

## THE K OF C. WHERE EVERY MAN AND HIS FAMILY COUNT

How much do you know about the Knights of Columbus?

You've probably seen the local K of C council building, where Knights and their families meet. But what do the Knights of Columbus stand for? What are they all about?

The Knights stand for many things. Good things. K of C programs and projects make a difference, in every community of every country where they're found.

In the K of C, you can really count. If you're a Catholic man aged 18 or over, you owe it to yourself to find out more about the Knights of Columbus.

### WHERE DO YOU FIT INTO THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS?

### COUNT THE WAYS.

The Knights of Columbus was founded in 1882, when Father Michael McGivney and a small group of men founded a society designed to provide some security for widows and orphans of Catholic parishioners.

Father McGivney's idea grew into an Order of Catholic men and their families, dedicated to promoting the ideas of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism.

Today, there are nearly a million and a half members in over 9,000 local units throughout the world. Knights can be found in the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Philippines, Puerto

Rico, Guatemala, Panama, Cuba, Guam, the Dominican Republic, and the Virgin Islands.

His initial plan of providing financial security for his parishioners has developed into an extensive life insurance program open to every member and his family. The Knights of Columbus now ranks in the top 6% of life insurance companies in North America, with more than \$13 billion of insurance in force and over \$2 billion in assets.

The K of C is a diverse organization. Its members belong to many races. They speak many languages. But they all fit together in one way: they expect every day to be better, and they work to make it happen.

What can you expect from the Knights of Columbus?

Plenty.

***"I always tell them they can be as active as they want to be. We do want them to be active ... the Knights of Columbus is really an organization that not only wants to know what you can do for them, but what we can do for you."*** -D.S., Council 1121

***"The Knights can take an individual who might not have a sound direction or a planned purpose, and in that circle of friends and members he can, in helping others, find a motivating direction as to which way he'd like his life to go."***

, - B.T., Council 4944

## KNIGHTS FIT INTO THE CHURCH.

Making sure the Catholic Church remains vigorous and undiminished is one of the primary missions of the Knights of Columbus.

Take the priesthood, for instance. To counter the ongoing decline in the number of candidates to the priesthood and religious life, there's RSVP - the Refund Support Vocations Program. Through local council involvement, the RSVP program provides moral and financial support to individual seminarians and postulants pursuing religious vocations.

That's not all. Recently, the Knights funded the massive restoration of the four-century-old facade of St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican.

There's also the \$10 million Vicarius Christi Fund, established in 1982. The interest generated from this fund is annually given to the Pope for his personal charities. Since 1982, the fund has generated over \$7 million. Annual contributions will continue in perpetuity.

The Knights can also be found lending their support to the Church at the diocesan and local level. From providing manpower and funds for church projects to playing a role in the life of the parish, the Knights fit into the Church.

## KNIGHTS FIT INTO THE COMMUNITY.

Knights don't believe in sitting by and just looking at life.

Knights feed the hungry and help shelter the homeless. They help senior citizens remain healthy and active. They conduct blood drives and fight to protect the rights of the unborn.

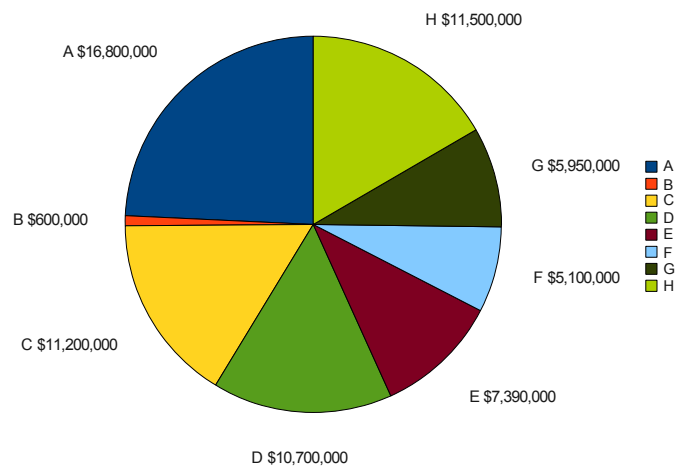
Last year, the Knights of Columbus donated \$79 million to charitable and benevolent causes. That includes \$11.6 million in donations to the mentally retarded.

But donating money is only part of it. Knights

also give away something more valuable: their time.

Last year alone, the Knights of Columbus gave over 27 million manhours to volunteer services. Everything from blood drives to meals-on-wheels.

- A. Donations to needy, sick, disabled, handicapped (\$11.6 Million to retarded).
- B. Disaster relief.
- C. Churches, orphanages, homes for the aged.
- D. We~are organizations, community projects, scouting, etc.
- E. Scholarships, schools, etc.
- F. Estimated value of food to needy.
- G. Youth activities.
- H. Church and community.



The Knights served as a principal sponsor of the 1987 International Special Olympics Summer Games, providing financial support, manpower and on-site support. These types of efforts prompted Eunice Shriver, the founder of Special Olympics to say, "**I don't think there is any organization in the country that has given as much in personal help and in financial support [as the Knights] since we started 19 years ago.**"

The Knights certainly fit into the community. But they don't stop there.

## **K of C INSURANCE FITS THE NEEDS OF ITS MEMBERS.**

The Knights of Columbus, as a fraternal organization, provides low-cost insurance "For Brother Knights

By Brother Knights." It's truly a family affair.

For new members, a special low-cost policy is available upon initiation, complete with increasing cash values and dividends. Wives of new members are also eligible to participate in this special plan.

Today the amount of Knights' insurance in force is well beyond \$13 billion, which testifies to its value. K of C insurance offers a complete portfolio from which to choose. The strength of the program is evidenced by the fact that the amount of money paid out to members in the form of dividends is consistently greater than the funds paid to beneficiaries of deceased members. So it's really "insurance for the family. "

## **FAMILIES ALWAYS FIT INTO THE KNIGHTS.**

Family is important in the Knights of Columbus. In fact, it's almost like one big family - husbands, wives, children, widows, college students and religious.

Every K of C council provides a variety of opportunities for family involvement. Dances, parties, athletic events. Communion breakfasts, family Masses, father/daughter and mother/son activities, outings and lots more. All revolving around the family, and the warmth and joy that comes with being an integral part of it.

"Family of the Month" and "International Family of the Year" awards programs recognize families that serve as strong role models.

Commitment to family begins with the basics: the Crusade for Life. Recognizing that 1.5 million unborn babies are killed by abortions

each year in North America, the Knights have made a determined effort to aid pro-life activities and groups, and will continue to do so until the lives of the innocent unborn are saved.

The K of C's commitment extends to education. There are a host of different K of C merit scholarships available on the Supreme, state and local council level.

A federally guaranteed Student Loan program is also available to assist members and their families pursuing higher education.

## **KNIGHTS FIT INTO THE LIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE.**

A dynamic organization must build from the ground up. That's why there's the Columbian Squires, an organization of young Catholic men, age 12 to 18. The purpose? The training of members in the art and techniques of leadership. With a motto of "Esto Dignus - Be Worthy," it's quite literally the junior organization of the Knights.

Another place that young Knights can be found is in councils on college and university campuses. Young Catholic men have the opportunity to get involved in the college and local community through activities and projects sponsored by the council.

K of C activities for young people include Easter egg hunts, picnics, free throw contests, spelling bees, softball tournaments and more.

Church ... community ... insurance ... family ... youth. As you can see, there are few areas of life that Knights don't touch and make better.

## **DO YOU FIT INTO THE KNIGHTS?**

The challenge to become involved has never been greater. If you're a practical Catholic man aged 18 or over, the K of C may be just what you're looking for. You can become as involved as you want. Just remember that the Knights offer an opportunity for fellowship with people who share the same beliefs, and who recognize the same duty to God, to family, and to folks down the block.

Contact Rick LeGear phone 250-782-2456 or [rlegear@yahoo.com](mailto:rlegear@yahoo.com) about signing up today.

Why not join the Knights of Columbus?

You'll find that it's a perfect fit.

*"The K of C is a fraternal organization of some of the best men in the world doing good things for the underprivileged, the handicapped, anyone that needs any type of help. And it's done a lot for me. It's made me a better person. I participate in the insurance program which gives me a real sense of security. "*

- C.L., Council 353

**“The Knights of Columbus are an excellent example of the contribution which the laity can make by working together. The manner of good works that you perform yourselves are further multiplied by those which you inspire in others.”**

**~ Pope John Paul II**



**You belong in the Knights of Columbus.**