



# “ASK YOURSELF FIRST”

Knights of Columbus, Michigan State Council, Membership Initiative

## Knights of Columbus Annual Facts

- 1.8 million members
- 14,000 Councils Around the world
- 70 million service hours
- \$158 million in charitable donations
- \$1 million in scholarships
- \$2 million to seminarians and postulants
  
- \$1.3 million Heroes Fund (9/11)
  
- Since 1982, nearly \$50 million has been given to the Holy Father for his personal charities

**Knights of Columbus Michigan State Council Web Site: WWW.MIKofC.org**



# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

Greetings Brothers,

As you know, membership growth is all of our jobs, not just the Membership Director's. What we are asking, is for all of us to actively recruit new members with a slightly different emphasis than is typical. During this fraternal year, we are asking that you join us in our State's new membership initiative **“Ask Yourself First”**.

You may have heard that all you need to do is “just ask” and Catholic men will join. It is true that very few gentlemen have joined our ranks without being asked, however much of the “low hanging fruit” has been picked at many of our parishes. That is why we are asking you to take a few moments before you approach your next prospective member and **Ask Yourself First**, “why did I join the Knights” and then asks yourself “why do I remain a Knight.”

Each one of us had various reasons for joining the Knights as well as why we remain Knights. What we are asking you to do is to share with a prospective member your personal experience. Typically when we talk to a potential member, we talk about how great the Knights are and all of the great works that we accomplish. This is important! However, what prospective members don't hear is, what's in it for them. By sharing your personal reasons for joining and remaining a Knight they can get a glimpse of how they and their families will benefit personally with membership in the Knights of Columbus.

Included below are a few of the reasons some of our brother Knights have given for joining and remaining a Knight of Columbus. This is by far not an all inclusive list.

Reasons for Joining the Knights	Reasons for Remaining a Knight
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I wanted to help out in the Church, but I had limited availability and none of the other ministries were as flexible as the Knights.</li> <li>• I wanted to set a good example of service for my children.</li> <li>• I wanted to do something in the Church which would include my whole family.</li> <li>• The fraternal benefits were appealing</li> <li>• I wanted to join with my friend.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I'm proud to be a member of a group that supports our Church, the Pope and our Priest.</li> <li>• The dedication to the unborn.</li> <li>• The work they do with Special Olympics.</li> <li>• I like working with men that have the same faith beliefs that I do.</li> <li>• I'm proud to belong to an organization that accomplishes so much.</li> <li>• The Supreme and State Council support their beliefs with action as well as acts of charity.</li> </ul>

### IMPORTANCE OF MEMBERSHIP:

We often get wrapped up in meeting the numbers set to make our quota. Membership is more important than a quota and awards. We should grow our membership because we want to give other Catholic men the same opportunity for faith growth and fraternal friendships that we all enjoy. The more Knights that join our ranks increases the overall impact that we can have in our Church, community, and the world.