

These Men They Call 'Knights'

Founded by Father Michael J. McGivney, curate at St. Mary's parish in New Haven, Connecticut. The Knights of Columbus was chartered in March 29, 1882, in the State of Connecticut.

The overall purpose of calling the Knights together was to assist Catholic men in remaining steadfast in their faith through mutual encouragement, promote closer ties of fraternity among them, in addition of the setting up of an elementary system of insurance so that the widows and children of members in the group who might die would not find themselves in dire financial straits.

The Vision of Father McGivney

The founder and first officers chose the name Knights of Columbus because they felt that as a Catholic group, it should relate to Christopher Columbus, the Catholic discoverer of America. At the same time 'Knight' would signify that the membership embodied knightly ideals of spirituality and service to the Church, country and fellowman.

Where We Are Today

From such promising beginnings Father McGivney's original group has blossomed into an international society of nearly 1.6 million Catholic men plus their families, in 12,000+ councils who have dedicated themselves to the ideals of: Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism.

Programs

The 'Knights' creativity is manifested in numerous programs and projects directed to the immediate benefit of their fellowman. Their strength assures that these programs are operated effectively and brought to positive conclusions.

Family First

A renewed emphasis on family life seeks to involve the member's wife and children in his commitment to the life of Catholic knighthood. A family's activities director is an important part of this program. It is the responsibility of the family director to assure that a number of activities and projects are dedicated specifically to the families and those families are encouraged to take part in them.

Knighthood Awareness

We are charged to "Spread the Faith" in our actions and deeds throughout the community by the order of various projects of support. The Knights of Columbus form real fraternity in all three senses. As practical Catholics, Knights carry fraternity to the limits of love: unselfish service to their Church, country, community and council.

Qualifications

Membership in the Knights of Columbus is open to practical Catholic men in union with the Holy See, who shall not be less than 18 years of age on their last birthday. A practical Catholic is one who lives up to the Commandments of God and the precepts of the Church.

Membership

Membership in the Knights of Columbus provides the opportunity for wholesome association with congenial companions who are first of all gentlemen. It offers the opportunity for fellowship with those who are of the same belief, who recognize the same duty to God, to family, and to neighbor.

Starting Out Right

The road to Knighthood is one of ongoing preparation and constant study. Subjects of this study are the truths of the Catholic faith and knowledge of the Order. Our principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism and defense of the priesthood are derived from the truths of religion and endure our every activity.

In Summary

Simply by following the many programs that have been developed, we provide the spiritual and cultural enrichment of our members.

We help carry the cross for

- the poor
- people with physical disabilities
- persons with mental retardation

We try to heal the wounds

- of the suffering
- of the aged
- the disadvantaged
- visit the sick

We lend helping hands to widows and orphans. We assist wherever we can.

St. Francis Council #12480 Accomplishments

- Ladies Auxiliary
- Parish Benevolent Fund
- Family Insurance Program
- Child I/D Program
- Friendship Park
- Kids Eat Free Program
- Susan G. Komen 5K Run
- Adopt A Street
- Eucharistic Ministers
- Ushers and Lectures
- Mass Coordinators
- Angel Tree
- Lone Rose Sunday
- Rosary Service
- Basketball Free-Throw
- Wives Appreciation Dinner
- Pancake Breakfasts
- Seder Supper
- Lenten Fish Fry's
- Charity Events
- Scholarship Funds
- Memorial Golf Tournament
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Recognition Events
- Priest Feast Celebration
- Star Council award winner
- Lone Star Award with Excellence
- Passbook Sales
- Homecoming Events
- Keep Christ in Christmas
- Knights September 11th Hero's Fund
- Monte Carlo Casino Night
- Council Website

For added information, membership or assistance, please contact George Gano at kofcgeorge@comcast.net or visit our Web Site: www.stfrancis-knights.org



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Knights of Columbus

Council # 12480

St. Francis of Assisi

This overview is intended to further explain the purpose and mission and to assist in becoming familiar and possibly playing a part within the Knights of Columbus.