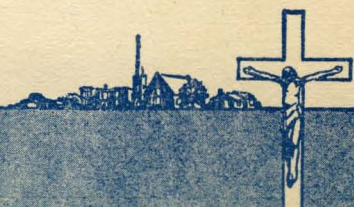


Knights
These 900,000
ADT 2704

These **900,000** **MEN**
they call
"KNIGHTS"



- The Knights of Columbus
- The Vision of Father McGivney
- Support of Education
- Charity and Christian Action on Every Front
- For God and Country —
 a Distinguished War Record
- The Councils at Work
- The Bogus Oath



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The Knights of Columbus

THE SUPREME BOARD of Directors of the Knights of Columbus, in January, 1948, put into operation a plan to bring the teachings of the Catholic religion to non-Catholics by means of advertisements in magazines of continent-wide circulation.

The program, patterned after a similar plan which had been carried on successfully on a state basis for several years by the State Council of Missouri received the hearty endorsement of members of the Hierarchy. The advertisements and all incidental literature bear the imprimatur of the Archbishop of St. Louis.

Magazines having a combined circulation in the United States of more than 34,000,000 and of 1,800,000 in Canada were selected to carry the advertisements. These advertisements were prepared and approved, their titles being as follows:

You Hear Strange Things About Catholics

Must We Go To Church To Be Christians?

The Bible is a Catholic Book Why Millions Call Him Holy Father

Confession?—Ask The Man Who Goes There!

The Japanese Priest Said
"Dominus Vobiscum"



Each advertisement offered a pamphlet without cost to those desiring fuller information about the subject.

The results exceeded by far the most enthusiastic expectations, more than 150,000 requests being received for pamphlets and other information.

But other results of the campaign were even more surprising and encouraging. Although the initial purpose of the program was to dispel bigotry and misunderstanding, it also brought forth a large number of people seeking religious instruction by mail and desiring to embrace the Catholic faith.

More than 11,000 persons made application for religious instructions as a result of the first six advertisements. And while no statistics are available, it is known that many others went to the parish priest for counsel and instruction after reading the advertisements.

Encouraged by the success of the first series of six advertisements, the Supreme Council, in the spring of 1949, authorized the continuation and expansion of the program. Eight advertisements, constituting the second series, were published—their titles being as follows:

Why The Catholic Church Says
"Investigate!"

God . . . Or The Greatest Fraud
That Ever Lived

Who Are These 900,000 Men
They Call "Knights"?

Yes, There Is A Catholic At-
titude

Lord, Teach Us To Pray

Let's Stick To Moses

But Can It Be Found In The
Bible?

What Happens After Death?

Again the results were most gratifying. Thousands of additional inquiries concerning the Catholic religion were received and many other thousands were enrolled for religious instruction by mail. With this added proof of the desire for Catholic truth the Knights of Columbus, in January 1950, began the publication of a third series of eight advertisements under the titles:

Yes . . . I Condemned The Cath-
olic Church

What Do You Mean—Only One
True Church?

But How Can Educated People
Be Catholics?

No—Belief In God Is Not
Enough!

The Real Secret of Successful
Marriage

Learn The Truth About the
Catholic Church By Mail—
At No Cost!

Is The Catholic Church a Men-
ace To Democracy?

But Do You Really Understand
the Bible?

This series resulted in increased demands and soon the fourth series of eight advertisements was released under the titles:

A Letter To Our Non-Catholic
Neighbors

Yes . . . The Mother of God
Will Help You

What Makes A Woman Choose
Such a Life?

All Right . . . I'll Tell You
Why I Am a Catholic

Why So Many Decide To Be-
come Catholics

All Right . . . Let Us Judge
Catholics By The Bible!

But . . . Would Christ Call You
a Christian?

But Do You Understand What
God Told Us?

As requests continued to mount, the next series of eight advertisements was released under the titles:

Should Children Learn About
God—in School?

No . . . The Bible Is Not Our
Sole Guide!

This Was the Faith of our
Fathers

These Are Our 7 Deadly En-
emies!

All Right . . . Let's Test
Catholic Loyalty!

But, Pop—Don't You Love
God, Too?

I Was Marked With The Sign
of the Cross

But Why the Candles, Holy
Water and Beads?

As requests reached the million

mark, additional advertisements were released under the titles:

. . . there shall be ONE fold and ONE shepherd

Why I had to embrace the Catholic Faith

Yes . . . Miracles Happened at Fatima!

Yes—Christ Gave Us The Catholic Mass

Does The Bible Contradict Itself?

What Does God's Law Say Between The Lines?

The response to these advertisements was even more pleasing than that which followed publication of the first two series. As of September 1, 1953, the number of inquiries concerning the Catholic religion that had been received totaled 1,400,000 and 120,000 persons had been enrolled for religious instruction by mail.

It is impossible, of course, to evaluate the effect of the advertisements upon the millions of

readers who did not request literature, but there is no doubt that many have learned the truth about the Catholic Church and its teachings for the first time and have a friendlier and more tolerant attitude toward Catholics and their faith.

Quick to see the merit of the advertising program, more than 500 state and subordinate councils of the Knights of Columbus supplemented the Supreme Council's efforts by publishing the series of ads in their local newspapers, thus reaching many readers not covered by the national magazines.

The advertising program has brought many inquiries from non-Catholics, asking about the Knights of Columbus—what does it stand for, what are its ideals, what is its program? The advertisement entitled "Who Are These 900,000 Men They Call Knights?" gives a partial answer. A more detailed description of the Order, its ideals, its membership and program is given in this pamphlet.

"Down through the years, the Knights of Columbus has rendered many fine services to the Church. We may rightfully be proud of our contributions to education, to youth work, to the welfare of our sons in the several wars. . . . Yet it may be truthfully said that no enterprise of ours has been more far reaching and long-lasting in its benefits than the Catholic Advertising Program which tells the world what we believe and why we believe it."

Excerpt from report of Supreme Council Catholic Advertising Committee, August 1952.

The Vision of Fr. McGivney

MARCH 29, 1882, was a significant date in the annals of North American fraternal societies.

It was the day on which the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut granted the charter to the Knights of Columbus.

It was also a glorious day in the life of a young Catholic priest, the Reverend Michael J. McGivney, curate of St. Mary's Parish in New Haven, for it marked the fulfillment of his dream to unite Catholic men in a society founded upon the ideals of their Faith.



The Founders

For four years Father McGivney had worked closely with the men of his parish. Out of this ministry came the vision and the ambition to organize them into a great and helpful fraternal society. Others had attempted to do this but failed.

Father McGivney called together in the parish rectory on January 9, 1882, a small group of young men in whom he had confidence. They listened as Father McGivney described the need for Catholic men to organize and the many possibilities such organization offered. And they agreed with him that the time had come to

launch a fraternal society founded upon the ideals and having the objectives suggested by the young priest.

In general, the objectives were to provide a system of fraternal insurance to care for the widows and orphans of members; to provide fellowship among the members, to aid the cause of religion, and to perform charitable, educational and patriotic works for the benefit of their fellow men and their nation.

At the meeting of the new society held on February 6, 1882, the name Knights of Columbus was chosen and the decision made to apply to the State Assembly for a charter.

The early officers and founders of the Order felt, in the preliminary meetings, that the name of the new organization should relate to the Catholic Discoverer of America—to emphasize the fact that Catholics discovered, explored and colonized the North American continent and that it should embody Knightly ideals of service to Church, Country and fellow-man. Consequently, after an original proposal of "Sons of Columbus", the title, Knights of Columbus, was adopted.

The following excerpts from the

charter set forth briefly the purposes of the Order:

“RESOLVED, By this Assembly that Reverend Michael J. McGivney, Matthew C. O’Connor, Cornelius T. Driscoll, James T. Mullen, John T. Kerrigan, Daniel Colwell and William M. Geary and all other persons in the society with them under the name of the Knights of Columbus, together with all such persons as may hereafter become associated with them, and their successors, are constituted a body corporate and politic by the name of the Knights of Columbus for the following purposes:

“(a) of rendering pecuniary aid to its members and beneficiaries of members;

“(b) of rendering mutual aid and assistance to its sick and disabled members;

“(c) of promoting such social and cultural intercourse among its members as shall be desirable and proper;

“(d) of promoting and conducting educational, charitable, religious, social welfare, war relief and welfare and public relief work.”

That these purposes have been fulfilled and the ambition of Father McGivney realized is abundantly proven by the society’s record of accomplishments.

Father McGivney and his associates laid the foundations well. They fixed high standards for membership and established sound principles for the guidance of the members. They formulated rules

and incorporated into them standards of conduct they regarded as vital to the achievement of the Order’s ideals.

It took 15 years to get the Order thoroughly established in New England and along the upper Atlantic seaboard. Then it began to spread outward and, within eight years, it was firmly established from Quebec to California and from Florida to Washington.

The Order Grows

Within another two years the Order had been organized in every jurisdiction in North America, and its principles of Charity, Unity, Brotherly Love and Patriotism had been adopted as the personal principles of hundreds of thousands of Catholic men.

Today the Knights of Columbus is an organized, functioning society in every state of the United States, in the ten provinces of Canada, in Alaska, the Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Cuba and the Philippine Islands. Its membership of nearly 900,000 men . . . representing every walk of life . . . is in affiliation with the Supreme Council of the Order through membership in sixty-one state councils and 3,300 subordinate councils.

Ideals mean little unless translated into constructive, dynamic action, and the Knights of Columbus combines its lofty principles with positive and practical action. From its beginning the Order maintained a plan of systematic saving by its members to provide immediate aid for dependents and

loved ones upon the death of a member.

Upon the foundation stones of charity and fraternity, there has been built a magnificent structure having nearly one half of a billion dollars of insurance in force upon the lives of the members of the Knights of Columbus, and, more recently, upon the lives of sons, grandsons or wards of members of the Order.

More than \$100,000,000 in benefits has been paid to widows, children and other dependents of insured members since the founding of the Order . . . thus helping to hold together many homes that might have been broken up by the loss of the family breadwinner.

Charity and Fraternity

The Knights of Columbus takes pride in this, not as a statistical achievement, but because it represents children saved from orphanages . . . juvenile delinquency records that were to remain unwritten . . . mothers who were able to maintain their homes and raise their children under the proper family influence. This is Charity and Fraternity in action.

By means of its Automatic Assessment Loan Plan, the Order has made it possible for members in financial difficulty to keep their insurance in force without premium payments over a period of time. And through its Old Age Benefit Concessions, the Order has paid more than \$7,000,000 to living Knights to lighten the burdens of their twilight years.

Good Management

With the adoption of the step rate plan in 1901, the Knights of Columbus became the first fraternal benefit society to be placed upon a sound actuarial basis. As a result, the Order's insurance program has been constantly expanded and developed until today it provides modern, attractive and inexpensive plans to meet all possible needs of the member and to provide security for the member's family upon his death.

The Knights of Columbus is recognized throughout North America as one of the strongest and most efficiently-managed fraternal societies. Its books, like those of all other insurance organizations, are examined every third year by the agents of various state insurance commissioners.

In closing their report for the three year period ending December 1950, the Insurance Commissioners for Connecticut, Michigan, Maryland and Wyoming stated:

"This report of examination as of December 31, 1950, finds the Knights of Columbus in a sound financial condition with admitted assets of \$79,467,958.94, liabilities of \$70,385,840.01 and unassigned funds of \$9,082,118.93. In addition to the certificate reserve included in the liabilities, the unassigned Benefit Reserve funds include a margin of safety of \$7,999,033.22 or 11.42% over and above the statutory standards for the \$373,198,537.00 insurance in force."

Support of Education

NO ACTIVITY has commanded as much interest and support on the part of the Knights of Columbus as the care and education of youth. From its beginning the Order has given a practical recognition to its belief that "as the twig is bent so the tree is inclined."



While still a young organization, just beginning to expand across the continent, the Knights of Columbus presented a gift of \$50,000 to endow a Chair of American History at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C.

In 1907, when a great need confronted the University, the Order raised among its own members the then stupendous sum of \$500,000 to endow scholarships there. Besides helping the University out of a difficult situation, this gift has enabled 836 young men to receive the benefits of higher education and 232 have received degrees.

Aid to Veterans

Following the close of the first World War, the Order expended more than \$8,000,000 in support of schools in various cities where 313,916 veterans received free training in academic, commercial, trade and technical fields. This

fund also maintained at 41 colleges and universities, scholarships leading to the degrees of Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science and their equivalent for 403 veterans, of whom 284 were graduated.

For five years after the first World War, the Order provided home study courses without charge for veterans who were unable to attend evening schools and more than 125,000 were enrolled.

A Notable Victory

The Knights of Columbus won a notable victory for the American people, and especially for the children of generations to come, by its successful fight against the so-called Oregon School Law. It began in 1922, when a law proposed by initiative petition was enacted in Oregon which would prevent children from attending private and parochial schools.

Responding to an appeal from Archbishop Christie of Portland, the Knights of Columbus provided \$25,000 with which to carry a test of the constitutionality of the law through the higher courts and eventually to the Supreme Court. To the credit of the Knights of Columbus, the Supreme Court ruled that the law violated the

rights of American citizens to educate their children in accordance with the dictates of their own conscience.

That is why the people today are not interfered with in the operation of their private and parochial schools and in the rearing of their children in the manner in which they wish them to be raised.

Many Benefactions

In 1920 the Knights of Columbus contributed \$60,000 toward the erection of a gymnasium at the Catholic University of America. In the same year a gift of \$35,000 was made to the Cardinal Mercier Fund for the restoration of Louvain University.

The Order raised \$1,500,000 in 1922 to provide for the spiritual and recreational welfare of the children of Rome, Italy.

The following year a gift of \$38,000 was made to the Cardinal Gibbons Institute for the care and education of Negro children in Maryland.

For more than 25 years, a correspondence school has been maintained by the Order providing instruction in 108 subjects for its wide-spread membership and their families. More than 40,000 have taken advantage of these benefits.

The Knights of Columbus in 1924, established at Notre Dame University a course in Boy Guidance to develop trained leaders interested in the counseling of boys as a life work. And at its own expense the Order provided 12 annual scholarships of two years each for students.

The Boy Guidance Course was maintained for 15 years, during which the Order expended more than \$400,000 in its support. It was discontinued only when this type of training and instruction was made available in schools throughout the country. More than 200 benefited from scholarships during this period.

When the Catholic Encyclopedia was published, a special Knights of Columbus edition of 30,000 was sold.

Defending U. S.

In 1921 the Knights of Columbus organized an Historical Commission composed of widely-known educators to investigate and protect the United States from propaganda designed to undermine the spirit of American nationality. As a result of this investigation, certain widely used history and other text books used in schools were eliminated or rewritten to remove matter misrepresenting historical facts or subverting American ideals.

The Knights of Columbus Historical Commission conducted a prize competition for studies in American History. Many notable books on the subject were written as a result, including "Jay's Treaty," by Samuel Flagg Bemis; "The Monroe Doctrine," by Thomas H. Mahoney, and "The American States," by Allan Nevins.

More than \$60,000 was expended by the Order in carrying out the work of the Historical Commission.

In 1939 the Knights of Columbus contributed \$10,000 to the Golden Jubilee Fund of the Catholic University. Another \$85,000 has been contributed to the maintenance of the Catholic Radio Hour broadcasts from Washington and Toronto.

Educational Trust Fund

Climaxing the Order's support of education has been the establishment of the Educational Trust Fund. This project was undertaken in 1944, under the leadership of Past Supreme Knight John E. Swift. Its objective was the establishment of a \$1,000,000 trust fund to provide a higher education for the sons and daughters of Knights killed or disabled in the war. These scholarships consist of four years at a Catholic college or university, leading to the degree of Bachelor of Arts or its equivalent. They include tuition, board and room (or an allowance for this item if the student does not reside on the campus), books, laboratory fees and other incidental college charges that may be levied upon the student in the pursuit of his studies.

In less than four years the fund was complete. Four hundred and one of these valiant Knights have been declared eligible for the scholarships, 31 have been enrolled at various colleges and universities and thus far ten have completed their studies and have attained their Bachelors' degree.

In the years to come, as these young people grow into manhood and womanhood, fortified by the advantages of a college education,

their broadened horizon and their enlarged talents and abilities will mean a great deal to them personally and to the perpetuation of the ideals for which their fathers suffered and died.

Vatican Library Foundation

The Supreme Board of Directors, in July 1951, adopted a resolution: "That there be established the 'Knights of Columbus Foundation for the Preservation of Historic Documents at the Vatican Library' and that a fund be set aside for the microfilming of important documents at the Vatican Library for the purpose of insuring the preservation of their contents and making them available for research and study in this country. . . ."

A depository for the microfilms of these historic documents has been established at St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo., where they will be available for research by scholars from the North American continent. This latest cultural contribution, which is in keeping with the tradition of the Order, is described in a brochure which has been distributed to colleges, libraries and universities. In commenting on the project, as an expression of personal praise and approbation of His Holiness for the establishment of the Foundation, Monsignor Montini said:

"In undertaking the financing of this vast project, your Order has made a worthwhile contribution to that Christian learning which the Church has ever fostered as part of its mission of peace and its educative function in the

cause of truth and universal understanding among peoples."

In keeping with its basic principles and its constant endeavor as exemplified by its war work, its Historical Commission, its opposition to the Oregon School Bill and the nation-wide lecture program conducted by Peter Collins, David Goldstein, Prof. James C. Monahan, Dr. James J. Walsh, Paul McGuire and Dr. George Herman Derry, the Knights of Columbus inaugurated in 1946 a plan

for the preservation and promotion of American ideals, by means of the distribution of handbooks and other literature and the organization of discussion groups.

The objective of this program is to acquaint American citizens with their rights and duties and to develop intelligent, trained leadership for democracy and in defense of American ideals. Much good already has been accomplished and this work will continue as long as the need may exist.

"The Knights of Columbus take their place this day in the foremost rank of the benefactors of humanity. What was formerly done by the great ones of this earth, the creation and endowment of the highest institutions of learning, and what in our own times has been the privilege of wealthy individuals, has, through the Knights of Columbus, been accomplished for the first time by the corporate efforts and sacrifices of Catholics associated for the highest interests, religious and civil."

. . . Cardinal Gibbons on occasion of presentation of \$500,000 endowment to the Catholic University of America.

Charity and Christian Action on Every Front

THAT THE Knights of Columbus takes full advantage of its opportunities to practice charity and promote religion is manifest in its entire field of activities. A few specific examples of these projects will be of interest.

The Order contributed \$100,000 to the relief of victims of the San Francisco disaster in 1916.

\$23,000 was contributed in 1920 to the Irish Relief Fund.

In 1923, a gift of \$25,000 was contributed to the fund for the relief of the stricken people of Japan, following the destructive earthquake.

Flood victims in the lower Mississippi Valley were assisted to the extent of \$50,000 in 1927.

Prompt Relief

In 1925, a contribution of \$2,500 was made to aid the victims of a hurricane in Puerto Rico.

Contributions ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 in each case were made for the assistance of flood victims in Louisiana, Texas, Colorado, Kansas, Ohio, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Cuba, Florida, Newfoundland, Maryland, Missouri, California and Santo Domingo. Sufferers from drought in Kentucky, Saskatchewan and Nebraska were similarly aided.

Wherever there has been a great public calamity, the Knights of Columbus has been among the first to offer practical, substantial, material relief—not merely to its own members, but to all sufferers, regardless of religious faith or social affiliation.

Aid to Veterans

For eight years following the close of the first World War, the Knights of Columbus conducted a welfare program among sick and disabled veterans in 450 hospitals. Knights of Columbus Secretaries helped to make life more bearable and pleasant for thousands of these veterans by personal services, by supplying individual needs for many items, by furnishing athletic equipment and arranging entertainment. More than 500,000 veterans shared in this welfare program, including 40,000 in hospitals during a period of eight years.

In Defense of Conscience

In 1926 and again in 1934 the defenseless Catholics of Mexico were undergoing cruel persecution at the hands of their government. Priests, nuns, men, women and children were the victims of atrocities committed in the name and under the sanction of the government for no reason other than the desire to worship God according

to the dictates of their own conscience.

The Knights of Columbus raised a fund of \$1,000,000 for a vigorous campaign in protest against these persecutions. It had a widespread effect. Public opinion was aroused, a sympathetic interest was awakened in the hearts of the American people, and the Mexican people themselves were encouraged and demonstrated a steadfastness and determination that won for them the respect and admiration of the people of other lands.

Commenting on the part played by the Knights of Columbus, His Holiness Pope Pius XI described it as "a magnificent example of fraternal assistance and support."

Many Generous Gifts

In 1927 the Order contributed \$5,000 to assist Catholic immigrants in Canada and Newfoundland. And in the same year \$5,000 was contributed to the Mexican Seminary at Las Vegas, New Mexico.

From 1937 to 1944, gifts totaling \$12,000 were made to the Reverend Richard Felix, O.S.B., for the work of the Defenders of the Faith.

In 1940 the Order contributed \$2,500 to the Paderewski Fund for

Polish Relief . . . and in 1945-46, gave \$10,000 for relief of the victims of war in the Philippines.

In 1946, a gift of \$5,000 was made to the Catholic Church Extension Society . . . and in 1948, the Order contributed \$10,000 to Reverend Patrick J. Peyton, C.S.C., for the Family Radio Theatre.

These gifts, it will be seen, are notable not merely for their amount, but for the charitable and spiritually constructive purposes for which they were made.

The Order's Youth Program

In addition to its Boy Guidance program, the Knights of Columbus in 1922 launched a junior order under the name, Columbian Squires, for boys of high school age. A unit of the Columbian Squires is known as a Circle and is under the supervision and sponsorship of a Council and a committee of Knights called Counsellors.

Each year the Order provides a series of summer schools in boy leadership at various Catholic colleges and universities, and the effect of this training upon thousands of men has been to qualify them to combat juvenile delinquency by means of constructive guidance and recreational programs.

"Your Order is in every sense a patriotic Order . . . it has ever shown its steadfast devotion to American principles and American ideals. You are Knights of Columbus, a name of great significance."

—Calvin Coolidge

For God and Country

— Distinguished War Record —

It is with special pride and satisfaction that members of the Knights of Columbus look upon the Order's many contributions to the welfare of their country in times of peace and times of peril.

All of the Order's educational, charitable and religious activities described in this book represent substantial contributions to the national interests. There are certain achievements, however, which particularly reflect the patriotic nature of the Order and which are worthy of special note here.

The record of the Order's patriotic contributions in time of national peril is, in fact, unparalleled in the history of fraternal groups. It has earned the Knights of Columbus world-wide fame and the glowing praise of civil and religious leaders everywhere.

Work on Mexican Border

In 1916, when American troops were stationed on the Mexican border, there was serious need for recreational and religious work among these fighting men. The Knights of Columbus set up 16 clubhouses from the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of California, where clean amusement and



healthful recreation were provided under the direction of secretaries for men of all faiths. Catholic Chaplains were maintained to provide religious services to the Catholic troops. This work brought to the Order the most flattering praise from civil and military leaders.

The First World War

No brighter chapter can be found in the annals of any organization than that which records the history of the Knights of Columbus war work.

When America entered the first World War, in April, 1917, a great crisis confronted the people of the Nation and the Catholic Church. Young men and tender youths who never had been away from home were being drawn into camps and cantonments for training and combat duty amid temptations and hardships which have been age-long incidents of army life.

These young men were without the counsel and solace of relatives and friends and the number of Chaplains was wholly inadequate to minister to their spiritual needs. In this hour of need the Knights of Columbus tendered its services.

Knowing the Order's reputation for disinterested service and honorable practices, citizens of all creeds welcomed the service which the Order proposed to render to their loved ones and which they themselves were unable to provide.

Helping Hand Everywhere

Knights of Columbus Secretaries and Chaplains became instantly popular. Soon they were to be found everywhere—in training camps and cantonments, on shell-torn battlefields, in base hospitals, at embarkation ports, abroad transports and at points of debarkation.

Clubhouses were erected at all these places. Five were maintained in London, 45 in France. And wherever there was a Knights of Columbus clubhouse, hut or tent, men of all races, creeds and color knew they were welcomed. Every man in the armed forces gave praise to the Knights of Columbus. They liked its slogan and its policy of "Everybody Welcome and Everything Free." It was a challenging slogan and veterans of the first World War still talk about the hospitality they always found in Knights of Columbus clubhouses wherever military duty led them.

The press and public alike acclaimed the Order for its great service. The newspapers published column upon column in its praise and artists and poets tried to outdo one another in its honor. Edgar Guest expressed the Nation's gratitude in the following poem:

"They do not ask the faith or
creed

Of him that comes into their
hut;
True Knighthood's door is
never shut
Against a pilgrim warrior's
need.
They question only: 'Would
you rest
And are you weary and op-
pressed?
Then, brother, lay aside your
care,
And come, this sheltering roof
to share'."

The Highest Praise

Words of commendation came from President Woodrow Wilson, Secretary of the Navy Daniel, Secretary of War Baker, General Pershing, Marshal Foch, Premier Clemenceau and many others. Bishop Russell, of the Bishop's Administrative Board, speaking in the name of the Catholic Hierarchy, said that no one aware of the problem confronting the Church at the beginning of the war . . . and knowing how it had been solved by the Knights of Columbus . . . could fail to believe that the Order was divinely instituted.

When Selective Service was instituted in the fall of 1940, in preparation for the second World War, the Knights of Columbus again offered its service to perform the same work it had rendered in the first conflict.

The decision rested with the Hierarchy. They decided to create a new agency called the National Catholic Community Service, which would function under

their direct guidance and control and be affiliated with the United Service Organizations and that no Catholic work of this character should be done under any other name. The effect of this decision was to exclude the Knights of Columbus in the United States as an organization from performing a service for the armed forces in the second World War such as had brought it world-wide fame in connection with the first World War. However, the officers and members of the Order gave their active individual support and made their building facilities available in assisting the other organizations wherever and whenever possible.

With Canadian Troops Too

Coincident with the war work of the Knights of Columbus in the United States in the first World War, the Knights of Columbus in Canada carried on a similar program among Canadian forces under the name Catholic Army Huts.

Centers were established at training camps throughout Canada, at points of embarkation, in London and at rest camps throughout England. These were staffed by Chaplains and Secretaries who ministered to every need of the men in the service and the slogan, "All Soldiers Welcome," was conscientiously lived up to.

This brought to the portals of the Catholic Army Huts men of all religions and nationalities. Complete harmony reigned and Colonial fraternized with Imperial and Protestant with Catholic. Catho-

lic soldiers appreciated the spiritual opportunities offered and non-Catholics appreciated the fact that there was no attempt to attach religious propaganda to meals, recreation and social entertainments.

Chaplain Gives Life

Fifteen chapel tents were erected behind the lines in France and the Chaplain who occupied one of these was killed in the trenches while ministering to his men.

Hospital service was given, comforts were furnished, and there was entertainment for the sick and the wounded, a service which was continued long after overseas troops had returned to their homes.

The three factors requisite to the success of any organized Catholic endeavor—guidance of the Hierarchy, cooperation of the clergy and support of the people—were present in generous measure and, with the backing of the press and the public, the Knights of Columbus performed a service for Canada and for its armed forces which brought sincerest thanks and appreciation from a grateful nation and which will live in the memories of its hundreds of thousands of soldiers and sailors as long as life shall last.

Thanks From Soldier

An expression that typified the attitude of the men is the following excerpt from a letter written by one of them:

"God bless you all, dear Catholic workers, for this work of mercy so well fulfilled. Jew and Gentile, Protestant and Catho-

lic, we all remember with grateful pleasure happy hours spent within your 'well run' hut."

A General Officer Commanding at one of the rest centers wrote:

"I can assure you that many homes in Canada will thank you for your kindness to their sons."

Second World War

Upon the outbreak of World War II in 1939, the Knights of Columbus in Canada, with the approval of His Eminence, Cardinal Villeneuve, and other members of the Hierarchy, again offered their services to the government. This offer was accepted and the work was organized under the name Knights of Columbus Canadian Army Huts.

From a very humble beginning, the work developed into a service extending from Victoria to Halifax, to Hong Kong, the Aleutians, Labrador, Iceland, England, France, Sicily, Italy, North Africa, Tripoli and Egypt.

Huts were established wherever Canadian service men were assembled, whether for training or recreation in Canada or for combat duty in the war areas, and hotels were maintained at ports of embarkation. Three large hotels were also maintained in London, and Town Centers were established at eight places in England where Canadian troops were quartered for training or rest.

At all of these places lounging facilities were provided by the Knights of Columbus supervisors.

Canteens were operated, items for the personal comfort of the troops were supplied, dances were organized, books and magazines were made available. There were radios and printed news bulletins, shows were organized and movies were exhibited wherever possible, and sports programs were regular and popular features.

Every facility of the organization was open to all service-men, regardless of race or creed, and this fact was known to and accepted by all.

Dies in Service

In May, 1940, one of the Canadian members of the Supreme Board of Directors, Lieutenant Colonel Dr. Claude Brown, President of the Knights of Columbus Canadian Army Huts, went to England to take personal charge of the work overseas. His splendid organizational ability was responsible for the efficient manner in which the work was carried on, and his influence manifested itself long after his untimely death in the midst of the work he loved, in April, 1941.

By sheer initiative and the will to do the job, supervisors who landed with assault troops in Italy carried on what amounted to an auxiliary service, despite limited supplies and lack of transport.

When the Canadian Army of Occupation took its position in the Wilhelmshaven, Germany, area in the summer of 1945, it was accompanied by Knights of Columbus supervisors who carried on there the same service that had

been furnished previously in other areas.

Tributes to Knights

Canadian Government officials, army officers and men, and members of the press and clergy paid warm tributes to the Knights of Columbus for their work. A typical commendation was from a Commanding Officer, who said:

"The contribution to the morale of the Canadian soldier is quite beyond measurement. Whether during battle, or in the difficult months preparing for operations, that work has gone on without ceasing and without stint."

From the beginning of the war a particular effort was made to assist the Chaplain Services. Funds were provided, religious papers and religious articles supplied. Whenever needed, the Huts were made available for religious services. In many of the Huts, chapels were outfitted and several of them also served as living quarters for Chaplains.

"A Golden Chain"

"In Canada," said Archbishop Nelligan, "the Knights of Columbus Canadian Army Huts stretch like a golden chain from coast to coast. . . . It is indeed a consoling fact that these Huts are made to serve a manifold utility—a place of divine worship on Sunday, a theatre of entertainment on different nights of the week and at all times a center where the men are provided with canteen and other facilities."

And Cardinal Villeneuve added:

"The Knights of Columbus have had great success in this work. . . . My best wishes and my blessing and also my congratulations."

Distinguished War Record

The war record of the Knights of Columbus is a distinguished one, not only for the services rendered the troops, but for the number of its members who themselves were in the ranks of the fighting men of the United States and Canada. More than 73,000 Knights served in the armed forces—many with distinction, and all with credit to themselves, or their branch of the service and to the Order.

A large bronze tablet at the home office building of the Order, at New Haven, Connecticut, was dedicated on June 21, 1947, to the memory of 1,685 Knights who gave their lives in World War II in defense of their respective countries. It bears the name of each of this legion of men who made the supreme sacrifice for God and country.

A Program for Peace

In the midst of the recent World War, the Knights of Columbus . . . seeking a formula for lasting peace among the nations . . . adopted and made public in August, 1943, a Peace Proposal as a basis for international amity.

The program declared that a just and lasting peace could be achieved only by acceptance of the principle of precedence for the rights of God over the rights of man, and in men themselves the precedence of duty over rights. It

urged that as a first step toward world peace, the law of moral right be substituted for the barbaric rule of material right—in short, bringing God into world government. This program was widely endorsed by educators and churchmen. Many copies of it were distributed and additional copies are still available.

War on Communism

In keeping with its policy of militantly opposing the encroachment of atheistic doctrines which would destroy religion and undermine the ideals upon which our democratic form of government is founded, the Knights of Columbus maintained for years, a corps of lecturers who preached against Communist philosophy which deprives men of soul, faith, conscience and morality, which would destroy our free institutions and undermine our principles of civil and religious liberty.

Early in 1946, when it appeared that the United States Government and people were adopting a policy of conciliation and appeasement toward Communism and the Soviet philosophy, a vigorous campaign was launched to arouse American public opinion to the dangers involved.

Twenty-four transcribed radio programs exposing the dangers of atheistic Communism and explaining the foundation and ideals of our democratic nations have been on the air on more than 700 radio stations. Over a million copies of the Papal Encyclical on Atheistic Communism were dis-

tributed by the Order as part of its program of exposing the dangers of this nefarious philosophy.

Against Appeasement

Supreme Officers and Directors delivered many addresses before large audiences, warning of the menace, and the Missouri State Council of the Knights of Columbus published large advertisements in newspapers throughout the country to call attention to the situation and asking that letters and postcards of protest be sent to the President and members of Congress.

Many hundreds of thousands of such communications were sent and a large number of resolutions were adopted and sent to the President and the State Department. The effects of this campaign were obvious. Officials opposed to such appeasement were strengthened in their position and the rapid trend toward conciliation was stopped.

No more humanitarian activity was ever undertaken by the Order than its Blood Donor Program.

Since 1938, more than 75,000 pints of blood have been donated by members of the Order to provide transfusions for their fellow-Knights, relatives of Knights and indigent patients.

On the basis of customary charges for blood transfusions, these donations in the first fifteen years of the program represented a saving of \$2,500,000 to sick and afflicted people. More important, it also represented an untold number of lives saved and many periods of hospitalization short-

ened for those aided. In this, as in its many other activities, the Knights demonstrated the spirit of charity and fraternity at its best.

Pilgrimage to Rome

In the summer of 1920 three hundred and seventy three Knights, headed by the Supreme Knight and a Committee of Supreme Officers and Directors, made a pilgrimage to Rome.

First they visited France to dedicate a statue of Lafayette at the military academy at Metz, where Lafayette was stationed at the time he resigned his French Army commission to come to the aid of the American colonists in the War for Independence. They were accorded a wonderful reception by the Hierarchy and the French government and the highest officials of Church and State participated in the dedication service.

A warm welcome also awaited the pilgrims on their arrival in Rome, the Eternal City. They were guests of His Holiness Pope Benedict XV in private audience and

on Sunday, August 25, the Holy Father celebrated a private Mass for the visitors in the Vatican Gardens, personally distributing the Holy Eucharist to each of them.

Columbia

The official publication of the Knights of Columbus is a carefully-edited, well-managed national magazine called *Columbia*. With its distribution to the Order's nearly 900,000 members, it has the largest circulation of any Catholic magazine.

Articles on a wide variety of subjects of interest to Catholics as well as Knights are published regularly. Happenings of interest within the Order's far-flung membership are described and illustrated in reports and pictures. The editorial page carries interesting and informed opinions on matters of current concern. *Columbia* is an influential force not only for the Knights of Columbus, but for the cause of religion and the welfare of the nation.

“Of all the organizations that took part in the winning of the war, with the exception of the military itself, there was none so efficiently and ably administered as the Knights of Columbus.”

From address of General John J. Pershing, U.S.A. Commander of the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I.

The Councils at Work

It would be impossible in the limited space available here to describe even briefly the many fields of patriotic, civic and humanitarian activity in which the State and subordinate Councils of the Knights of Columbus engage.

They are, to begin with, supporters of, and participants in, all of the national and international achievements of the Order which are described in these pages. In addition, they are active at the local level in too many ways to attempt to report here. Some typical examples of this work at the local and State level are the following:

Varied Charities

The Indiana State Council, about 1923, founded the Gibault Home for Boys near Terre Haute, with accommodations for 125 boys. More than \$600,000 has been contributed for the establishment and maintenance of this home, and the State Council has made annual gifts of \$25,000 to the home in recent years. South Bend Council contributed \$25,000 to a fund for construction of a Catholic High School. Notre Dame Council contributed \$6,000 to Holy Cross Mission at Dacca, Indiana. Saint Thomas Council at Gary gave \$4,000 to Saint Monica's Mission.



Jasper Council donated \$25,000 to the cost of a Memorial Hospital in Dubois County.

Students Home Erected

In 1919 the Missouri State Council erected at Columbia, Mo., a Knights of Columbus Students' Home at a cost of \$125,000, to serve as a center for Catholic students attending the State University. Later it contributed \$25,000 to its maintenance fund. In 1922 it contributed \$200,000 to the Endowment Fund of St. Louis University. In 1944 it inaugurated the plan of explaining Catholic beliefs and practices in paid advertisements in the public press. More than \$100,000 has been expended for this program, and the current advertising program of the Supreme Council is an outgrowth of the Missouri plan.

The Delaware State Council promotes activities among the Councils of its jurisdiction.

Utah State Council provided \$1,000 for the Bishop to assist in the education of priests. The Council also assists in the maintenance of three Newman Clubs. Salt Lake Council furnished a guest room at the Trappist Monastery at Huntsville and Ogden Council assists in

the maintenance of the Newman Club at Weber College.

The New York Knights

The New York State Council began in 1924 the erection of a sanatorium for tubercular members at Gabriel's in the Adirondack Mountains. The first patients were admitted in July, 1927, and 380 members of the Order have been hospitalized there since then at a cost of more than \$350,000. This is in addition to \$200,000 originally invested in the property.

It awards scholarships to boys and girls at an annual cost of \$15,000, more than \$160,000 having been spent in this way. Also among the many achievements of the New York State Council are the following:

Establishment of a burse for students for the priesthood at Wadhams Hall Seminary, at a cost of \$5,000 . . . appropriation of \$25,000 for the erection of a chapel, mission house and rectory at the place where Columbus landed on the Island of San Salvador . . . a leisure-time program for boys and girls which has cost upward of \$42,000 . . . a contribution of \$75,000 during World War II for the purchase of Mass kits and clerical supplies for Chaplains.

Works of an outstanding character by Councils and Chapters in New York State include a gift of \$300,000 to Canisius College by the New York Chapter; \$10,000 for two burses for the education of seminarians by the Utica Council; \$7,000 to the Saint Francis Orphan Home by the Oswego Council,

and \$2,500 to Memorial Field by Poughkeepsie Council.

Among contributions to charitable, religious and public welfare projects by the Wisconsin State Council are \$25,000 toward the cost of a chapel at the University of Wisconsin; \$15,000 for a Chaplain at the Waukesha Industrial School; \$10,000 for a Chaplain at the Green Bay Reformatory; \$50,000 for scholarships at Marquette University; \$7,500 to maintain teaching Sisters at the Marquette University Summer School; \$6,000 for scholarships for young men in the Boy Guidance Course at Notre Dame University; \$3,000 for the education of Indian children; \$20,000 to the Bishops to assist in the education of candidates for the priesthood.

Feeding Orphans

Outstanding among the Pennsylvania activities are movements directed by the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh Chapters. Each year the Philadelphia Chapter sponsors a summer outing and at Thanksgiving a turkey dinner for 3,000 orphan children at a cost of \$25,000. It also established a burse for the education of candidates for the priesthood and sponsors a non-sectarian committee to promote religious observance of Good Friday. The Pittsburgh Chapter sponsors the Catholic Youth Bureau which, for 23 years, has provided and supervised recreation and community activity for thousands of children.

Councils in Quebec have expended more than \$1,500,000 in

assistance to orphans, widows, the poor, for Catholic education and for religious work.

The North Carolina State Council annually contributes \$1,000 to the Orphanage at Nazareth, and a like amount to the Bishop for the education of candidates for the priesthood.

The New Brunswick State Council has, since 1923, awarded scholarships to 82 young men at Catholic Universities at a cost of \$37,800. Fourteen have been ordained to the priesthood, and five others will be ordained in the near future. The Council's Home Finding Committee has placed 360 orphans in good Catholic homes.

The Ontario State Council has been active in the preservation of shrines of martyrs and in the development of youth and educational activities.

A Council in Newfoundland donated a fully equipped school for four hundred and eighty pupils to the Archdiocese.

In Southern States

The Florida State Council has established a burse for the education of candidates for the priesthood, it has published a digest of approved Catholic books which it distributed to libraries throughout the country, and it conducts an essay contest on the early history of Florida which is open to all parochial school students and all Catholic students in the public schools.

The Texas State Council, through a Historical Commission, formed by it, has expended \$100,000

in the writing of a seven-volume history known as "Our Catholic Heritage in Texas" which is recognized as authentic and authoritative. It has accumulated many priceless relics and documents which have been donated to The Texas Catholic Historical Society. It built St. Mary's Chapel at the Texas A. & M. College at a cost of \$60,000.

It established a loan fund of \$12,000 to assist deserving Catholic students attending Catholic Colleges. It donated \$3,500 each to Saint Edward's University at Austin and Saint Mary's University in San Antonio. It contributes to the maintenance of a Chaplain at the State Tubercular Sanatorium. It is now developing plans for a home for under-privileged boys.

The Ohio State Council contributes to the maintenance of Chaplains at six state institutions at a cost of \$2,700 per year. It contributed \$65,000 to the promotion of Newman Clubs at State Colleges and Universities and annually contributes \$60,000 to the Archbishops and Bishops for the promotion of the Youth Programs in their dioceses.

The Virginia State Council has contributed \$3,000 to a fund for the education of candidates for the priesthood and makes an annual contribution for that purpose.

"Boysville"

The Michigan State Council accepted the invitation of the Cardinal and the Bishops to cooperate in the establishment and maintenance of "Boysville," near Ma-

con, Michigan, for the care and training of boys of high school age, preference being given to homeless boys.

The British Columbia State Council contributes annually to a fund for the education of priests, its contributions for this purpose having amounted in the aggregate to \$4,000.

The New Jersey State Council maintains two summer camps for boys with accommodations for 330 boys. It provides two scholarships for candidates for the priesthood at an annual cost of \$1,500.

A New Orphanage

The Saskatchewan State Council raised \$110,000 for the rebuilding of the Orphanage at Prince Albert, which had been destroyed by a disastrous fire. It contributed \$3,500 to purchase fire safety equipment for the orphanage at Ituna and it contributes \$1,000 annually to each of the Prince Albert and Ituna Orphanages. It raised \$4,500 for the Old Folks Home at Gravelbourg, \$3,500 to provide equipment for the girls' camp at Lebret, \$2,600 for Saint Patrick's Orphanage, \$2,500 for girls' Welfare Work in Saskatoon and \$6,500 for the Cardinal Fringe European Relief Fund. It has pledged \$50,000 toward the construction of a new Old Folks Home at Gravelbourg.

Street Preaching

The Colorado State Council has contributed to the street preaching and public speaking funds of the two dioceses and the maintenance of Newman Clubs at various col-

leges and universities. The Denver General Assembly is sponsoring the erection of a shrine to Mother Francis Xavier Cabrini on the top of Lookout Mountain. Each year it provides a four-year scholarship at Regis College for a deserving graduate of the Catholic High Schools. It contributed \$5,000 to the Loretto Heights Building Fund, \$1,000 to the Infant of Prague Nursery and \$500 to a Seminary burse. Walsenburg Council sponsored the erection of the Saint Mary's Athletic Field at a cost of \$2,000. Pueblo Council contributed \$500 to the New Catholic High School.

Recreation Aided

The Idaho State Council has established a fund to be used for the construction of a gymnasium and recreation building at St. Joseph's Children's Home at Cul de Sac, which is operated for orphans and under-privileged children. The building will be a memorial to members who were killed in World War II. It contributes annually to a fund for the education of candidates for the priesthood. It contributed the money required to install a new heating system. Wallace Council has for more than ten years maintained bus service for children attending the parochial school.

In Arkansas, the activities of two councils are outstanding. Little Rock Council established a burse of \$5,000 for the education of candidates for the priesthood. Each year it raises \$5,000 for St. Joseph's Orphanage and \$2,500 for

St. Mary's Academy and it provides an annual Christmas dinner for the children in St. Joseph's Orphanage. Pine Bluff Council raises \$4,000 each year for the Annunciation Academy.

A Retreat House

The State Council at Maryland raised \$90,000 for the Manresa-on-the-Severn Retreat House. Each year it provides a Christmas Dinner for the 1200 children in Catholic Orphanages. This year it contributed \$2,500 to the Home for the Aged. It installed an elevator for the Little Sisters of the Poor at a cost of \$10,000.

Support of Education

The Georgia State Council contributes annually to the support of the Saint Thomas Vocational School for Boys and to the fund for the maintenance of schools and churches. The Augusta and Atlanta Councils provide entertainment for the children in St. Joseph's Home. The Columbus Council assisted in the erection of the Catholic Hospital at that place.

The Kansas State Council is engaged in the erection of a memorial to Father Juan Padilla at the spot where he first raised the cross as he accompanied Coronado into Kansas in the early part of the sixteenth century, the cost of which will be \$8,000. Wichita Council has established a \$10,000 burse for the education of candidates for the priesthood.

The Oklahoma State Council has established a \$15,000 burse for the education of candidates for the

priesthood and has \$3,600 on hand for another.

Hospital Beds

The Rhode Island State Council maintains two hospital beds for free use by members. It contributed \$5,000 for an altar for the seminary. It established a fund of \$10,000 to provide scholarships for deserving Catholic young men and \$1,200 for scholarships in Catholic High Schools. It contributes \$10,000 annually for charities and the care of ill and dependent members. The Assembly at Newport has contributed \$80,000 toward the maintenance of scholarships for worthy Catholic young men.

The Connecticut State Council has contributed \$5,500 to Saint Agnes Home, \$2,000 to Saint Francis Orphan Home, \$25,000 to Saint Thomas Seminary. \$10,000 to Saint Joseph's College, \$5,000 to Highland Heights Orphanage, \$25,000 to Saint John's School for Boys, \$2,500 each to the new Retreat Houses of the Passionist Fathers and the Holy Ghost Fathers and \$5,000 to the Bishop of Hartford.

Youth Camp

The South Dakota State Council has established a burse of \$5,000 to assist in the education of candidates for the priesthood. It maintains a Youth Camp in the Black Hills.

The Montana State Council provided a fund of \$50,000 for scholarships at Carroll College. Great Falls and Helena Councils provide

a special dinner for persons who have just been admitted as citizens.

The Vermont State Council maintains a scholarship for young men studying for the priesthood. It contributes \$1,500 annually to the Don Bosco School for underprivileged boys. It assists in providing transportation for Sisters to the State School for Mentally Deficient. It maintains a center in Burlington where Catholic literature and reference work is available for students at the State University and Saint Michael's College.

Homes for Children

The Illinois State Council has maintained a Home Finding Service for children at a cost of \$7,000 per year for many years. It contributes \$5,000 each year to the Newman Foundation at the University of Illinois. It maintains annual scholarships at the Catholic Boys Schools and the Councils in the Chicago Archdiocese annually raise funds for the Bishop Sheil Underprivileged Youth Fund, the amount now aggregating over \$600,000.

The Arizona State Council operates in the maintenance of the Newman Club Program and it contributes \$500 each year for that purpose.

The Oregon State Council cooperated actively in the movement to defeat the Oregon School Bill and in having it presented to the Supreme Court, which held it to be unconstitutional. It established a burse of \$5,000 for the education of candidates for the priesthood

and has contributed an additional \$3,500 for the same purpose. It has fostered beneficial legislation for students attending parochial schools.

Each year the California State Council contributes \$1,000 to provide scholarships in the four Catholic Colleges and \$3,000 to the Bishops for the education of candidates for the priesthood. The councils affiliated with the Southern California Chapter raised \$12,000 to build a chapel at the Rancho San Antonio Boys Home and contributes \$2,500 annually for its maintenance. Pasadena Council contributes \$1,000 each year to Saint Luke's Hospital. Glendale Council provides Christmas cheer each year at the Veterans Hospital. The Northern California councils are engaged in raising funds for an addition to the Archbishop Hanna Home.

The Tennessee State Council makes an annual contribution to the Bishop for the education of candidates for the priesthood. Loretta Council raised \$5,000 for the Father Ryan School.

The Louisiana State Council contributed \$21,500 toward the operation of Catholic Student Centers at the State Universities. It has raised \$15,500 toward a fund for a state sponsored youth project. The councils in the Alexandria Diocese are assisting in raising funds for a Seminary, Retreat House and Boy's Camp.

The Iowa State Council contributed \$55,000 to the Bishops of the State to assist in educating candidates for the priesthood;

\$50,000 for the maintenance of Student Pastors at the State educational institutions and it is now raising funds to support Catholic Student Centers at those institutions; it assisted in the maintenance of Catholic Chaplains at the Veterans Hospital at Knoxville.

The Minnesota State Council has for many years maintained a bureau at the Mayo Clinic at Rochester with a secretary in charge who visits sick patients, assists them with their correspondence, provides them with literature and does everything possible

to make the lot of the sick and convalescent more cheerful. It sponsors a Catechetical Contest and awards an annual scholarship to the winning boy or girl in each of the five dioceses. It is engaged in raising \$150,000 to erect a Catholic Student Center at the University of Minnesota.

The Washington State Council has for three years sponsored the publication of Narberth articles in thirteen newspapers throughout the State at an annual cost of \$10,000.

“The Knights of Columbus represent the American expression of Catholic Action. The Knights are organized for a purpose which has meaning only insofar as they are in perfect accord with the mind of the Church. In the spirit of this accord they are the real warriors of our time, whose armor is Christian fraternity, whose sword is the truth, and whose banner proclaims peace through sacrifice. They are showing in our day a deep understanding of their purpose and are set upon an enlightened program of action. Decent men cannot help but be attracted to an Order so zealously professing the rich truths of the faith. This is the spirit that makes Columbian action Catholic Action.”

Excerpt from address by the Most Reverend John King Mussio, Bishop of Steubenville at the 50th Anniversary State Council Meeting of Ohio.

The Structure of the Order

Fundamentally the Knights of Columbus operates in accordance with the laws relating to fraternal benefit societies, which require a representative form of government with a supreme governing or legislative body and subordinate branches into which members shall be elected, initiated and admitted in accordance with its constitution, laws and rules. Accordingly, the Knights of Columbus has for its governing body the Supreme Council, State Councils in each of the 61 jurisdictions in North America and 3,300 subordinate Councils comprising a membership of nearly 900,000.

The Supreme Council is composed of the Past Supreme Knights, the Supreme Officers and Supreme Directors, the State Deputy and the last living Past State Deputy of the various State Councils, and such Delegates as may be chosen by the various State Councils.

The Supreme Council elects seven Supreme Officers and 15 Supreme Directors who together constitute the Supreme Board of Directors. All executive authority of the Order is vested in this body.

The State Councils consist of the State Officers, the last past State Deputy, the Grand Knight and Past Grand Knight from each subordinate Council.

Charters for subordinate Councils are granted upon application of a specified number of members or applicants for membership. The presiding officer of a subordinate Council is the Grand Knight.

The Bogus Oath

THE RECORD of the Knights of Columbus has elicited the most favorable comment by persons high in civic and religious affairs. Because of it, the late Cardinal Gibbons said of its members:

"They are our joy and our crown

They are the glory of Jerusalem

They are the joy of Israel

They are the honor of our people."

But, as might be expected, the Order's noteworthy record has not protected it from vicious, mean and unjustifiable attacks. There are those who would destroy this great society and who would malign the men who compose it. The means adopted for this purpose is the circulation of an ungodly and un-Christian bogus "oath" that is alleged to be taken by the Knights of Columbus.

Wanton Slander

Its purpose is to breed hatred and intolerance, regardless of truth. Many of those who circulate it claim to be actuated by religious motives, but this is a mere cloak for their wicked purpose to arouse hatred and ill will among their fellow men. Their protestations of religious fervor are the "sheep's



clothing" to mask their vicious purpose to destroy the harmony that should exist among men and to deprive their fellow-citizens of their sacred heritage—the right to worship God in accordance with their own convictions.

No man is a true follower of the Savior who ignores His injunction, "Thou shalt not bear false witness," and that is what every man who circulates the bogus "oath" is guilty of doing. Do those who are guilty of this terrible offense against their fellow men ever stop to consider the warning of Scripture: "The man that in private detracted his neighbor, him did I persecute" (Ps. 100:5)?

How It Started

No proof that the Knights of Columbus take this alleged "oath" has been offered and none can be produced. But to give the pretended "oath" the appearance of genuineness, many of the pamphlets containing it bear the notation "Copied from the Congressional Record, February 15, 1913." However, they fail to state how this false "oath" came to be printed in the Congressional Record, or the fact that the only purpose of printing it was to prove its falsity. By referring to the Con-

gressional Record it will be found that this so-called "oath" was printed therein merely as an exhibit in the contested Congressional election case of Bonniwell against Butler, in which Mr. Bonniwell, a Knight of Columbus, claimed that his defeat was brought about by the circulation of this false "oath". His opponent, Mr. Butler, repudiated the document and in presenting his defense said:

"I apprehended with alarm the use of such a document in a political campaign or at any other time. I did not believe in its truthfulness and so stated my judgment concerning it on November 4, 1912, as soon as complaint was made to me of its general circulation." (See Congressional Record, Vol. 49, February 15, 1913, p. 3219.) In its report, the Congressional Committee on Elections said:

"The Committee cannot condemn too strongly the publication of the false and libelous article referred to in the paper to Mr. Bonniwell and which was the spurious Knights of Columbus Oath, a copy of which is appended to the paper." (See Congressional Record, Vol. 49, February 15, 1913, p. 3221.)

Masonic Committee's Report

A complete set of the work, ceremonials and pledges of the Knights of Columbus was submitted to a committee of prominent members of the Masonic Order. After carefully examining them, the committee made a re-

port in which it was certified that the Knights of Columbus is not an oath-bound organization, that its ceremonials inculcate principles that lie at the foundation of every great religion and that—

"Neither the alleged oath nor any oath or pledge bearing the remotest resemblance thereto in matter, manner, spirit or purpose is used or forms a part of the ceremonies of any degree of the Knights of Columbus. The alleged oath is scurrilous, wicked and libelous and must be the invention of an impious and venomous mind. We find that the order of Knights of Columbus, as shown by its rituals, is dedicated to the Catholic religion, charity and patriotism. There is no propaganda proposed or taught against Protestants or Masons or persons not of the Catholic faith. Indeed, Protestants and Masons are not referred to directly or indirectly in the ceremonials and pledges. The ceremonial of the Order teaches a high and noble patriotism, instills a love of country, inculcates a reverence for law and order, urges the conscientious and unselfish performance of civic duty, and holds up the Constitution of our country as the richest and most precious possession of a knight of the Order. We can find nothing in the entire ceremonials of the Order that to our minds could be objected to by any person."

\$25,000 Reward

For twenty-five years the Knights of Columbus has main-

tained a standing offer of \$25,000 to any person or persons who will furnish proof:

1. That the alleged "oath" is taken or subscribed to, or ever was taken or subscribed to, by the Knights of Columbus, or

2. That Protestants or Masons are or ever were referred to directly or indirectly in the Ceremonials of the Knights of Columbus, or

3. That the following is not the true obligation taken by Fourth Degree members of the Knights of Columbus in the United States

"I swear to support the Constitution of the United States. I pledge myself, as a Catholic citizen and a Knight of Columbus, fully to enlighten myself upon my duties as a citizen and conscientiously perform them entirely in the interest of my country, regardless of personal consequences. I pledge myself to do all in my power to preserve the integrity and purity of the ballot and to promote respect for law and order. I promise to practice my religion consistently and faithfully, and to so conduct myself in public affairs and in the exercise of public virtue as to reflect nothing but credit upon our Holy Church, to the end that she may flourish and our country prosper to the greater honor and glory of God."

Decision of the Courts

In *People vs. Gordan*, 63 Cal. App. 627. in which the defendant was convicted of criminal libel for having circulated the bogus

"oath", the California Court of Appeals, in affirming the conviction of the defendant, said:

"The evidence conclusively shows that defendant published the article knowing it to be untrue and without justifiable ends and for the sole purpose of injuring the members of the society by discrediting their honesty, integrity and reputation, and with a desire to expose them to public hatred, contempt, or ridicule, and that the so-called oath was false and that no member of the fourth or any degree of the Order ever took such an oath."

In *Crane v. State*, 14 Okla. Cr. 30, the Court in affirming a conviction of criminal libel for circulating the bogus "oath" said:

"It is to be regretted that the state does not prescribe imprisonment in the penitentiary as the punishment for this class of crime in order that such characters as this record discloses plaintiff in error to be, should receive the judgment which the author in this book says would be proper if his statements are untrue. That they are untrue and false in toto the proof offered in this case overwhelmingly establishes. . . . It is remarkable that in this country where freedom of conscience in religious matters was one of the chief basic doctrines upon which the government was founded, people who hold themselves forth as possessing even ordinary intelligence would indulge in this character of

criminal conduct. . . . The charge that members of an honorable organization, secret religious, or otherwise, subscribe to such an oath as that complained of or the doctrines alleged is not tolerable and is not permitted by law. . . . The plaintiff in error was properly convicted by the jury."

In sentencing J. Harold Hunter, who had pleaded guilty to circulating the bogus "oath" at Flint, Michigan, the Court said:

"The founders of this nation and of every state have taken into consideration religion as one of the basic things in the nation and in the state and in a desire to accord to every man their right the law should take exception to the fanatic who in the night time under an assumed name will strike against any recognized religion or organization or who foments race or religious prejudice. It is un-American; it is unconstitutional, and it is unlawful. This document is libelous per se."

In affirming a conviction in *Alumbaugh v. State*, 40 Ga. App. 15, the Court said:

"The State proved to the satisfaction of the jury that the purported oath was false, that it was maliciously circulated by the defendant and that its circulation tended to blacken the honesty, virtue, integrity and reputation of the parties alleged to have been defamed and exposed them to public hatred, contempt and ridicule. The de-

fendant did not deny that she circulated the oath and did not deny that it was false. . . . The evidence abundantly authorized the defendant's conviction."

In sentencing Reverend E. L. Bateman, whom a jury at Newark, New Jersey, found guilty of circulating the bogus "oath" the Court said:

"You have been convicted of a libel. You have borne false witness against your neighbor. You have told an untruth."

The New Orleans *Daily States* said:

"If the Jersey Judge before whom the Reverend Mr. Bateman was tried should take it into his mind to put him in stripes it would go a long way toward stopping the circulation of an outrageous forgery."

Press Cites Lie

The bogus "oath" was denounced from press and pulpit. Great newspapers, such as the *Saint Paul Pioneer-Press*, the *Montgomery Advertiser*, the *Saint John's, Newfoundland, Evening Telegram and Daily News*, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, the *New York World*, the *New Orleans Daily States*, the *Cleveland News* and many others assailed it. A committee of prominent Masons described it as "scurrilous, wicked and libelous" and "the invention of an impious and venomous mind."

Many persons who circulated the "oath" were prosecuted and convicted of criminal libel and some were sent to jail.

And still the bogus "oath" is

circulated from time to time— usually in connection with a political campaign. The Knights of Columbus has published a booklet setting forth the facts regarding

the so-called oath and if any of our readers are interested, they may obtain a copy of it by writing to Supreme Secretary, Knights of Columbus, New Haven, Connecticut.

“His Holiness would have me express to the Knights of Columbus His personal praise and approbation for the establishment of a Foundation of the Order, which will make available to scholars, at St. Louis University, the microfilmed copies of thousands of precious manuscripts of the Vatican Library.

“In establishing the Foundation for the preservation of the historic documents at the Vatican Library, your Order has made a most worthwhile contribution to that Christian learning which the Church has ever fostered as part of its mission of peace and its educative function in the cause of truth and universal understanding among peoples.

“It is thus a tribute to the genuine Catholic spirit of your membership that this initiative of true Christian humanism should have enlisted your generous support and that these priceless documents, preserved through the centuries for future ages by the farseeing custody and cultural appreciation of the Supreme Pontiffs, should now, at a Catholic institution of learning in the United States and through your assistance, become a source of ready consultation to all who value the heritage of the past and of our Christian civilization.”

Message of His Holiness Pope Pius XII to the 1951 meeting of the Supreme Council.

Who Can Be A Knight?

MEMBERSHIP IN the Knights of Columbus is open to practical Catholic men over the age of eighteen. Application blanks are available from any member of the Knights of Columbus. Every Knight is happy to propose eligible Catholic men for consideration as members.

Acceptance of an applicant depends upon a vote of the members of the subordinate Council in which he is making application.

Application for membership must be made through the Council in the community nearest the applicant's place of residence. Interested prospects, such as men temporarily away from home through duty in the armed forces, must make application through their home-town Council. If favorably voted upon, the applicant becomes a member by initiation in what is known as the First Degree. He is subsequently advanced to the point in membership where he is entitled to wear the emblem of the Knights of Columbus by initiation in the Second and Third Degrees. The Fourth, or Patriotic, Degree of the Knights of Columbus is available to Third Degree members following a period of membership in the Order and the meeting of special qualifications for that degree.

There are nominal initiation

fees and dues set by subordinate councils under regulations established by the Supreme Council. The insurance privileges of membership are available to all men who can qualify and they represent an important advantage of membership. For men in every walk of life the name of the Knights of Columbus brings the thought of a united organization, efficiently going about its tasks of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism, composed of men who are giving unselfishly of their time and talents in the service of their God and their country.

This pamphlet shows how the Knights of Columbus has grown from a small but purposeful group into a great and powerful Catholic fraternity whose patriotic and religious services have won for it a high place in the esteem of the world and whose good deeds have smoothed the pathways of countless thousands.

Membership in the Knights of Columbus provides the opportunity for wholesome association with congenial companions who are, first of all, practical Catholic gentlemen. It offers the opportunity for association with those who are of the same belief, who recognize the same duty to God, to family and to neighbor and who stand side by side in defense

of those beliefs. Programs are so organized as to appeal to the individual interests of the members. Through many practical programs of Christian fraternity, members are enabled to render service to their church, their country and their fellow-man. Through membership they develop a consciousness of their ability to be of assistance.

Organized Columbianism, united behind the individual Knight of Columbus, provides the full force of an intelligent, alert body of Catholic men—a strength which the individual by himself cannot achieve.

Knights of Columbus have a proud heritage. The qualified Catholic man can share in that heritage and build for an even greater future by affiliating himself with this strong, militant body.

In 1952 the Knights of Columbus established at the Supreme Office a New Council Development Department designed to explore the possibilities of establishing new Councils in the fringe, or suburban areas, of cities in order to make more conveniently available membership in a Council in the area or neighborhood in which qualified prospects lived. If you and your Catholic friends live in such neighborhoods where Councils are not now in existence, you can secure information on the possibilities of establishing a Council by writing the Supreme Office.

Persons desiring to become members should contact a member of the nearest council, or address their inquiry to Supreme Secretary, Knights of Columbus, New Haven, Connecticut.

“The community of interests afforded by membership in this fine Catholic order, the assistance coming from close association with others who share Catholic culture and Catholic traditions, are bound to mean benefits to us and to the city in which we live.

“As Columbus was a faithful and devoted son of the Church, so every Knight of Columbus will find in his fraternal affiliation a powerful means to grow in the spirit of Catholicism and in the ability to affect his fellowmen by that spirit.”

—Rochester, N. Y. *Catholic Courier*.



Vatican City,
May 12, 1953

Dear Mr. Hart:

At the gracious direction of the Holy Father, I have pleasure in acknowledging receipt of the report, which you enclosed in your letter of May 1st, 1953.

His Holiness has followed with paternal interest the steady progress of the Catholic Advertising Program undertaken by the Knights of Columbus, and notes with particular satisfaction how it continues to produce encouraging results in making the Catholic Faith better known among peoples and bringing many within the fold of the Church.

Today this is a very necessary form of the apostolate. Everywhere men are becoming dissatisfied with the present disorder they see in the world and are beginning to look elsewhere for a spiritual solution to the numerous problems that confront them, a solution which can only be found in the Christian teaching of the Catholic Church.

The Holy Father is very pleased, therefore, with the fruitful results of your apostolic work and in order to give further encouragement to your labours, He cordially imparts to you and to your faithful collaborators in this campaign of truth, His special paternal Apostolic Blessing.

With assurance of my personal esteem and cordial regard, I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

J. B. Montini
Proser.

Mr. Luke E. Hart,
Catholic Advertising Committee,
1303 La Salle Bldg.,
St. Louis 1, Mo.

Membership and Opportunity For Service

THE PREVIOUS pages have given you an opportunity to become acquainted with the historical background and accomplishments of the Knights of Columbus. Qualified Catholic men who become members of our society personally participate in these and many other commendable projects through the councils in the communities in which they live. Alone a Catholic man is definitely limited in the extension of his services to Church, to community and to fellow-man. United in an organization of 900,000 other Catholic men who think and act the way he does, his influence and his opportunities for service are greatly magnified.

Membership in the Knights of Columbus is available, upon invitation, to practical Catholics over the age of eighteen years. Qualified Catholic men should seriously consider any such invitation to become members of our great organization.

It has not been possible in this small pamphlet to outline in any detail the hundreds of magnificent projects in which our councils in local communities are



engaged. We have been able to give you but a brief review of some of the major programs of the Order. The activities which are conducted at the local level are of significant importance in the whole program of the Order. The success of these projects locally depends upon the active participation of every possible qualified Catholic man. Through our plan of committee organization, through our council meetings and activities, the Catholic man is given the opportunity to use his particular talents in the program area in which he is most interested. Through his membership in the council in his community the Knights of Columbus also play a particular part in the continuation of the present programs of the Order and will play an important part in the extension of these programs and in the development of new activities. Your friends and relatives who are presently members of the Knights of Columbus will be very glad to discuss your possible membership in the Order with you.

STATE DEPUTIES — 1953-1954

- Alabama**—Robert L. Mackey, Mobile.
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Arkansas—Leo J. Byrne, Little Rock.
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New Mexico—Albino A. Remero, Belen.
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Quebec—Hon. T. Adelard Fontaine, Montreal.
Rhode Island—Joseph A. McGarry, Cranston.
Saskatchewan—William A. Reid, Saskatoon.
South Carolina—Al J. Baumann, Sumter.
South Dakota—Cletus G. Natz, Sioux Falls.
Tennessee—Tom Ed Murray, Nashville.
Texas—Reynaldo G. Garza, Brownsville.
Utah—Henry C. Hannsmann, Salt Lake City.
Vermont—William L. Hammond, Burlington.
Virginia—James C. Welsh, Jr., Richmond.
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