



September 2022

NEWS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ST. LOUIS COUNCIL 3335



The Supreme Knight chairing the Opening Business Session near images of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The 2,400 participants reaffirmed their dedication to Our Mother as patroness of the Knights of Columbus, the Americas, and the unborn. There are over 2 million knights in councils around the world including the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Panama, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Philippines, Korea, France, Poland, Ukraine, and Military Overseas.

Stand In the Breach

Annual Report of the Supreme Knight at the 140th Supreme Convention of the Knights of Columbus 8/2022

Supreme Knight Patrick E. Kelly began his annual

report at the 140th annual Supreme Convention with the words: “We defend the faith. We protect the family. And when a need arises, we rise to meet it — with charity, unity and fraternity.” That summarizes our mission as we face one breach after another against them. Knights of Columbus Life Insurance to protect the family is part of the mission. Great fellowship is a byproduct of the mission. God defines the family, gender, and morality which is absolute, not secularists trying to redefine and change them.

Right to Life. Supreme Knight Kelly praised the Knights for standing in the breach to protect and defend the sanctity of life. The Knights were instrumental in organizing the first national March for Life in 1974, and year after year, they’ve helped it grow. Today, the March for Life has become the largest annual human rights demonstration in the world.



Supreme Knight Patrick E. Kelly notes in his annual report that the Knights of Columbus has placed 1,566 ultrasound machines in pregnancy resource centers since its *Ultrasound Initiative* began in 2009. Many a mother does not have the heart to go through an abortion after seeing her baby move within her womb. The Knights have played a major part in the Right to Life movement in the United States, which finally led to the repeal of the infamous 1973 *Roe v. Wade* Decision by the U.S. Supreme Court as the fight goes to each state. No longer can the Federal Government force any state to legalize abortion within its borders. Now each state is free to follow the will of its voters to legalize, place limits, or prohibit abortions of babies in the womb that God intended as a protected sanctuary for the unborn under the beating heart of his/her loving mother. (For great coverage of the Supreme Convention in detail with videos, photos, and the complete text of the Annual Report of the Supreme Knight go to <https://www.kofc.org/en/events/supreme-convention/2022/index.html>).

The Supreme Knight recalled the June launch of the new *ASAP (Aid and Support After Pregnancy)* program, which builds on the organization's years of support for women and children. The goal for the next fraternal year

ending June 30, 2023 is to distribute at least \$5 million to pregnancy resource centers, maternity homes and other organizations that give direct assistance to new mothers and babies. The funds, comprising donations from both local councils and the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council, will enhance the significant resources Knights already provide to mothers and their children, both born and unborn.

Supreme Knight Kelly emphasized the Eucharist and the spiritual component of the Knights of Columbus, urging Knights to deepen their devotion and to trust in strength from God as they continue in their mission for the Church and the family. “Above all else, being a Knight means drawing closer to the person of Jesus Christ, our King.....That’s why the Order is strongly supporting the *National Eucharistic Revival* in the United States.” He reiterated his call for all of us to be ‘*Knights of the Eucharist*’. “We should all strengthen our love for Christ truly present in the Eucharist.....The revival may be in the United States, but the Eucharist unites the universal Church.” The Supreme Council has developed Eucharistic procession training materials in consultation with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and pledged \$1 million in support of this multiyear event.

He urged the knights to strengthen evangelization efforts because an estimated 4 out of 5 Catholics fall away from the Church by their early 20s. “In these difficult times, each of us needs a living faith. And each of us needs to lead others to the Faith.” (Don’t just keep the Faith; spread it as you can). The Supreme Knight announced the coming launch of a new discipleship and evangelization initiative built on the foundation of the ***Into the Breach Video Series***, which has been viewed more than a million times. (You can view this entire 13 part video series, each about 12 minutes on masculinity and manly virtues by going to <https://www.kofc.org/en/campaigns/into-the-breach.html>). In addition, the Order will release a new series on marriage and family in the coming year.

Charity embodies the mission set forth by the organization’s founder, Blessed Michael McGivney. The Supreme Knight particularly praised the generosity of all the knights who supported Ukrainian refugees following the outbreak of war. Within 36 hours of the Russian invasion, the Knights of Columbus established the ***Ukraine Solidarity Fund***, committing \$1 million for immediate distribution to support Ukrainians affected by the invasion of their country, and a pledge to match all funds raised up to an additional \$500,000. To date, the Ukraine Solidarity Fund has raised nearly \$19 million —

one of the largest and fastest relief efforts in the organization's history.

Over 10,000 *Easter care packages* were assembled by the Knights of Columbus in Poland, which were distributed to displaced families in Ukraine during Holy Week. Polish Knights also established Charity Convoys & *Mercy Centers* at strategic points along the Poland-Ukraine border, where more than 300,000 refugees were served.

The supreme knight honored the names of two Ukrainian knights. Petro Popovych and Oleh Vorobiov who have died so far in the war, and he pledged his ongoing support for the evolving humanitarian needs there.

In the last fraternal year, the Knights and their councils donated nearly \$154 million to worthy causes and stepped up with close to 48 million hours of volunteer service. Included among these charitable endeavors were the Knights of Columbus *Coats for Kids* program, which provided 150,000 warm coats to children in need; *sponsorship of nearly 6,000 seminarians and postulants*; an ongoing partnership with the *Global Wheelchair Mission*, which provided the gift of mobility to nearly 9,000 people; continued *support for Special Olympics*, with donations of more than \$3.7 million and 418,000

volunteer hours, gave significant aid to the Kentucky tornado and New Mexico forest fire victims, help to the persecuted Christians of Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon as well as to earthquake victims of Haiti.

The Knights' insurance and investments divisions. “The original sign of our charity is our financial protection for Catholic families.....Father McGivney created the Knights to care for widows and orphans. And 140 years later, we have maintained this noble mission — while expanding it dramatically.” With more than \$119 billion of life insurance in force and superior ratings from Standard & Poor's and A. M. Best for its financial strength, Knights of Columbus Insurance is widely respected as one of the best life insurance providers in America. The organization's investments division, Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors (KoCAA), continues to provide the world's broadest lineup of Catholic investment strategies, including its highly attractive mutual funds and other investments that fully align with Church teaching on ethical investing. Today, KoCAA holds more than \$28 billion of assets under management.

In closing the Supreme Knight made a call to action to every knight, every one of us: ***“Our moment is now. And our mission is clear: Preserve life, protect the family, proclaim the faith. The world needs men who will match these times. And we are rising to meet this challenge.”*** In summary each one of us must do his part and “STAND IN

THE BREACH” against the onslaught of secular forces bent on undermining what our nation stands for, our Catholic values, and Church teaching.