

Knights of Columbus

An organization like no other



We are an organization of dedicated individuals—1.6 million members strong, and growing. An organization that, since 1882, has embodied the selflessness of man as it has helped overcome the problems of the world. Poverty. Ignorance. Apathy. Things which imperil not only a single individual, but the whole of humanity.

We are men of faith, comprising over 12,000 Knights of Columbus councils at home and overseas. Guided not only by our belief in God and the Catholic Church, but by our belief in each other, and in ourselves.

We are the Knights of Columbus. Believing that a man is defined by his actions as a follower of God, and as a leader in his community. Believing that a man is more than simply a man, when he bears the title of “Knight.”

An immovable foundation - In 1882, Father Michael J. McGivney invited a small group of parishioners to gather in the basement of St. Mary’s Church in New Haven, Connecticut. His goal was simple - to establish an Order that would unite men in their faith as well as help provide for Catholic families in times of need. It was in that humblest of beginnings that the Knights of Columbus was founded.

Guided by four core principles - charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism - these founding members strove to overcome the hardships of the time. Poverty. Unemployment. Even persecution. Father Michael J. McGivney’s perseverance and foresight have resulted in the largest Catholic fraternal and humanitarian organization ever created. An organization that has endured for over a century because of the inspirational courage of so many.

Faith - As Knights, our faith is our foundation. Dedicated to the Catholic Church’s growth and her good works, we support religious outreach, promote vocations, and provide financial support for seminarians and postulants. This way, we help support our Church and strengthen our personal faith.

Community - As committed as we are to the Catholic Church, so are we to our communities. By actively and financially supporting Special Olympics, by leading the charge in pro-life, or by safeguarding the environment, Knights of Columbus members all over the world have helped countless communities prosper.

Family - As fathers and husbands, serving our families is not only part of what we do, it’s part of who we are. To that end, Knights of Columbus councils offer programs that strengthen family and marital bonds. Most importantly, as Knights, we are able to provide assistance and support to Knights and their families whenever needed.

Youth - The importance of helping today’s youth become tomorrow’s leaders is also a huge focus of the Order. The Knights of Columbus work to assist youth in building a strong sense of civic and religious responsibility.

Fellowship - To be a Knight means to believe in each other as we believe in ourselves; realizing that by creating strong, social, and supportive local councils, we help create a stronger Order worldwide and ensure an even stronger future.