



KNIGHTLINE

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NEWS FOR KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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The World Cried Out. We Answered.

At the 137th Supreme Convention in Minneapolis, we celebrated \$185.7 million and 76.7 million hours given to charity. We announced \$250,000 in humanitarian aid at the U.S. southern border. We launched initiatives to honor Native American and First Nation communities. We unanimously named Kendrick Castillo, the 18-year-old hero who died saving his classmates, a Knight of Columbus.

None of this would have been possible without Knights like you. Or Knights like the program winners and top recruiters recognized for their outstanding work at this year's convention.

This issue takes you behind the scenes with these recruiters and program winners. Check out their stories for exclusive insights on helping the Knights answer the call.

“
We will continue to transform the world around us — a world that needs more, not less, of the truth and witness that define all those who call themselves Knights of Columbus. ... Where there is a need, there is a Knight to answer it.
— Supreme Knight Carl Anderson

For more on the supreme knight's report, [click here](#).

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Top Family Program Winner Speaks About Success

By Andrew Butler

The Knights from St. Bonaventure Council 7432 in Calgary, Alberta, were honored for their family program this year. The source of their inspiration? St. Joseph and the Holy Family.

St. Joseph humbly lived his life protecting our Blessed Mother and serving as the foster father to Jesus — all according to God’s plan for him. And as Knights, God also has a plan for us and our families. So, how can we more intentionally invite God into our family life?

For St. Bonaventure Council 7432 in Calgary, Alberta, the answer was invoking the intercession of St. Joseph and the entire Holy Family through a parish-wide Consecration to the Holy Family that the council organized.

“It reached a lot of people,” said John Leszkowicz, who served as the council’s grand knight this past year. “Everybody who came to Mass that weekend experienced the Knights of Columbus Prayer of Consecration to the Holy Family.”

The council accomplished this using the action steps included in Faith In Action.

Five steps were essential to their success:

1. **Meeting with their pastor** to present the idea, obtain his permission, and hear his recommendations on conducting the consecration.
2. **Promoting the event and informing parishioners.** This was done through posters, informational brochures and consecration prayer cards obtained from Supplies Online.
3. **Advertising** for three weeks. In three consecutive bulletins, the council included a two-page insert with info on the consecration, suggestions for preparation and the consecration prayer itself. Announcements were also made each week from the pulpit.
4. **Being online.** The council posted a notice on the parish website and on the council’s Facebook page.
5. **Having a strong Knights presence** on the day of the consecration. Knights handed out the prayer cards to each family as they entered the church. After Mass, the Knights also hosted a celebration with cake and ice cream.



Paul Rydl, a trustee of Council 7432, hands out prayer cards before Mass. (Photo courtesy Council 7432)

All in all, more than 2,000 people — who otherwise may never have heard of a consecration to the Holy Family — encountered the prayer. That so many people were involved is a testament to the council’s hard work and vision to strengthen each other, their families and the parish.

“I believe with God that we will overcome all obstacles and we will continue to work together and expand the love that Christ and God intended for us,” Leszkowicz said.

Council 7432 tied for the top family program with Father Frank Colacicco Council 4060 in Danville, Calif., whose “Camp Suzanne – Prison Ministry Program” helps mothers currently incarcerated to maintain contact with their children.

Top Faith Program Recognized at Convention

Evangelizing the Residents of Nasidman Island

Our Lady of Fatima Council 10953 in Visayas, Philippines, saw the need to bring the faith to nearby Nasidman Island. The members of the council organized a team with the mission to help build a Catholic church. In less than a year, the new chapel was built, while popular devotions including the rosary flourished. Residents also began bringing their children to be baptized as part of sacramental events organized by the Knights.

Insights Into Running an Award-Winning Program

St. John the Baptist Council 10305 in Fort Calhoun, Neb., was presented with an International Program Award for its fundraiser for Christians affected by conflicts in the Middle East.

When the council learned it had won the award, Supreme Director and council member Mike Conrad said members felt a level of pride they never experienced before. He shares some insight into their success:



Supreme Director Mike Conrad celebrates with Knights at the States Dinner held during the 137th Supreme Convention. (Photo by Matt Barrick)

How they succeeded

“We developed an event committee. This committee consisted of members and spouses of our council, an IT expert, a graphic designer and our parish priest. The committee set a date, developed a website, made advertising, solicited sponsors and donors, planned and held the largest fundraiser that the Nebraska Jurisdiction has ever seen.”

Ecumenical impact

“We are a small council around 160 members from a community of 950 people and [the event] has brought our members to a whole new spiritual level. At first, I don’t think anyone had any idea of the impact that this would produce. ... For the committee and their families, we brought them closer to their faith. Each of them says this has enhanced their spiritual life, too. The Presbyterian Church had some of their parishioners attend the dinner and the church sponsored the rebuilding of two homes. We united our two faithful communities.”

Mike’s advice to brother Knights

“In the words of St. John Paul II, ‘Do not be afraid.’ Go outside the box and get away from the status quo. Follow your heart, get others involved, remember we are doing God’s work here on earth. Original ideas like this can keep a council energized and welcoming to potential new members.”

To learn more about Council 10305’s project, check out

“Nebraska Council ‘Goes Big’ in Effort to Rebuild Cradle of Christianity” featured in Knightline’s April 2018 edition.

Work Hard, and With Your Heart

José “Pona” Magana — member of Rancho Cucamonga Council 13403 in Alta Loma, Calif. — became a Knight when a priest challenged him to serve his parish. He has since recruited 70 members, established two councils, served as a district deputy and worked as state coordinator for Hispanic development. He was a top recruiter recognized at this year’s convention.

Magana shared four tips:

- 1. Talk about the Knights man-to-man:** Magana says his favorite recruitment tactics include giving pulpit announcements after Mass, as well as having personal, face-to face conversations.
- 2. Proclaim a message of faith:** He tells men that it’s important to imitate Jesus and to be the men that God wants them to be.
- 3. Share stories of Knights and strong masculinity:** For Magana, the biggest obstacle is that faith-based groups are not seen as “macho.” He responds to this misconception by explaining how he’s now a stronger man — a better husband, father, son and brother — since joining the K of C.
- 4. Work hard, work with your heart:** Hard work and charity can bring you far, if you remember that, as Magana says, “every Knight is a fisher of souls for the Kingdom of God.” He shares that we can achieve greatness with the blessings of God, the protection of our Mother Mary and the prayers of Father Michael McGivney.

Read more about Magana’s story in “Iron Sharpens Iron,” in the May edition of Columbia magazine.

What’s your recruitment story? Share it with knightline@kofc.org.

The Question That Sparked This Council's Success

By Andrew Fowler

The most worthwhile efforts can be sparked by simple question. For Holy Family Council 10992 in Sparta, Mich., their efforts earned them the community program award. Here's how they got started.

During one of the first dances for students with special needs that Holy Family Council 10922 helped organize, Tino Gonzalez noticed the mother of an attendee. She was crying. He asked if she needed help, but her tears were of joy. She never dreamed she would witness her son dancing at a prom, let alone having the confidence to ask a girl to dance.

The dances, organized by Gonzalez and his brother Knights, began in 2007 when the mother of a boy with special needs expressed her concerns about the prom at the local high school. Her son was afraid he would be ridiculed for "being different."

"Why don't you have your own prom?" Gonzalez asked.

It turned out that Gonzalez would answer his own question.

Gonzalez and his council began sponsoring a pre-prom meal for 12 students with special needs from Sparta High School and then escorted the group to a dance hosted just for them. The council then began opening the free event to others with special needs.

Word spread across the state like a contagious dance number. The "Best Prom Ever" became popular enough that the council added a Fall Dance in 2011, with the dances this year attended by more than 1,600 people with special needs from across Michigan.

The attendees of the bi-annual dances receive the full prom experience: free limousine service, professional hair and makeup stylists and formal-wear donated by local businesses. Other businesses donate kitchen supplies, food, decorations and party favors. Knights from neighboring councils volunteer their time and more than 200 volunteers pitch in to make the experience one to remember.



Attendees enjoy the photo booth at the Best Prom Ever. (Photo courtesy bestprom-ever.org.)

Help us inspire brother Knights around the world by sharing your story. Email knightline@kofc.org.

Prayer, Priorities and Building up the Knights

Agnel George of Father Burns Council 5949 in Regina, Saskatchewan, was recognized as a top recruiter at the Supreme Convention for welcoming 97 men to the Knights this past year. He says that prayer has been the most important part of his campaign and his priority in growing the Knights is to strengthen men in their Catholic faith.

Here's four of his top tips for being a great Knight and a great recruiter.



George's prayerful approach is followed by Knights around the world. Here, a Knight prays at Our Lady of the Island Shrine in Manorville, N.Y. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)

1. Attend daily Mass, when possible, spending an hour in silence with our Lord and praying the rosary. For a Catholic, the greatest privilege is the Holy Eucharist.
2. Read the Bible first thing in the morning, even if you have to wake up 30 minutes earlier. Contemplate it and share your reflections with fellow Knights and other Catholics.
3. Offer every thought, word and action in your daily activities for God's glory. And trust in God's providence: If it is the will of the Almighty Father for a man to become a Knight, he will join.
4. Listen and talk. Listen first to the needs of your own family members and then of your brother Knights. And talk to men about the Knights wherever you cross paths — over coffee, at the gym or at other community events. Stay in touch with all prospects, online members and brother Knights using social media.

Read more about George in "Canadian Knight Welcomes 21 New Brothers" in the January 2019 edition of Knightline.

What's your recruitment story? Share it with knightline@kofc.org.

Be a Knight in Words and Deeds

This year's convention honored the top recruiter from our Non-Insurance Territories, Danilo Leonor Martinez of the Visayas Jurisdiction in the Philippines, who recruited 1,703 members this past year.

In the past 10 years, he has served as a council officer, district deputy, state officer and state membership director. Here are his tips for being a strong recruiter.

Be worthy of imitation

"You have to win the hearts and sympathies of your brothers, their families and the parish priests. As a recruiter, you have to live a life that is truly worth emulating. In other words, you must be a Knight of Columbus both in words and deeds."

Recruiting on colleges and school campuses

"The best people to whom we can introduce the Order are the youth. If you want to protect their vulnerability against the influences of social media and society, we have to offer an organization who can shape their values and deepen their spirituality. We can offer them an alternative group of Catholic men who are fully dedicated to serving their church and community. To do this, I invite speakers who can talk about Christ in the Catholic Church and about other issues affecting young people, like pre-marital sex and drug abuse."

Welcome wives and families

"Involve the wives of our brother Knights. You can only do that if you can convince them of the positive change the Order has brought to their husbands. Spouses are our partners in recruitment. I seek their help and assistance to invite the husbands of their friends and relatives."

It's a challenge, not a frustration

"There are times that things do not go your way, but if your commitment and passion is strong, you will be more challenged rather than frustrated."

Ideals and the vocation of fatherhood

"Inviting more men to join the Knights of Columbus is truly heartwarming and inspiring as well. Sharing the ideals and the vocation of fatherhood to young fathers is life changing."

Strong sense of volunteerism and service

"We need more men who have a strong sense of volunteerism and service to the community. We have to increase the number of men who are responsible and dedicated husbands and parents. We can only meet that if we recruit more men to the Knights of Columbus. As a Knight, always make recruitment a priority. If you want to change the lives of your fellow Catholics, invite them to join the Knights of Columbus."

Together, Knights Go Further

Arnaud Boutheon, a member of Charles de Foucauld Council 16502 in Paris, France, a unique challenge in helping to grow the order in a country where many have never heard of the Knights of Columbus. Check out his tips:

What are your favorite ways to grow your council?

There is no favorite technique. There is just a clear message that the man commits himself to an experience that is new in France. We have to be true to Father McGivney's vision and show how that vision is current and applicable for our time. We encourage men to protect their families and to create a brotherhood of active service. We also want to help and support priests — who at times experience loneliness and discouragement — because they are our brothers who lead us to Christ through the sacraments.

Together, we go further.

We are honored and moved by the supreme knight's vision for France: "You are so close to your [Catholic] heritage. ... We wish that you can rediscover this reality, not for your pride, but so you can evangelize the world with zeal and with a spirit of mission." The French Knights have embraced this vision.

What obstacles did you encounter?

There are two major obstacles: lack of time and the novelty of the Knights of Columbus in France.

Good recruitment takes time. The recruiter must accept that; a successful recruiter takes whatever time is necessary to bring in a new member.

We highlight the simplicity of being a Knight and the importance of the freedom that lies at the core of the commitment. Our men are deeply touched by the grassroots dimension of the Order as a national and international family.

Your advice or tips to achieve recruitment success?

First, remember that there is a natural contagious joy around an active council — joy and enthusiasm is attractive. Having a good sense of humor is a decisive recruiting tool; we should never take ourselves too seriously.

Second, don't be discouraged. Instead work to invite Catholic men of good will to join. We did this by creating pairs of Knights who are committed to strengthening each other through prayer. Each of us receives an assignment to pray for a brother Knight personally during the year. The commitment also includes a twice-yearly lunch to reinforce each other spiritually and fraternally. We are discovering that this establishes very strong, spiritual relationships between brother Knights.

What do you want to see in *Knightline*?

Share your questions, feedback and advice. Email us at Sknightline@kofc.org.



THIS AGE OF DISTRACTION

A CHALLENGE AND MESSAGE FROM
SUPREME CHAPLAIN ARCHBISHOP LORI

“Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master’s return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival.”

— Gospel for Aug. 11, Lk 12:35-37

Semper Paratus— Latin for “always ready” — is the motto of the U.S. Coast Guard, but it could also serve as a motto for you and me in the Christian life. In this Gospel passage, Jesus calls us to constant vigilance. My brothers, we cannot allow our perimeter to be breached by temptations to anger, greed, lust and other sins.

We do not know when we will be called to account. We all can recall someone whose sudden death reminds us that tomorrow is not guaranteed to anyone. May our master find us vigilant on his arrival!

This Month’s Challenge

This month, I challenge you to exercise daily vigilance with a simple examination of conscience at the end of each day. I also challenge you to keep watch with your council through the Faith In Action Holy Hour program, or by spending some time in Eucharistic adoration on your own.

Questions for Reflection

Is looking at your phone the first and the last thing you do each day? In this age of distraction, how can you sharpen your vigilance and focus for what is truly important? Did examining your conscience every day help increase your vigilance in your life?

Recruiting Catholic Men With the Spirit to Serve

When Donald Castillo was elected grand knight for Columbia (Tenn.) Council 7447, he knew his mission: To recruit Catholic men with a great spirit to serve. He brought in 57 new members this past year. His efforts brought him recognition as a top recruiter at this year’s Supreme Convention.

Initial strategy

“My initial strategy was to approach every male individual 18 years old or older in our parish, St. Catherine of Siena. I included those who were not members or who were inactive members from long ago in the council.”

Emphasize the family

“Family involvement in the Knight of Columbus has always been a key element to our success. Family activities are open to the entire parish, and our popular Family Game Night gave me the opportunity to interact with not just the men, but also to motivate their wives and children to get involved. The wives played a very important role in this process, mainly by wanting their husbands to be a role model for their kids, especially for the boys.”

Honor hard work

“Recognizing ‘The Knight of the Month’ and ‘The Family of the Month’ in public for their hard work was also vital. I think every Knight and his family should be awarded and recognized for their job well done, no matter how big or how small. Many men wanted to make their family and faith community proud of them, and so wanted to become a Knight of Columbus.”

Celebrate different cultures

“The fact that the new members are a mix of different cultures gives me great joy. It shows that it is very possible for men to work together as one family, because they are sharing similarities and not differences. They are working for our faith, for our community and for our Church. That makes me feel very proud to be a Knight of Columbus. That gives you energy to keep going and to be the best leader you can be.”

Lead by example

“The best way to encourage members is to lead by example. You must make them feel that they belong in this great organization. What you do, is who you are.”

The reward is worth it

“The joining of new members to our Council 7447 has impacted me, our council, our parish and our community in such a big way. It feels very rewarding when a wife comes up to you to thank you for being the person who motivated her husband and son to come back to the Knight of Columbus.”

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS INSURANCE

The Natural Way to Recruit Knights

Working with your insurance field agent is more than just hosting a Family Benefit Night.

Sometimes it's as simple as referring your friends during an in-home visit.

General Agent Don M. Wesley from Clinton Township, Mich., shares more.

A few years back, I met with a new parish priest to ask his help in supporting the Knights council at the parish. I discovered that the priest was not yet a member! I also discovered that he had 28 eligible men in his extended family: his six brothers, their sons and grandsons. Only one of them — the priest's eldest brother — was a member.

We talked together for 30-minutes, shared Father McGivney's story and I gave him the book *Parish Priest: Father Michael McGivney and American Catholicism* by Douglas Brinkley and Julie Fenster. A few weeks later, the priest joined. Not only did he get involved with the parish's Knights council, several of his family members were brought into the Order.

This makes me think of a study done at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in 2013. The study showed that referred customers had a higher retention rate and were more loyal.

It's the same with Knights. Men who become Knights at the suggestion of a family member tend to be more involved and dedicated.

Often when field agents meet with a Knight and their wife, it brings to the table several opportunities. Not only does it help the field agent offer the Knight and his family members coverage from our portfolio of benefits, it also offers a chance to talk about extended family (sons, fathers, grandfathers, uncles, godfathers and godsons) and friends who could benefit from membership in the Knights. This leads to a "referral," when an agent invites these family members to sign up for the Knights, either via a Form 100 or online.

The best part of referrals? There is very little pressure to join — it's simply a natural way to spark interest in joining the Knights of Columbus.

So, brother Knights, help your brother Knight and agent by referring your family and friends today. You'll help create:

- A sense of pride — Your friends will realize it's a compliment to be considered a great fit in the brotherhood of the world's largest Catholic family fraternal service organization.
- Urgency and desire — Your friends will start thinking how to help those in need, both locally and globally.
- A feeling of good will — Your friends will be touched to know that you wanted to share the security and financial soundness offered through the Knights of Columbus Insurance Program.
- An increase of faith — Your friends may be grateful for the opportunity to grow in their Catholic faith.

Live in the Greater Detroit area and have questions about K of C Insurance? Don's team can help. Call 888-393-7539 or email don.wesley@kofc.org. Live outside Michigan? Find an agent at kofc.org/findagent.



Grand Knight's Checklist

Things to Do

- Verify that you've completed and submitted the *Service Program Personnel Report* (#365) and the *Semiannual Council Audit Report* (#1295).
- Remain compliant with the Office of Youth Protection's requirements for all activities; kofc.org/safe.
- Meet with your pastor to ensure your council is supporting the parish's mission.

Planning

- Schedule several First Degrees during the upcoming months.

Upcoming Deadlines

- Sept. 1 — *Circle Officers and Chairmen Report* (#468) and *Report of Round Table Coordinator* (#2629).

MEMBERSHIP IN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS is open to men 18 years of age or older who are practical (that is, practicing) Catholics in union with the Holy See. This means that an applicant or member accepts the teaching authority of the Catholic Church on matters of faith and morals, aspires to live in accord with the precepts of the Catholic Church, and is in good standing in the Catholic Church.

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