



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

By Jeromy Alt

When many think of the Knights of Columbus, the first thing that frequently comes to their mind is "Oh yeah, those are the guys with the hats that have different colored feathers and who carry swords at liturgical events overseen by bishops." But the Knights are much more than that!

All Catholic men have a calling to serve their family, parish, and community, but other responsibilities in this day and age pull us in so many directions that we are often distracted by what may not be as important as we think. Certainly, our most important responsibilities are to be devoted husbands, fathers, sons and family members, as well as positive role models for those around us. For these reasons, the leadership of the Knights of Columbus is now placing an emphasis on the domestic church, focusing on men's roles in their families and parish.

LaSalle Council Knights of Columbus is a small council housed at St. Ignatius that provides an opportunity for men to come together and serve their parish and local community, while growing spiritually within the demanding constraints of hectic daily life. We meet only once per month and do small projects to raise money for those in need and other worthwhile charities. We are just typical guys like many reading this article who are in the same situation of having multiple responsibilities, including jobs, families, and other volunteer activities, but who see special value in being part of the largest Catholic men's organization in the world.

The Knights of Columbus was founded in 1882 and has members in every state and a growing number of countries. Our Council works very hard to provide the benefits of membership in this dynamic organization while evolving to accommodate today's Catholic man. Our Council donates 100 percent of all fundraising activities to local charitable causes. Our charitable activities help support many organizations such as:

- The Athenaeum for training of seminarians
- The Beckman Center of Cincinnati which helps mentally disabled adults
- Multiple pro-life organizations that promote a culture of life
- The Keep Christ in Christmas initiative
- St. Ignatius School through event support and a scholarship for Catholic Education.

We also do service projects such as maintenance help with St. Leo's food pantry.

In addition to the funds that we raise, our annual membership dues support scholarship programs within the state of Ohio and many worthy causes on the national and global stage, including:

- Helping Christian refugees in the Middle East
- Providing wheelchairs to disabled persons around the world
- Providing Catholic educational materials to anyone desiring them

Yes, the Knights of Columbus are much more than the men in regalia seen at Catholic events or an organization that offers insurance to its members, maintains meeting halls, and supports sport teams. At its essence, the Knights of Columbus was founded on four guiding principles: Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism.

LaSalle Council is about helping men become leaders of the



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family while supporting our brothers and sisters in need. If you are a man looking for an avenue to serve in a way that respects your time and the other responsibilities in your life, we encourage you to at least reach out and have a conversation about becoming part of a tremendous historical organization. Please feel free to contact me, Jeromy Alt, at 513-569-2235 or Jeromy.alt@uc.edu to get more specific information about the LaSalle Council and the benefits of being a Knight of Columbus. Don't let uncertainty or being too busy get in the way of your calling to serve as a Catholic man.



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