

Pulpit announcement

Estimated time 3 minutes

Reverend _____ my brothers and sisters in Christ.

In 1882, at Saint Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut, a young Catholic Priest, Father Michael J. McGivney, gathered the leaders of his parish to inform them of his plan for providing assistance to Catholic widows and orphans.

The Fraternal Benefit Society he established, the Knights of Columbus, provides for the strengthening and protection of the Catholic Family.

In addition to the exceptional financial assistance programs set up by Fr. McGivney, the Knights of Columbus engages in many service programs to assist our families, our church, and our communities.

Today, with membership exceeding 1.7 million Catholic families, we have become the single largest and most influential Catholic Fraternal Order in the world.

Together as brothers, we provide millions of dollars for building Catholic Schools and Churches.

Together as brothers, we support our seminarians in their quest for priesthood.

Together as families, we aid the poor, the homeless, and the developmentally disabled.

Together as couples, we work ardently for our Church and in support of our young people.

Together as brothers,

we grow in the knowledge and love of Christ;

we vigorously support and defend our Priests and Religious;

we assist our law enforcement, public safety & health agencies, and

we are in the forefront of the pro-life movement.

Together, we live our faith in our many actions of service to one and all.

It was the Knights of Columbus who fifty years ago were responsible for placing the words "Under God" into our Pledge of Allegiance.

It was the Knights of Columbus who were the first to provide assistance to the families of our fallen heroes after the 9/11 attacks and who provided relief for those impacted by recent hurricanes to the tune of millions of dollars.

In addition to the many good works which we perform, we are also a vibrantly social organization, with many happy occasions to enjoy the fellowship of other members and their families. We sponsor dances, sporting events, dinners, picnics and outings, and many other activities, for young, old, and those in-between.

There is something for everyone in the Knights of Columbus. If you feel you are called to serve the church and specifically, your parish, then the Knights of Columbus is the organization that can help you answer that call to be more loving and to know Christ more deeply.

The family of each man who joins is every bit as important to us as he, perhaps even more so, and benefits greatly from his membership.

We urge the spouses of our members and prospective members to be involved with them, and to encourage them in their desire to serve, to faithfully live their vocation – really to enable all to participated in the mission of Christ.

Pope Pius XII called us the “Strong Right Arm of the Church”, and Popes before and since have voiced like sentiments.

John Paul the Great once remarked that, if only he had more Knights of Columbus on whom to rely, his burdens would be far lighter.

Bishop _____ and most of our priests, including **Father** _____, are members of the Knights of Columbus. They call on the Knights of Columbus for service and assistance in many areas, and we readily respond to their needs.

Today, we seek to broaden the ranks of our Order that we may provide still greater service to the Church, by inviting all practicing Catholic men of this Parish to join the Knights of Columbus.

The minimum age for membership is 18. And there is certainly no maximum.

Would all of the Knights present here today please stand?

Now, would all men of the parish 18 years of age and older please stand with them?

Think of all we can accomplish, if you were part of our order – together as brothers a mighty force for good; a sign of hope that this world can be a better place; and a symbol of Christ’s love active in t his world.

Thank you, you may be seated.

Our brotherhood is an authentic sign of deeper reality – Catholic men strengthened in our faith, committed to each other and to Christ.

At the doors you will find some of my brother Knights ready to answer your questions about the order, provide you with more information, or help you fill out your membership application.

We wish to express our genuine appreciation to **Father** _____ for allowing us this opportunity to speak to you. We extend to you a sincere invitation to join us for the Experience of a Lifetime.