



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

September 2012

Dear Brothers in Christ:

Catholics are called to a life of service. In a particular way, Catholic men are called to care for their families and to serve their neighbors, their parishes and their faith communities. I am pleased to share with you that a great and wonderful opportunity exists for a Catholic man to answer this call to serve by becoming a member of the Knights of Columbus.

This exemplary order of Catholic men was founded in 1882 by a parish priest, Father Michael J. McGivney, who had the vision and foresight to begin an organization that would provide Catholic men the opportunity to live their Faith through performing charitable works, caring for their families, and defending the Catholic faith. Today, the Knights of Columbus count 1.8 million members in 14 countries, providing a strong moral example in an age where individualism promotes secularism over service to others. Last year, this international organization of practical Catholic men donated more than \$158 million and 70 million man-hours to charity, in addition to providing its members with the opportunity to share a fraternal brotherhood with men of similar values. In Illinois alone, the Knights contributed \$4,961,949.00 and 2.1 million man hours by their charitable efforts last year.

As a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus, I have witnessed the tremendous work that these men consistently accomplish in the Archdiocese of Chicago. However, there is much work that needs to be done in the name of charity. I strongly encourage each man in this Diocese, who considers himself to be a practicing Catholic and is at least 18 years old, to prayerfully consider joining the ranks of this fine organization.

Your pastor has been in contact with the leadership of your local Knights of Columbus Council, and Knights will be available after Mass on weekends of October to give you more information and personally invite you to join them. If for some reason you are not able to speak after Mass with a representative of the Knights, your parish priests will be happy to put you in contact with them. I strongly encourage you to take some time to learn more about the Knights of Columbus and to seriously consider joining us in our mission to promote Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. God bless you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago