

December

2017

YEAR IN REVIEW

Looking back at the successes of 2017

Found inside...

THE CHARITY SHARED

Aid for victims of natural disasters, advocacy for the persecuted, clothing for the cold, and much more.

THE BARS RAISED

Record-breaking highs for our insurance program and charitable initiatives both at home and abroad.

THE HONORS RECEIVED

Recognition for financial successes, honors awarded for leadership and accomplishments, and more.

LOVE IN ACTION AND TRUTH

When something becomes a trend, it's easy to take it for granted.

And when caught up in the whirlwind of our personal days, it's easy to lose sight of the bigger picture.

You might not be aware of all of the K of C accomplishments that marked the road of 2017, but that doesn't change the fact that you were a part of them.

The sheltering of a single refugee can help preserve Christianity in Iraq for generations to come. The benefit of an insurance policy can give a family the means to carry on after the loss of a loved one.

Every success, no matter the size, holds a significance that is impossible to foresee but easy to overlook. So, take a quick trip down memory lane and find some joy in that which we shared with others worldwide.





As America prepared to welcome a new president on Inauguration Day, Jan. 20, the Knights of Columbus invited its members and other Catholics throughout the nation to pray the Novena for National Unity.



The Knights of Columbus Insurance program achieved its 16th consecutive year of growth, with a record high of \$8.54 billion of life insurance in force on 71,186 certificates, protecting the futures of tens of thousands of Catholic families.



On Friday, Jan. 27, Vice President Mike Pence surprised hundreds of thousands of pro-lifers, including members of the Knights of Columbus, by speaking at the March for Life in Washington, D.C. Vice President Pence is the highest ranking government official to have ever attended the national march in its 44-year history. Deputy Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly, who serves as the March for Life chairman, referred to the march as “the largest annual civil rights gathering in the world.”

The Knights of Columbus sponsored a character camp on Jan. 31 for approximately 150 children, grades 3-8, at an inner-city Catholic school in Houston.

The Knights welcomed NFL Hall of Famer Anthony Muñoz, who spoke to the students on the character- and community-building aspects of sports.



Meanwhile...

Knights of Columbus members in the Philippines joined tens of thousands for Walk for Life events held throughout the country on Feb. 18.





On March 14, a year after the U.S. House of Representatives and State Department declared ISIS was committing genocide against Christians and other religious minorities, the Knights of Columbus contributed nearly \$2 million to aid Syrian and Iraqi Christian refugees.



The Benedict Leadership Institute at Belmont Abbey College in Belmont, N.C., presented Supreme Knight Carl Anderson with the inaugural Benedict Leadership Award March 24 for the Order's work on behalf of persecuted Christians.



Founder's Day, March 29, was observed throughout the Order. The Knights of Columbus Supreme Council marked the 135th anniversary by attending a Mass celebrated in St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn. The Supreme Council officers were joined by Connecticut State Council officers, other Knights and friends.



The Knights asked Catholics and others to join them in praying a novena during Lent, from March 12 to 20, for Christian communities throughout the Middle East who are being persecuted and killed for their faith.

Ethisphere® Institute recognizes K of C as a 2017 World's Most Ethical Company® for the fourth year in a row.

CHRISTIANS AT RISK

On March 3, the Knights donated \$75,000 to support the families of the victims of the church bombing in Cairo. The bombing of St. Peter and St. Paul chapel in St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Cathedral in Cairo had claimed the lives of 29 people, most of whom were women and children, making it the deadliest attack on the country's Christian minority in years.





In April, the Knights of Columbus in Poland promoted the Emmy-winning *Liberating a Continent: John Paul II and the Fall of Communism*. They invited the film's narrator, actor Jim Caviezel, to Poland March 28- April 2. There, Caviezel worked with the Knights to promote the Polish version of the documentary, the work of the Order and the teachings of John Paul II.



The Knights of Columbus Museum commemorated the 100th anniversary of the United States' participation in WWI with the exhibition "World War I: Beyond the Front Lines," which began on Apr. 6, 2017. The exhibition, which runs until December 2018, provides a historical retrospective of the war and includes interactives, images and artifacts from the Knights of Columbus Museum collection, the Supreme Council archives, and private lenders and organizations.

"THE FLAMES OF MERCY ARE BURNING ME — CLAMORING TO BE SPENT; I WANT TO POUR THEM OUT UPON THESE SOULS. NO SOUL WILL BE JUSTIFIED UNTIL IT TURNS WITH CONFIDENCE TO MY MERCY, AND THIS IS WHY THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EASTER IS TO BE THE FEAST OF MERCY. ON THAT DAY, PRIESTS ARE TO TELL EVERYONE ABOUT MY GREAT AND UNFATHOMABLE MERCY."

**— FROM ST. FAUSTINA KOWALSKA'S
DIVINE MERCY IN MY SOUL**

As Catholics throughout the world celebrated Divine Mercy Sunday, April 23, the Order invited the world to learn more about the Divine Mercy, one of St. John Paul II's favorite devotions, through the Knights of Columbus #MercyStories YouTube series.



Sister Gaudia Skass of the Congregation of Our Lady of Mercy displays an image of the Divine Mercy.



Knights of Columbus mourned the passing of Bishop Emeritus Thomas V. Daily of Brooklyn, N.Y., on May 15. Bishop Daily served as supreme chaplain of the Knights of Columbus for 18 years and was a foremost advocate for the pro-life cause.



"We applaud President Trump's executive order on religious liberty. While there is still work to be done to restore the reverence for religious freedom enshrined in the First Amendment, this order marks an important step in restoring those constitutional principles guaranteed to every American. Guided by their beliefs, people of faith contribute in important ways to every aspect of this country, and this order will begin to restore the principles upon which this country was based: that people of faith should be able to exercise that faith with the protection rather than the opposition of their government."

— Supreme Knight Anderson
May 4, 2017



Knights and their families were among the thousands gathered in Ottawa for the 20th Annual Canadian National March for Life, May 11. Supreme Director Graydon Nicholas of New Brunswick spoke at Parliament Hill during a rally held prior to the march.

On May 31, the Order mourned the death of Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, major archbishop emeritus of Kyiv-Halyč and former head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. Cardinal Husar was instrumental in establishing the Knights of Columbus in Ukraine.



Elsewhere...

The Order joined the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, in sponsoring wounded and disabled military personnel's travel to Lourdes, France, as part of the Warriors to Lourdes pilgrimage, which coincided with the 59th International Military Pilgrimage, held May 19-21. Joining attendees was the Supreme Council's Colonel Charles "Chuck" Gallina, USMC/RET (center).

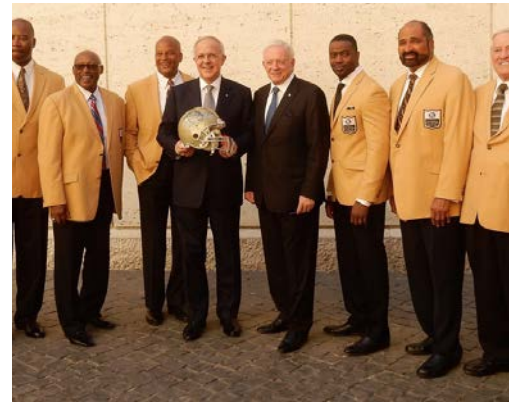




June 4-7, 80 Knights of Columbus agents gathered in Orlando, Fla., for the annual conference of the Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT). This year, K of C agents broke their own record, with 148 agents qualifying for membership in the MDRT, an international organization that recognizes the top 1 percent of financial professionals around the world.



During the annual Organizational Meeting of Knights of Columbus State Deputies, June 8-12, the supreme knight announced the Order reached new heights over the past fraternal year, donating \$177,500,673 in charitable giving and volunteering 75,112,694 hours.



Supreme Knight Carl Anderson was honored to introduce a delegation from the Pro Football Hall of Fame during a private audience with Pope Francis at the Vatican, June 21.



Columbia magazine, the Order's official publication, received a number of honors during the Catholic Press Association's annual awards banquet, held June 23 in Québec City.

ORDER ADVANCES 45 SPOTS TO
#880
ON FORTUNE® 1000 LIST

SUPPORTING THE PERSECUTED

The Order supported the House of Representatives' unanimous vote to pass the Iraq and Syria Emergency Relief and Accountability Act (H.R. 390), June 6. H.R. 390 allows the State Department to direct already appropriated funds to charities and other organizations that serve victims of genocide in war-torn Iraq and Syria.



'JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN AMERICA'

*More than 3,500 Catholic
leaders in attendance*

The Knights of Columbus served as the premier sponsor of the “Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel in America,” held July 1-4 in Orlando, Fla. Both Supreme Knight Carl Anderson and Deputy Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly addressed the convocation, respectively speaking on “Going to the Periphery” and “The Church’s Relationship With the State.”

**IN THE END NOTHING,
NOTHING WILL EVER BE
MORE IMPORTANT THAN
EVANGELIZING, BEARING
WITNESS, TEACHING
AND FULFILLING OUR
MISSION IN LOVE –
“COME RAIN OR COME
SHINE”!**

— SUPREME CHAPLAIN ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM LORI
FORTNIGHT FOR FREEDOM MASS, JULY 3
CONVOCATION OF CATHOLIC LEADERS





CONVINCED OF GOD'S LOVE AND POWER

The Knights held its 135th Supreme Convention in St. Louis, Aug. 1-3. Cardinals, archbishops, bishops and other members of the clergy joined approximately 2,000 members of the Order and their families from throughout North and Central America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and Europe. [Read more.](#)



At the 135th Supreme Convention, the Order recognized Marc Bouchard of Alberta and Sonny Sangemino of Ontario as the two leading general agents in insurance sales during the Supreme Knight's Award Session. Marc finished the year at 204 percent of his quota, with a volume per member of \$19,054.55. His agency's total gross volume was \$346,831,000. Sonny achieved 184 percent of quota, with a volume per member of \$9,613.79. His total gross volume was \$90,014,000.

The two leading field agents, Blake Stubbington of Alberta and Joseph van der Buhs of Saskatchewan, were also honored.

Returning Refugees Home

In a move that will give many Iraqi Christians and other religious minorities hope for the future, the Knights of Columbus announced at the supreme convention that it would raise and donate \$2 million to save Karamles, a predominantly Christian town on the Nineveh Plain. Karamles was liberated from ISIS late last year, but many of its homes, buildings and churches were destroyed.



Keeping Hopes High in the Face of Disaster

The Knights of Columbus initiated a campaign to assist thousands of people affected by hurricanes Harvey and Irma, ultimately raising more than \$3.8 million for victims of the disastrous storms. The Supreme Council took a leadership role in assisting those affected by these storms, offering aid wherever they were able and immediately distributing more than \$720,000 for food, water and other necessities.

"WITH EVERY IMAGE OF BENEVOLENCE FROM TEXAS AND LOUISIANA IN THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE HARVEY, WE'RE BEING REMINDED OF THE CHOICE WE ALL HAVE: TO REFUSE DARKNESS AND TO SERVE WHAT IS TRUE, SELECT WHAT IS GOOD, AND MANIFEST WHAT IS BEAUTIFUL ABOUT OURSELVES, OUR COMMUNITY, AND ABOUT HUMAN NATURE IN OUR WORLD TODAY."

— TEXAS STATE COUNCIL



The Order celebrated the beatification of missionary Father Stanley Rother, the first U.S.-born martyr, Sept. 23.



On Sept. 14, Supreme Secretary Michael O'Connor joined NFL Hall of Fame player and former coach Mike Ditka at a Coats for Kids event, helping students from St. Agnes of Bohemia Catholic School in Chicago.

More than 300 children received warm winter coats, adding to the 400,000+ coats distributed through the initiative since 2009.



On Sept. 22, the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council announced its donation of \$100,000 for distribution among the dioceses in the areas of Mexico City, Puebla and Cuernavaca to assist earthquake victims. Additionally, in response to Hurricane Maria, \$100,000 was donated to the Archdiocese of San Juan, Puerto Rico. Here, General Agent José Lebron-Sanabria and one of his agents help a man clear storm debris from his home.



On Oct. 2, leaders from the Knights of Columbus, the Seymour Institute, the Church of God in Christ and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops reaffirmed the continuing relevance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s principles of nonviolence as a foundation for a just and humane American society. They called on religious leaders of all denominations to sign a letter endorsing this nonviolent approach.



Pope Francis received Supreme Knight Carl Anderson in a private audience at the Vatican on Oct. 6. At that audience, Anderson discussed with the Holy Father the Knights' many initiatives, including its work on behalf of Christians at risk in the Middle East. He also presented the 2017 earnings from the Knights' Vicarius Christi Fund, valued at \$1.6 million.



Knights of Columbus applauded Vice President Mike Pence's pledge that the U.S. government will provide direct aid to Christians in the Middle East. The vice president singled out the Knights of Columbus for their "extraordinary work caring for the persecuted around the world." (Image courtesy of the White House)



Supreme Knight Anderson joined Special Olympics Chairman Timothy Shriver at the "Let's Change the Game" forum, Oct. 14. More than 400 athletes, family members, school representatives, volunteers and team managers attended the event.

On the anniversary of St. John Paul II's election as pope, Oct. 16, a bust of the saint was dedicated at a Mass held at the St. John Paul II Sanctuary in Kraków, Poland. The bust, a gift from the Knights of Columbus, had been presented to Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz, archbishop emeritus of Kraków, by the supreme knight at the 135th Supreme Convention in St. Louis.





Supreme Knight Carl Anderson led the Order in hosting the 2017 Special Olympics Unified Football Tournament in Rome, Oct. 11-15. Held at the Knights of Columbus Pius XI Athletic Center, the Order's premier sports center overlooking St. Peter's Basilica, the event brought together 200 athletes, with and without special needs, to promote support, respect and dignity for all.



THE FUTURE OF THE ORDER

During the first weekend in October, nearly 220 Knights from 87 campuses across North America gathered in New Haven, Conn., for the annual College Councils Conference.

Held annually since 1966, the College Councils Conference brings college Knights together from across the country and around the world. Attendees participate in a dynamic program of inspiring speakers, networking opportunities and leadership training.



"GRATEFUL HEART"

On Nov. 11, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson was awarded the Custody of the Holy Land's Grato Animo Award for the Knights of Columbus' work toward helping Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East.



STRATEGIZING FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

Knights of Columbus leaders discuss the Order's future at the Midyear Meeting of State Deputies, held in Washington, D.C., Nov. 17-19.



HIGHEST HONOR OF AMS

The Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, presented Supreme Knight Carl Anderson with its highest honor, recognizing the support the Order has given to members of the U.S. armed forces under his leadership. The medal was presented by Archbishop Timothy Broglio during the archdiocese's annual benefit Nov. 18 at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, D.C.



DELIVERING A SMILE... PRICELESS

As many headed out to shop on Black Friday, Nov. 24, Knights of Columbus from several jurisdictions — including British Columbia, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Idaho, Michigan, Minnesota and Washington — distributed 12,036 new winter coats to children in need.



BUILDING HOMES, BUILDING HOPE

On Nov. 28, the Knights of Columbus, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and other Catholic groups joined together in sponsoring "Solidarity in Suffering: A Week of Awareness for Persecuted Christians." The week, which was held to alert people to the plight of persecuted Christians in Iraq and Syria, began with the Day of Prayer on Nov. 26.

The Knights of Columbus Museum hosted its 13th annual crèche exhibition, "Peace on Earth: Crèches of the World." The exhibition featured items such as the museum's recent acquisition of Polish szopki, stone sculptures from Zimbabwe and Hummel figurines. Also included were crèches on loan from the Glencairn Museum (Pennsylvania), the International Marian Research Institute at the University of Dayton (Ohio), the Loyola University Museum of Art (Illinois) and Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal (Québec).



20th anniversary of the cause for Father McGivney's canonization!



The Chicago/Midwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences awarded Emmys to two KofC-produced video shorts: *The Testimony of Fr. Donald Calloway* and *Witness of Mercy: the Story of Jennifer Trapuzzano*. The videos are featured in the full-length documentary, *The Face of Mercy*.



On Dec. 13, the Knights of Columbus announced a gift of \$1.4 million to repair and help rebuild churches that were either destroyed or badly damaged in the late summer hurricanes that assaulted Texas, Florida and the U.S. Virgin Islands.