

## MEMBERSHIP SPEECH

One hundred twenty two years ago a young Catholic Priest saw the need to come up with a solution. In 1882, times were vastly different; there was no Social Security, no Medicare, and very few sources of outside help for families in need. Two income families were for the most part non-existent. Most families had a stay at home mother with little or no post-secondary education.

Imagine if you can, the devastating effect that a premature death or debilitating accident at work would have on families of this era. Fortunately Fr. Michael McGivney was a visionary. Realizing the strength of numbers, he founded a fraternal lay organization. As it grew it became able to help widows, orphans and the community at large. That organization is the Knights of Columbus.

We are an organization whose foundation is based on the principals of Unity, as a Catholic lay society, Charity, to those in need and Fraternity, towards fellow knights. The principal of patriotism was later added to reflect the love of one's country.

We are an organization of 1.6 million men with 12,000+ councils in 13 countries worldwide. We are one of the top volunteer organizations in the World. Annually, we give in excess of 128 million dollars and 60 million man-hours of service.

Aside from the satisfaction of helping many worthy causes in our local community. The Knights offer a lot of benefits to its members and their families, such as an insurance benefit program. This program is one of the most highly rated in the industry. It is one of the only companies that have never changed its mission or name. It is sold by Knights, to Knights and their families. I recently heard an agent speak who has sold K.C. insurance products for over 50 years. He said he has never had to go to a family and apologize for our coverage not doing exactly what they thought it would.

We support Seminarians and novices to the Sisterhood thru our RSVP Fund from which over 20 million dollars has been donated since 1982 to further the education of those planning to become our religious leaders of the future.

We also provide various scholarships and fellowship programs to our members and their families. These programs are for degree pursuits at both Catholic and public universities.

We conduct programs that bring Knights together and strengthen our fraternal bonds. Some of these include family activities, socials, and youth programs. We support our parishes and our schools and many worthwhile community programs.

In summation, we remain true to our founders' concepts. We invite all Catholic men over the age of 18 to really consider what we have to offer. Only by continued growth can we achieve our goals.

We have men at the main entrance today, please stop and check out what we have to offer to you, your family and your community by Building a better world one council at a time. Together ...we will.  
Thank You.