



DIOCESE OF DAVENPORT

January 2016

My Brothers in Christ,

As Catholic men, we are called to a life of loving service responding to the love and mercy God has shown to us, especially in this Year of Mercy. We are called to care for our families, to attend to the poor and to defend those in our care, especially the weakest among us. A wonderful opportunity exists for Catholic men to answer this call to serve by becoming members of the Knights of Columbus.

The Knights of Columbus was founded in 1882 by Fr. Michael J. McGivney, a diocesan parish priest who had a vision of an organization which would provide Catholic men the opportunity to live their faith through charitable works, caring for their families and defending their Catholic Church.

Today, the Knights of Columbus are strong in our local diocese and in 17 countries. Each year, this organization of 1.9 million Catholic men donates more than 160 million dollars and 70 million man hours to charity while at the same time protecting their families through a fraternal benefits society. Members, through various Knights-sponsored activities, have the opportunity to share a fraternal brotherhood with men of similar values.

As a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus, I have personally witnessed the work that these men have accomplished in the Diocese of Davenport. However, there is still much work which needs to be done in the name of charity. There is some task to which each of us can join our heart and hands in charitable service: defending the least among us in the unborn, caring for the dignity of the intellectually disabled, upholding the value of marriage as a lifelong bond between one man and one woman, feeding the hungry or clothing the needy.

I strongly encourage each man in our diocese who considers himself to be a practicing Catholic and is at least 18 years old to prayerfully consider joining the Knights of Columbus. When a member of the Knights of Columbus contacts you, please take some time to visit with him so that you may make an informed decision to join us in our mission to promote *Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism*.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ *Martin Amos*

Most Rev. Martin Amos
Bishop of Davenport