

## **Knights of Columbus Council 8600 Membership Inquiry**

Calling all practical Catholic men 18 years or older. If you're interested in joining Council 8600, contact our Admissions Committee Chair via email at [Chancellor@kofc8600.org](mailto:Chancellor@kofc8600.org) or on his cell at 703-862-7284.

### **FAQ**

#### **1. What is the Knights of Columbus?**

The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic fraternal benefit society with more than 1.9 million members in over a dozen countries. Founded by Father Michael J. McGivney to help provide financial aid to Catholic families who've lost their income source to death, the Knights of Columbus is now one of the largest life insurers in North America. We help support a multitude of charitable causes. In the last decade, the Knights of Columbus has given more than \$1.55 billion to charity. In just 2016, members donated 73.5 million service hours.

#### **2. I don't have any spare time: Why should I join the Knights of Columbus?**

As a Knight you can not only choose the projects you're involved with, but the time you wish to dedicate to them. Many programs enrich family life through involvement with the parish and community. What's more, social activities and programs all are open to the whole family. A few hours a year is all it takes to support the Council. Yearly dues are only \$36.

#### **3. How does the St. Mary of Sorrows Council 8600 support the Parish Community?**

The Council supports the Parish Community in many ways. We support the Church-sponsored Scouting/Venture Program both financially and with leadership. We provide support to the Pastor and our Priests, helping maintain infrastructure and promoting the building campaign. We provide financial support to the Children's Choir and recognize the Altar Servers for their service. We support seminarians financially and via their annual cookout. We provide support to the Annual Labor Day picnic. We help in Feast Day celebrations with Honor Guards. Some members join the Council and develop their own new programs to support Parish needs. Knights are Eucharistic ministers, ushers at Mass, members of the choir, members of the Legion of Mary, Catechists and members of the RCIA team. In just about every ministry at St. Mary of Sorrows, you'll find Knights involved or leading the way.

Examples of our fundraising activities: Christmas Tree Sales, Kovar (Tootsie Rolls), Shredding Event, Celebrate Fairfax, Bingo & Silent Auction, Pancake Breakfast, Spaghetti Dinner, Polar Plunge, Tex Mex Night, Italian Night, Polish Night, Christmas Cards, Scholarships.

Examples of our volunteer work: Marian Homes, Helping Hands, April Improve-a-Home, Special Olympics, KAIROS Prison Ministry, Culture of Life, Route 123 Cleanup - Adopt a Highway, Thanksgiving Food Baskets, Christmas Food Baskets, Scouts, Squires, Squire Roses, Paul Stephan Foundation, Children's Christmas Party, Hypothermia Dinner, Project Gabriel, Project Manger, Pro-Life March.

#### 4. What are meetings like?

The Grand Knight leads the Council and is elected from our membership for a fraternal year from July 1 to June 30. Father Peffley serves the Council as Chaplin and guides the membership in spiritual matters. Our Council meets at Old St. Mary's Hall on the first and third Tuesdays of each month except for July and August when we meet only once each month. We start with fraternal time and a light meal with refreshments at 7 pm followed by praying Our Lady's Rosary at 7:35 pm. The official Council meetings begin at 8 pm honoring "Robert's Rules of Order". Meetings run approximately an hour, after which there is additional fraternal time. There is no requirement to attend every meeting, but by attending, one can learn more about ways to support the numerous activities and charities benefitting our Parish and community.

#### 5. What is a practical Catholic?

A practical Catholic accepts the teaching authority of the Catholic Church on matters of faith and morals, aspires to live in accord with the precepts of the Catholic Church, and is in good standing in the Catholic Church.

#### 6. Do I have to purchase Knights of Columbus insurance to become a member?

No, purchasing insurance is optional. In the Knights of Columbus, a man has to be a member before he may avail himself of the insurance benefit.