



The Knights of Columbus

Who are they?

The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest, Catholic fraternal service organization. It was founded in 1882 at St. Mary's Parish in New Haven, Connecticut by Father Michael J. McGivney. It was originally created to unite men of Catholic faith and to provide for the families of deceased members in times of hostility against Catholic immigrants and dangerous working conditions that left many families fatherless. It took as its patron, Christopher Columbus, a Catholic celebrated as the discoverer of the New World.

What do they do?

Based upon the four core principles of charity, faith, fraternity, and patriotism, today's Knights are men of faith and men of action who dedicate themselves to helping each other, their parishes and their communities in charitable works. From fundraising with events like the twice a year Tootsie Roll Drives for those with intellectual disabilities to providing the labor needed to support a parish and its activities, or helping with the Special Olympics, these good men become better men by taking care of their own families as well as their spiritual and communal families.

How does one join?

The Knights of Columbus is open to all men, 18 years or older, who are practicing Catholics and willing to donate at least 24 hours per year* for the benefit of others. Those seeking membership may contact any Knight they know or our Grand Knight to arrange an interview. After that interview, the name of the Knight will be read into the minutes at the next council meeting. After that meeting, the prospective Knight will attend at least one or up to three ceremonies (sometimes all 3 are scheduled on one day) that will begin him on his journey. After that ceremony, he will be welcome to attend all meetings and take part in our works of charity. If he so desires, the Knight may offer to work as a council officer after completing the third degree ceremony.

To contact our Grand Knight, call Jeff Gorman at 760-390-6573.

St. Thomas the Apostle's council 4513, Immaculate Conception, meets the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM in conference room 2 in the parish center. The council has a Facebook page and it has a website at www.kofc4513.org.

*6 hours a year on a council sponsored Church, community, council, family, or youth project.

4 hours a year attending two council meetings.

4 hours a year enjoying (with his entire family) a council social function such as a dinner, dance, etc.

4 hours a year volunteering at the council's annual intellectual disabilities drive, Keep Christ in Christmas Poster contest, K of C Free Throw Challenge, Wheelchair drive, or similar event.

4 hours a year attending, with his family, two corporate Communion or council prayer services.

1 hour a year reading the council bulletin, council Web site and the Supreme Council Web site.

1 hour a year visiting with a Knights of Columbus Field Agent to ensure that his family is protected.

24 hours a year.