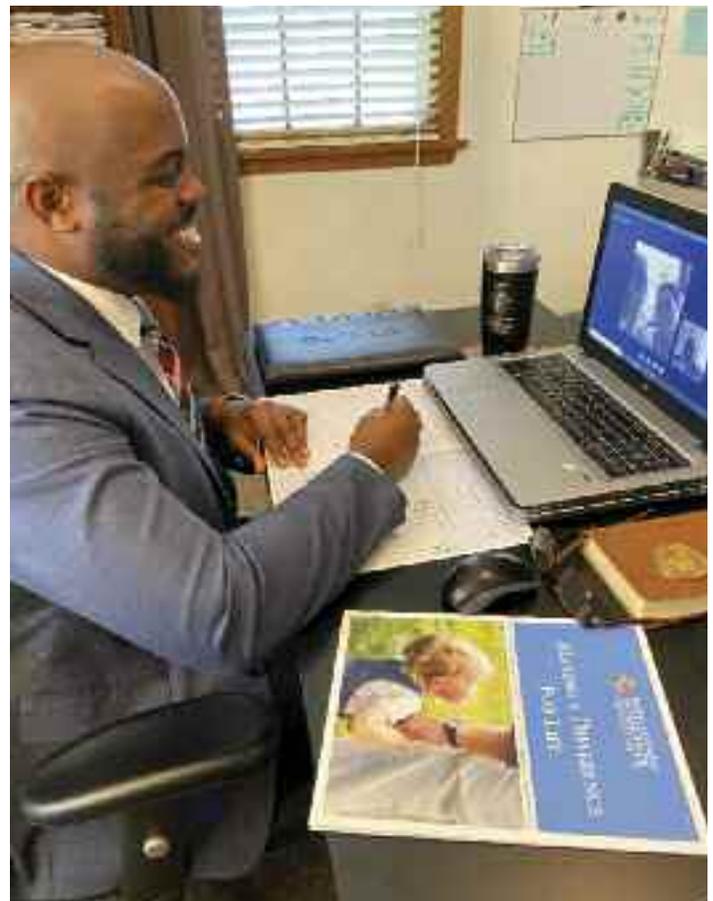
Here are some key amounts from insurance operations for the year ended December 31, 2019

- Insurance in force reached **\$113.5 billion.**
- New life insurance sales in 2019 were **\$8.4 billion.**
- Assets grew to **\$26.9 billion.**
- Surplus ratio was **11.7 percent.**
- Annualized premiums rose to **\$144.7 million.**
- Annuity deposits were **\$527.6 million.**
- Refunds to members (dividends) were **\$233.1 million.**

This level of financial strength does not magically appear overnight. It is the result of a determined effort over many years to do what is best for brother Knights and their families. They have been the focus at every stage — not corporate profit. The Knights' insurance program enables the Order to meet not only its financial obligations, but its charitable aspirations.

The insurance program's success depends on the hard work of our brother Knights who serve as agents. They are crucial partners in the Order's growth as a business and as a Brotherhood.

This year, the supreme knight extended a special thanks to the entire field force. In January, Knights of Columbus agents did not know they would be doing their jobs during a global pandemic. Yet once it arrived, they met it head-on. Not only have they adapted to a virtual business model, they have found new ways to meet the rising need for Knights of Columbus Insurance. Their model of fraternity is an inspiration to us all.



Field Agent Marcus Bell of the Pfeifer Agency in Norfolk, Neb., meets with clients via videoconference. (Photo by Halee Bell)

Agents in Action



Mark Stice

When Mark Stice returned home from a deployment to Iraq with the 20th Special Forces Group in 2011, he decided to do something different with his life. His father, John Stice, offered him a position as a Knights of Columbus field agent.

It was a perfect fit. His dad has been a successful general agent for 20 years. His great uncle, Paul Feist, was a successful general agent in Texas. His brother, Shon, finished as a high-performing field agent last year. His best friend, Logan Lutz, is also a field agent. As Stice said: "I grew up around and within the Order. The Knights of Columbus is in my blood, and I would not have it any other way."



Cleo Castillo

A doctor of veterinary medicine in the Philippines, Cleo Castillo immigrated to Canada. After buying life insurance from the Knights, he jumped at the chance to be a field agent in 2008. He wanted to help other Knights financially protect their families.

Castillo has since been a lead insurance salesman in both the Manitoba and Alberta agencies and is also a leader in insurance sales across the entire Order.

"I have a simple approach with my brother Knights — to make sure they too have covered their family responsibility with life insurance and our other quality products," he said. "Nothing gives me greater satisfaction than knowing another family is financially secure because of the work I do."



Kevin Pierce

Kevin Pierce, an agent with the Knights for 13 years in Oklahoma, says that you truly see the importance of K of C Insurance when someone passes away. One of two emotions follow: A sense of relief if their family is financially secure, or a feeling of dread if their loved ones are left in an awful situation.

Pierce says that Knights of Columbus Insurance is the key to protecting Catholic families in times of disaster. He calls it "the miracle of Knights of Columbus Insurance."

"There is no better situation on this earth than being able to combine your faith, career and family into one," Pierce said. "The K of C opportunity allows someone to follow through in the mission Father McGivney laid out for us." He added: "I can't imagine another career that is more fulfilling than this!"



Investments

Investing with Integrity

Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors

Now in its sixth year, Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors can be summed up by its slogan: “Invest with Integrity.”

K of C Asset Advisors gives Catholic investors the opportunity to grow their wealth while adhering to an investment strategy that fully aligns with the Church’s teaching. It builds on the Knights’ own investment approach, which adheres to the highest ethical and investing standards, as set out by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

Asset Advisors has proven extremely popular among Catholic institutions. It is currently in use by 24 dioceses, 15 religious orders, and more than 100 councils, among other organizations. All participants chose this program specifically because they want to invest in accordance with the Catholic faith.

A full suite of faith-based investment solutions is offered, including:

Mutual Funds. The Order’s family of mutual funds offers investors a convenient option that fully leverages the Knights’ Catholic investment approach.

Separate Accounts. The Order offers multiple fixed-income and equity strategies on a separate account basis. Custom, blended strategies are also available.

Model Portfolios. The Order has model portfolios with allocations to screened strategies for diversification. The portfolio team helps select the model portfolio that is most appropriate for each institution’s needs and will provide ongoing asset allocation services to help them stay on track with financial goals.

Target Date Portfolios. For eligible employees in employer-sponsored defined-contribution retirement plans (e.g. 401(k) and 403(b) plans), the Order offers a simple solution that automatically reallocates each year to an age appropriate portfolio as retirement approaches.



The Supreme Officers join in celebrating the five-year anniversary of Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors. (Photo by Mark Nofsinger)

Knights of Columbus Charitable Fund

Last year saw the launch of the Knights of Columbus Charitable Fund — a powerful new tool to help Catholics maximize their philanthropy and make a bigger impact in the world.

The Knights of Columbus Charitable Fund is a donor-advised fund program, which allows individuals and institutions to make potentially tax-deductible donations. These donations may grow over time and enable charitable grants that align with Catholic teaching. This program is perfect for families that are just starting out and want to give back as well as long-term philanthropists who want to strengthen their giving.

In its first year, the donor-advised fund program saw more than \$3 million in contributions and provided \$1.1 million in grants to some 470 charities nationwide.

Additionally, this program is available to Catholic institutions as a private label, so they can use the K of C model to strengthen their own giving. Currently, 10 lay Catholic apostolates, universities and dioceses participate in the program.

ChurchLoan Program

The *ChurchLoan* program enables Catholic dioceses, parishes, schools, hospitals, religious orders and other institutions to finance capital projects at competitive interest rates. At the close of 2019, our loan portfolio totaled \$109.7 million.

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, the Order announced a new program in March, based on the *ChurchLoan* program, to assist U.S. and Canadian dioceses with short-term financing in the face of severe financial struggles. The Supreme Council established a \$100 million fund, to provide up to a \$1 million secured line of credit per diocese.



(Photo by Tamino Petelinsšek)

Conclusion

This has been a difficult year. Yet the faith and courage of the Knights of Columbus has enabled us to rise to the challenges around us and bring the Order to new heights.

We now look with joyful anticipation to the beatification of Father Michael McGivney. The beatification of our founder will be a clarion call to Knights everywhere to become, in even greater ways, who we are and who he called us to be.

My measure of the men who go by the title “Knight” has been formed in the 20 years that I have served in this office. I regard these men as among the most selfless figures of the age. In the wake of terrorist attacks, natural disasters, economic crises, and even a pandemic, our brother Knights step up to serve others without a second thought.

But of all the selfless acts that I have seen, there is one that deserves special mention. It is the simple act of becoming a Knight of Columbus. By pledging to lead lives of charity, unity and fraternity, we declare to the world that we are committed to live for others.

Every man who makes that decision transforms himself. From that day forward, he puts his brothers before himself. And he sees a brother in all his neighbors. In word and deed, he becomes a man who lives for others.

Father McGivney’s vision has stood the test of time. As we prepare for his beatification, let us renew our commitment to broaden and deepen the work that he began.

And let us strive, every day, to become even more who we are, and who we are called to be: Knights of Columbus, rising always in charity, unity and fraternity.

Vivat Jesus!



(Photo by Tamino Petelínšek)

Insurance

- New life insurance issued: \$8.4B
- New life certificates: 58,960
- Certificates in force: 1,782,211
- Agents: 1,159
- Standard & Poor's rating: AA+
- A.M. Best rating: A+ (Superior)
- FORTUNE® 1000 list rank: 895
- Members who keep their policies: 96.2%
- Net income: \$148.3M
- Surplus: \$2.3B

Culture of Life

- Ultrasound machines: 1,255
- Value of machines: \$60M

Charity

- Total donations: \$187.6M
- Total volunteer hours: 77M
- Christian refugee relief: \$3.3M (\$25.8M since 2014)
- Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids: 124,211
- Food drives: \$1.8M
- Special Olympics: \$4.5M
- Habitat for Humanity: \$810,000
- Wheelchairs: 8,109 (99,979 since 2003)
- Blood donors: 540,381
- Scholarships: \$7.8M from councils

Investments

- Total assets: \$26.9B
- Amount invested daily: \$13.1M
- Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors clients: 341
- *ChurchLoan* portfolio: \$109.7M

Fourth Degree

- Sir Knights: 367,697
- Assemblies: 3,531
- Veterans Affairs service hours: 97,000
- Military Chaplains AMS Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program: \$200,000 (\$1.8M since 2012)

Church

- Vicarius Christi Fund: \$1.6M (in 2019)
- Vicarius Christi Fund cumulative total: \$62M
- RSVP: \$3.8M (in 2019)
- RSVP cumulative total: \$79.8M
- Seminarrians/postulants helped this year by RSVP: 6,333
- Total K of C units participating in RSVP: 2,930

Membership

- Total members: 2M
- Total councils: 16,242
- College Knights: 38,201
- College councils: 397
- eMembers: 21,284
- eMembers moved to councils: 9,945

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS 2019

CHURCH

VATICAN

Vatican Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life	\$	86,416
Vicarius Christi Fund (Pope Francis' personal charities)		1,600,000
Dicastery for Communications (Broadcasts of Papal events)		66,159
TOTAL	\$	1,752,575

NATIONAL CONFERENCES OF BISHOPS

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops – St. François de Laval Fund	\$	33,390
Polish Bishops Conference		28,500
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops		
Committee on Religious Liberty		250,000
Diocesan Development Program for Natural Family Planning		200,000
TOTAL	\$	511,890

DIOCESES ❖ PARISHES ❖ CLERGY

Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA	\$	25,000
Archdiocese of Colombo, Sri Lanka		100,785
Archdiocese of Hartford		500,000
Archdiocese of Lviv, Ukraine		75,000
Archdiocese of New York		10,000
Cathedral of Saint Paul, St. Paul, Minn.		5,000
Clergy Support		234,562
Diocese of El Paso		100,000
Diocese of Gallup		125,000
Diocese of Laredo		50,000
Diocese of Matamoros, Mexico		5,263
Diocese of Richmond		50,000
Gitchetwaa Kateri Parish, Minneapolis, Minn.		5,000
Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem – Pacem in Terris Fund		120,000
Sanctuaire d'Ars, France		200,000
St. Mary's Church, New Haven, Conn. – Stipend for daily Masses for deceased members, spouses and Columbian Squires		7,260
General support		2,560,873
Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church		150,000
Ukraine Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia		25,000
TOTAL	\$	4,348,743

OTHER RELIGIOUS

Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR), Washington, D.C.	\$	200,000
Father McGivney Office, Manila, Philippines		29,950
Institute for Priestly Formation, Fargo N.D.		75,000
Institute on Religious Life, Chicago, Ill.		25,000
Little Sisters of the Poor, Enfield, Conn.		10,000
Mission San Jose De Laguna, Laguna, N.M.		10,000
National Association of Hispanic Priests, Lubbock, Texas		10,000
Other religious-based organizations		110,398
Saint Luke Institute, Silver Springs, Md.		25,000
Sisters of Life, Suffern, N.Y.		22,245
St. Coleman's Society for Catholic Liturgy, Ireland		23,787
St. Dominic's Priory, Washington, D.C.		18,000
The Given Institute, Suffern, N.Y.		75,000
TOTAL	\$	\$634,380
TOTAL CHURCH GRANTS	\$	\$7,247,588

PROGRAMS

MARIAN DEVOTION

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C.	
General Support	\$ 84,500
Luke E. Hart Fund	65,000
Broadcasts of weekly Mass	75,000
Military Ordinariate of Canada – Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes	18,675
Santuario de Guadalupe, Santa Fe, N.M.	10,000
Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church – Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes	15,000
Warriors to Lourdes – International Military Pilgrimage	639,733
TOTAL	\$ 907,908

FAMILY LIFE

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops	
Catholic Organization for Life and Family (COLF)	\$ 228,120
Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle	6,653
Family Institute of Connecticut, Hartford, Conn.	151,000
Family Institute of Connecticut Action, Hartford, Conn.	25,000
John Paul II Shrine and Institute, Inc., Washington, D.C.	
Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family	2,470,000
Paradisus Dei, Inc., Houston, Texas	500,000
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops	
Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage	370,774
TOTAL	\$ 3,751,547

PRO-LIFE

Be Not Afraid, Huntersville, N.C.	\$ 50,000
Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, London, Ontario	45,558
Human Life Foundation, New York, N.Y.	25,000
Knights of Columbus councils – Reimbursements for Ultrasound Initiative	2,602,669
Life Athletes, South Bend, Ind.	50,000
Life Is Sacred, Gallup, N.M.	50,000
March for Life Action, Washington D.C.	108,140
March for Life, Mexico	19,147
March for Life Education and Defense Fund, Washington, D.C.	579,500
National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC), Philadelphia, Pa.	250,000
National Life Center, Woodbury, N.J.	100,000
Other pro-life based organizations	15,000
Steno Institute, Escondido, Calif.	100,000
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops – Pro-Life Education Campaign	621,774
Villa Maria Guadalupe Retreat Center – Sisters of Life, Stamford, Conn.	176,743
Walk for Life West Coast, San Francisco, Calif.	25,000
TOTAL	\$ 4,818,531

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS 2019

VOCATIONS

Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA – Co-Sponsored Seminarians	\$	200,000
Bishop Thomas V. Daily Scholarships		52,834
Canadian Pontifical College, Rome – Father Michael J. McGivney Fund		20,122
Knights of Columbus Vocations Scholarships		171,003
National Major Seminary, Port-au-Prince, Haiti		125,000
Philippine Scholarships – Father McGivney Fund for Advanced Studies for Priests from the Philippines at the Pontifical Filipino College, Rome		48,000
Pontifical North American College, Rome		25,000
Scholarships and General Support – Count Enrico P. Galeazzi Fund		185,000
Puerto Rico Scholarships – Father McGivney Fund for Advanced Studies for Priests in Puerto Rico		21,000
Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP)		752,296
St. Jean Vianney Relic Tour		63,848
TOTAL	\$	1,664,103

EVANGELIZATION

Archdiocese of Hartford – Lenten Confession Campaign	\$	30,000
Archdiocese of New York		
Conversation with Cardinal Dolan on SiriusXM, The Catholic Channel		75,000
Association for Catholic Formation & Leadership, Englewood, Colo.		35,000
Catholic Information Service (CIS)		
Administrative support		114,067
Catholic Advertising Fund (per capita levy)		376,538
Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst		18,919
Ethics and Public Policy Center, Washington, D.C.		
Tertio Millennio Seminar and Catholic Women's Forum		85,000
Saint John Paul II National Shrine, Washington, D.C.		6,370,382
TOTAL	\$	7,104,906

TOTAL PROGRAMS GRANTS \$ 18,246,995

TOTAL CHURCH AND PROGRAMS GRANTS \$ 25,494,583

COMMUNITY, EDUCATIONAL & CULTURAL

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

American Wheelchair Mission, Henderson, Nev.	\$	300,000
Apostles of Jesus – Ministry to African AIDS orphans and families		125,000
Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, Washington, D.C.		325,000
Catholic Association of Latino Leaders, Los Angeles, Calif.		15,000
Catholic Charities – Centro San Jose, New Haven, Conn.		50,000
Christ in the City, Denver, Colo.		10,000
Christian Refugee Relief Fund		
Iraq		1,888,215
Lebanon		300,000
Syria		1,148,000
Christopher Fund		
Supreme Council Matching Funds		56,403
Beneficiaries of Matching Funds		392,420
Columbian Charities of Missouri, Inc., Ballwin, Mo.		50,000
Connecticut Food Bank, Wallingford, Conn.		25,000
Disaster Relief – Floods and Hurricanes		
United States		756,502
Bahamas		340,518
Canada		146,621
Philippines		72,196
Diva Communications, New York, N.Y.		25,000
Food for Families Program		687,402
Habitat for Humanity, New Haven, Conn.		75,000
National Catholic Office for the Deaf, Landover Hills, Md.		15,000
National Catholic Partnership on Disability, Washington, D.C.		150,000
National Catholic Prayer Breakfast, Washington, D.C.		150,000
National Center on Sexual Exploitation, Washington, D.C.		150,000
Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven, New Haven, Conn.		10,000
New Haven Symphony Orchestra, New Haven, Conn.		55,000
Other community-based organizations		139,500
St. Catherine Center for Special Needs, Fairfield, Conn.		20,000
Special Olympics North America		249,951
TOTAL		\$ 7,727,728

EDUCATIONAL

Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, Milford, Conn.		
New Haven Catholic High Schools Fund	\$	9,000
Albertus Magnus College, Hamden, Conn.		18,000
Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools, Hartford, Conn.		13,500
Other educational-based organizations		47,907
Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family, Washington, D.C.		
Fellowships		244,500
Terrence T. Lescoe Scholarship Fund		8,000
Notre Dame High School, West Haven, Conn.		
New Haven Catholic High Schools Fund		9,000
Pontifical Institute for Mediaeval Studies, Toronto, Ontario		4,345
Regina Pacis Academy, Norwalk, Conn.		5,000
Sacred Heart Academy, Hamden, Conn.		
New Haven Catholic High Schools Fund		9,000
Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, Conn.		10,000
Saint Rosa of Lima School, Newtown, Conn.		48,000
Sister Thea Bowman Foundation, Hermantown, Minn.		20,000
The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.		
Bicentennial of the U.S. Hierarchy Fund		110,000
The Thomistic Institute, Washington, D.C.		100,000
Instituto Superior de Estudios Guadalupanos (ISEG)		48,000
TOTAL		\$ 704,252

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS 2019

CULTURAL

Knights of Columbus Museum, New Haven, Conn.	\$	2,094,565
U.S. Embassy to the Holy See		10,000
TOTAL	\$	2,104,565

**TOTAL COMMUNITY/EDUCATIONAL/
CULTURAL GRANTS** **\$ 10,536,545**

YOUTH

Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation, New York, N.Y.	\$	35,000
Catholic Schools Center of Excellence, Minneapolis, Minn.		5,000
Children's Work's Inc., San Francisco, Calif.		25,000
Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids		368,436
Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS)		73,000
Centro Sportivo Cavalieri (Youth Athletic Centers in Rome) – Italian Welfare Fund	3,296,555	
St. Francis Mission Among the Lakota, St. Francis, S.D.		10,000
World Youth Alliance, New York, N.Y.		5,000
TOTAL	\$	3,817,991
TOTAL YOUTH GRANTS	\$	3,817,991

COUNCIL

Anthony Labella Scholarship Fund	\$	16,500
Arthur F. and Anna Battista Scholarship Fund		42,331
Frank L. Goularte Scholarship Fund		12,000
Francis P. Matthews and John E. Swift Educational Trust Fund		175,474
John W. McDevitt (Fourth Degree) Scholarship Fund		135,000
Member Fraternal Benefits Program		608,215
Mexico Scholarships		9,500
Percy Johnson Scholarships		23,250
Philippines Scholarships		18,000
Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family Fellowships		11,750
Pro Deo and Pro Patria Scholarships		136,628
Puerto Rico Scholarships		6,500
The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.		257,090
Virgil C. and Ann L. Dechant Scholarship Fund		21,750
TOTAL	\$	1,473,988
TOTAL COUNCIL GRANTS	\$	1,473,988

TOTAL SUPREME COUNCIL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$41,323,107
TOTAL STATE/LOCAL UNITS CONTRIBUTIONS	\$146,366,888
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$187,689,995
TOTAL HOURS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE	77,120,740
SUPREME COUNCIL PUBLICATIONS (COLUMBIA AND OTHERS)	\$7,426,021
TOTAL FRATERNAL COSTS	\$71,041,373

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS 2019

VOCATION ENDOWMENT AND EDUCATION FUNDS

VOCATION ENDOWMENT FUNDS	CORPUS	2019 DONATIONS	CUMULATIVE DONATIONS
U.S. (in US\$)			
Bishop Thomas V. Daily Vocations Scholarship Fund	\$1,275,000	\$46,250	\$1,273,250
Count Enrico P. Galeazzi Fund for Pontifical North American College in Rome	4,000,000	185,000	5,310,216
Father McGivney Fund for Advanced Studies for Priests in Puerto Rico	125,000	21,000	142,363
Father Michael J. McGivney Fund for Advanced Studies by Priests from the Philippines	1,000,000	48,000	867,023
Father Michael J. McGivney Vocations Scholarship Fund	5,000,000	151,250	5,762,309
Knights of Columbus Vocations Fund & Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP)	4,000,000	735,515	15,712,377
Our Lady of Guadalupe Fund — Advanced Studies for Priests in México (Pontifical Mexican College in Rome)	700,000	-	1,020,703
TOTAL VOCATION ENDOWMENT FUNDS – U.S.	\$16,100,000	\$1,187,015	\$30,088,241
Canada (in CA\$)			
Bishop Thomas V. Daily Vocations Scholarship Fund	\$225,000	\$8,750	\$190,000
Father Michael J. McGivney Vocations Scholarship Fund (Canada)	800,000	26,250	791,025
Father Michael J. McGivney Fund for Advanced Studies for Priests in Canada (Pontifical Canadian College in Rome)	540,669	26,740	1,064,135
Knights of Columbus Vocations Fund (Canada) & Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP)	550,669	22,300	774,018
TOTAL VOCATION ENDOWMENT FUNDS – CANADA	\$2,116,338	\$84,040	\$2,819,178
EDUCATION FUNDS	CORPUS	2019 DONATIONS	CUMULATIVE DONATIONS
U.S. (in US\$)			
Albertus Magnus College Fund	\$150,000	\$8,000	\$370,059
Arthur F. and Anna Battista Scholarship Fund	1,584,495	42,331	1,592,212
Bicentennial of the U.S. Hierarchy Fund	2,000,000	110,000	3,887,619
Bishop Charles P. Greco Graduate Fellowship Trust	105,000	-	73,082
The Catholic University of America Fellowships	500,000	257,090	4,794,035
Estate of Anthony La Bella Fund	199,587	16,500	282,500
Estate of Percy Johnson Scholarship Fund	353,200	23,250	705,000
Father McGivney Memorial Fund for New Initiatives in Catholic Education	1,000,000	-	2,799,444
Fourth Degree Pro Deo and Pro Patria Scholarship Fund	2,381,599	98,250	8,309,376
Francis P. Matthews and John E. Swift Educational Trust Fund	268,710	175,474	6,637,114
Frank L. Goularte Scholarship Fund	268,525	12,000	145,500
John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family Fellowship Fund	2,450,831	11,750	209,100
John W. McDevitt (Fourth Degree) Scholarship Fund	3,124,804	135,000	3,462,750
Mexico Scholarships	-	9,500	170,835
New Haven Area Catholic High Schools Fund	500,000	27,000	904,348
Philippines Scholarships	-	18,000	347,341
Puerto Rico Scholarships	-	6,500	187,500
South Korea Scholarships	-	-	6,000
Terrence T. Lescoe Scholarship Fund	225,394	8,000	8,000
Virgil C. and Ann Dechant Scholarship Fund	522,538	21,750	363,393
TOTAL EDUCATION FUNDS – U.S.	\$15,634,683	\$ 980,395	\$35,435,208
Canada (in CA\$)			
Fourth Degree Pro Deo and Pro Patria (Canada) Scholarship Fund	\$1,000,000	\$51,000	\$1,615,001
Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies Fund	250,000	5,774	268,105
TOTAL EDUCATION FUNDS – CANADA	\$1,250,000	\$56,774	\$1,883,106

MISCELLANEOUS FUNDS

FUND	CORPUS	2019 DONATIONS	CUMULATIVE DONATIONS
U.S. (in US\$)			
Christopher Fund	\$22,415,426	\$1,168,036	\$17,822,346
Saint John Paul II National Shrine Fund	5,465,072	-	-
Fourth Degree Fund for Religious Liberties	1,000,000	-	1,278,685
General Charity Fund	1,078,555	-	132,480
Historic Sites Fund	25,699	873	3,811,138
Italian Welfare Fund	213,656	1,607,449	33,433,526
Luke E. Hart Memorial Fund for the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception	1,000,000	65,000	2,255,900
Military Vicariate Fund	900,000	-	2,859,547
Pacem in Terris Fund	2,000,000	120,000	2,220,000
United in Charity Fund	13,126,738	9,049,976	59,385,621
Vicarius Christi Fund	25,000,000	1,600,000	62,415,000
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS FUNDS – U.S.	\$72,225,146	\$13,611,334	\$185,614,243
Canada (in CA\$)			
Catholic Initiatives in Canada Fund	\$150,000	-	\$316,800
Christopher Fund	3,933,925	\$124,886	3,198,537
St. François de Laval Fund	1,000,000	44,372	1,921,524
Saint John Paul II National Shrine Fund	568,824	-	-
United in Charity Fund	1,975,906	111,344	1,236,638
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS FUNDS – CANADA	\$7,628,655	\$280,602	\$6,673,499

FUND CORPUS – U.S.

\$103,959,829

FUND CORPUS – CANADA

\$10,994,993

2019 DONATIONS – U.S.

\$15,778,744

2019 DONATIONS – CANADA

\$421,416

TOTAL CUMULATIVE DONATIONS – U.S.

\$251,137,692

TOTAL CUMULATIVE DONATIONS – CANADA

\$11,375,783

FINANCIAL & FRATERNAL HIGHLIGHTS

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS (IN MILLIONS, EXPRESSED IN US \$)

Year ended Dec. 31

Year ended Dec. 31

2019

2018

Premiums and fees	\$1,363	\$1,318
Net investment income	1,068	1,027
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>2,431</u>	<u>2,345</u>
Death and other benefits	784	742
Increase in benefit reserves	913	910
Commissions and expenses	382	390
TOTAL BENEFITS AND EXPENSES	<u>2,079</u>	<u>2,042</u>
GAINS BEFORE REFUNDS TO MEMBERS	352	303
REFUNDS TO MEMBERS	<u>233</u>	<u>262</u>
Net gain from operations	119	41
Net realized capital gains	29	40
NET INCOME	<u>\$148</u>	<u>\$81</u>

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL POSITION (IN MILLIONS, EXPRESSED IN US \$)

As of Dec. 31

As of Dec. 31

2019

2018

Bonds	\$21,666	\$21,252
Contract loans	1,113	1,098
Common and preferred stocks	1,417	1,156
Other invested assets	1,162	1,011
Other assets	1,503	911
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$26,861</u>	<u>\$25,428</u>
Benefit reserves	\$23,138	\$22,152
Member refunds payable	238	264
Other liabilities	678	567
TOTAL LIABILITIES EXCEPT AVR	<u>24,054</u>	<u>22,983</u>
Asset valuation reserve (AVR)	497	301
Surplus	2,310	2,144
TOTAL SURPLUS AND AVR	<u>2,807</u>	<u>2,445</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS	<u>\$26,861</u>	<u>\$25,428</u>

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DEC. 31

2019

2018

New Life Insurance issued (in millions, in US\$)	\$8,414	\$8,566
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AS OF DEC. 31

2019

2018

Insurance certificates in force (in thousands)	1,782	1,789
Life Insurance in force (in millions, in US\$)	\$113,496	\$109,156
Persistency Rate	96.2%	96.5%
Solvency Ratio (assets to liabilities including AVR)	109.4%	109.2%
Surplus Ratio (surplus and AVR to total liabilities except AVR)	11.7%	10.6%

FRATERNAL HIGHLIGHTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DEC. 31

2019

2018

Charitable Contributions (in US\$)	\$187,689,995	\$185,684,516
Hours of Service	77,120,740	76,744,155
Number of Councils	16,199	16,010
Membership	1,999,583	1,977,398

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS LEADERSHIP

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Supreme Knight

MOST REV. WILLIAM E. LORI
Supreme Chaplain

PATRICK E. KELLY
Deputy Supreme Knight

MICHAEL J. O'CONNOR
Supreme Secretary

JOHN A. MARRELLA
Supreme Advocate

RONALD F. SCHWARZ
Supreme Treasurer

GRAYDON A. NICHOLAS
Supreme Warden

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