



# **Membership Experience Guide**

**Knights of Columbus  
Waconia Council #2506**

**April 2024**

# Introduction – Purpose and Goals



This membership experience guide was put together for new and existing members to share information about our council and how we, as men of faith, support each other and our community. In the end, we are all brothers united in faith ready to take action for the good of others.

**Purpose:** To present materials about the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council and our local council, that will enable each member to acquire the same level of knowledge about this Catholic service organization.

## **Goals:**

- Help you feel welcome into our council while being comfortable speaking with other members and potential new members about our organization
- Understand the objectives of our council and how you can serve in existing programs or volunteer to start something new
- Fulfill your expectations of belonging to an organization that does service in the name of God supporting our families and community

# Section 1 – Learn About the Knights of Columbus



## Section 1- Learn About the Knights of Columbus



# Why Did You Become a Knight



## Why Join the Knights of Columbus

You probably imagined being part of an organization that fills your heart and your mind with the joy of giving to other and the feeling that comes with making a difference. The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic, Family, Fraternal, Service Organization. Knights are Catholic, men, 18 years of age and older, who are committed to making their community a better place, while supporting their Church. Being a Knight is more than camaraderie; it is being involved in your community; it is supporting your local Catholic Church, while enhancing your own faith; it is about protecting and enhancing your own family life.

It is through these four areas of service that we truly make a difference by putting our “Faith Into Action” **FAITH, FAMILY, COMMUNITY, AND LIFE**

# The Beginning of the Knights



## The Beginning of the Knights

Thanks to the efforts of Father Michael J. McGivney, Assistant Pastor of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, CT the Knights of Columbus was formed in 1882. Founded on the principles of charity, unity and fraternity, Father McGivney's goal was simple - to establish an Order that would unite men in their faith as well as help provide for Catholic families in times of need.

The history of the Order shows how the foresight of Father Michael J. McGivney, whose cause for sainthood is being investigated by the Vatican, brought about what has become the world's foremost Catholic fraternal benefit of society.

The Knights of Columbus has grown from several members in one council to more than 16,000 councils and 1.9 million members throughout the United States, Canada, Philippines, Mexico, Poland, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Bahamas, Virgin Islands, Cuba, Guatemala, and Saipan.

# The Venerable Michael J. McGivney



## The Venerable Michael J. McGivney

**The Knights of Columbus:**

**“In fidelity to the vision of Father McGivney, may you continue to seek new ways of being a leaven of the Gospel in the world and a spiritual force of the Church in holiness, unity, and truth.” - Saint John Paul II**

**Father McGivney gave Catholic laymen the chance to grow in holiness while contributing to their family’s well being. Today more and more Church leaders are recognizing his spiritual genius.**

**Father McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus as a fraternal benefit society offering low-cost insurance to immigrant families facing destitution if the family breadwinner died. Today, the Knights of Columbus has more than 50 billion dollars of life insurance in force. Its insurance received the highest possible ratings from both the A.M. Best Co. and Standards & Poors.**

# Benefits of Membership



- ***COLUMBIA MAGAZINE*** – Free subscription to the Order’s monthly magazine examining issues of concern to Knights, Catholics and Families.
- ***DAILY MASS OF REMEMBRANCE AT ST. MARY’S CHURCH*** – Mass for deceased members and their wives at the birthplace of the Order.
- ***KNIGHTS’ INSURANCE PROGRAM*** – Portfolio of top-quality life insurance, long-term care and annuity products exclusively for members and their families.
- ***MEMBER/SPOUSE FRATERNAL BENEFIT*** – Accidental death coverage for member and spouse at no cost.
- ***FAMILY FRATERNAL BENEFIT; ORPHAN BENEFIT; WIDOW BENEFITS & SCHOLARSHIPS.***
- ***FOURTH DEGREE*** – Eligibility to join the “Patriotic Degree.”
- ***HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP*** – At age 70 with 25 years – Free Membership.
- ***MEMBERSHIP CARD*** – Entitles participation in all Catholic, fraternal and social activities throughout the world.
- ***ACTIVITIES – FAMILY, YOUTH, RELIGIOUS, SOCIAL, COMMUNITY, PRO-LIFE*** – Participation in a variety of programs and activities conducted by local councils

# How to Become a Member



Since 1882, membership in the Knights of Columbus has been open to men 18 years of age or older who are "practical" (that is, practicing) Catholics in union with the Holy See. Since that time, the Knights of Columbus has understood "practical catholic" to mean a Catholic who 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.

To Join the Knights of Columbus, go online and register [click here](#)



DISCOVER



JOIN ONLINE



GET INVOLVED



JOIN A COUNCIL



# Advocate Program



The Advocate Program is designed to help new members (Columbians) to feel welcomed into the Council. We are committed to help new members and to guide them through the adjustments of being an active member of the Waconia Council.

The Program asks current active members, who are known as “Advocates”, to adopt new members and to keep in close touch with new members, providing valuable Knights information. This person could be the person who recruited the new member.

## The Advocates Mission:

- Make monthly contacts announcing our business meeting date and to give updates on our current month’s activities.
- An Advocate will get to know his Columbians; his spouse and children, his degree, his parish affiliation, his special interests, and goals. He will use the Advocate Survey for this purpose.
- He will become a Mentor, a True Friend.

**\*We hope the New Knight (Columbian) will come to realize that his Advocate is an important part of being an active Knight.**

## Section 2 – Learn About Your Knights of Columbus Council



### Section 2- Learn About Your Knights of Columbus Council



# How the Knights of Columbus is Structured



Every member belongs to a unit called a “Council”. We are Waconia Council #2506 with membership from St Joseph Catholic Community in Waconia, St Bernard's Catholic Church in Cologne, and St. Victoria Catholic Church in Victoria.

Each Council has elected Officers. Elections are held each fraternal year in June. The Grand Knight (GK) is elected as the leader, and he has a team of elected officers, Directors and members to help organize and facilitate the work of the Council. All members are asked to attend the monthly business (Membership) meetings held on the Third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Our Council meetings are held at the Parish Center in the lower level of St. Joseph Church except for the summer months (May – Sept) where we hold the Council meetings at Klein Drive Park (KC Park). The Officers meeting is held prior to the Council meeting at 6:00 pm each month. The outcome of this meeting sets the agenda for the monthly Council meeting.

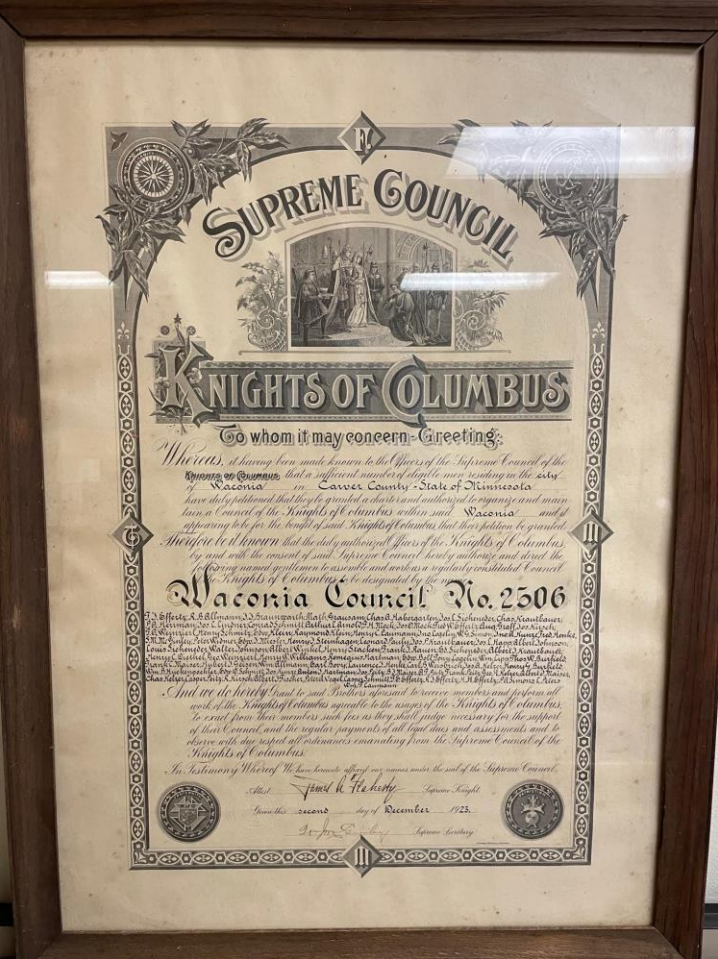
All Councils are organized into units called Districts, which is headed by the District Deputy. Districts combine with other Districts to make up the State Council, which is led by and elected Board of Officers, led by the State Deputy. All the State Councils are comprised of what makes up the Supreme Council.

# History of our Council – 1923 to Present



Our Knights of Columbus Council #2506 was chartered on December 2, 1923. We have a long history of serving our families and community in Waconia and surrounding areas. Thanks to the men of faith back then for having vision to come together with the mission of charity, fraternity, unity, and patriotism. We are honored to continue to serve in the tradition established by these men nearly a century ago in the name of God.

We have received several awards throughout the years including the Star Council award and Columbian award.



# Waconia #2506 Officers – 2023 - 2024



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## 2023-2024 Officers

Chaplain.....Father Stan Mader 952-442-2384  
Grand Knight.....Chuck Walerius 952-270-4706  
Deputy Grand Knight....Charlie Loegering 612-670-2752  
Chancellor.....Nick Kehtel 218-393-2805  
  
Recording Secretary.....Joe Eiden 612-751-2924  
Financial Secretary.....Chris Parker 651-226-2835  
Treasurer.....Josh Bovee 612-298-0732  
  
Lecturer.....Deacon Greg Miller 914-843-7973  
Advocate.....Fred Bleedorn 913-220-4667  
Warden.....Greg Fruhwirth 970-556-5510  
Inside Guard.....James Vettel 612-619-7741  
  
Outside Guard.....Nate Matousek 612-875-2986  
3 Year Trustee.....John Short 612-281-6215  
2 Year Trustee.....Adam Hughes 612-419-3718

## Committees

Program Director..Charlie Loegering 612-670-2752  
Communications.....John Short 612-281-6215  
Church Liaison.....James Vettel 612-619-7741  
Life..... Charlie Loegering 612-670-2752  
Community.....Adam Hughes 612-419-3718  
Faith.....Nick Kehtel 218-393-2805  
Family.....Matt Turek 952-454-4617  
Membership.....John Short 612-281-6215  
Member Retention..... John Short 612-281-6215

## KLEIN DRIVE PARK

Available to rent May 1st through Oct 1st

- Shelter - Electricity - Soft Ball Field

- Volleyball - Bathrooms - Full Kitchen

Rental Contact: Adam Hughes 612-419-3718

Winter boat storage: Roger Buesgens 952-442-2527

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# Cost of Membership



**Our Council members pay annual dues of \$30.00 in January of each year. A portion of these funds is what keeps our organization functioning. Each member pays his dues to the Council Financial Secretary. The Council pays dues to the State Council and the Supreme Council. These payments are based on the total number of Council Members. It is very important that you keep your dues current by paying in a timely manner.**

**A new member will pay either the full amount, if he joins in January, or the Pro-Rated amount based on the month he joins.**

# Faith In Action



Faith In Action is a Council Programming Model that includes four programming categories: Faith, Family, Community and Life. For more information go to [www.kofc.org/en/what-we-do/faith-in-action-programs/](http://www.kofc.org/en/what-we-do/faith-in-action-programs/)

<b>FAITH</b>	<b>COMMUNITY</b>
<b>RSVP</b> Into the Breach Spiritual Reflection Holy Hour Pilgrim Icon Program Building the Domestic Church Kiosk Rosary Program Sacramental Gifts	<b>Coats for Kids</b> Global Wheelchair Mission Habitat for Humanity Leave No Neighbor Behind** Disaster Preparedness Free Throw Championship Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest Soccer/Hockey Challenge Helping Hands
<b>FAMILY</b>	<b>LIFE</b>
<b>Food for Families</b> Family of the Month/Year Family Fully Alive Family Prayer Night Keep Christ in Christmas Family Week Consecration to the Holy Family Good Friday Family Promotion	<b>March for Life</b> Special Olympics Ultrasound Program Pregnancy Center Support Christian Refugee Relief Silver Rose Mass for People with Special Needs Novena for Life

# Council Programs



The Waconia Knights of Columbus has many programs scheduled throughout the year. These programs are designed around “Faith In Action” supporting Faith, Family, Community, and Life giving us many opportunities to serve our church and community.

<b>January</b>	<b>KC Free Throw Contest and Pro-Life Breakfast</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>Faith in Action Blood Drive</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>Fish Fry</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>Fish Fry and Tootsie Roll Drive</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>Novena for Life, Aid and Support After Pregnancy, and Pregnancy Center Support SWOW</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Consecration to the Holy Family and Installation of New Officers</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>Seminarian Support</b>
<b>August</b>	<b>KC Fun Fest, Soccer Challenge, and Backpack Drive</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>Spiritual Reflection - The Catholic Man</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>Columbus Day Mass and Building Domestic Church Kiosk</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>Boxing Gifts for Troops and Thanksgiving Meal “Turkey &amp; Fixings”</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>Christmas Party and Keep Christ in Christmas Contest</b>



# Council and Community Activity



**Our Council has several fund raisers throughout the year. These fund raisers included Sunday morning breakfasts and fish dinners, held the first six Friday's during lent. These events are generally held at St Joseph's Catholic Community. Most often the net profit is for the support of various organizations such as:**

- Auburn West Nursing Home**
- Good Samaritan Nursing Home**
- St Joseph's Catholic Community and St Joseph Catholic School**
- Catholic Education**
- Pro Life Events**

## **Community Activity**

- Provide financial and food donations to food shelves in Carver County.**
- Support St Joseph's Catholic Community monthly food shelf drive by members of our council donating food.**
- Members donate blood during local blood drives**
- Support special Olympics**
- Join with other Carver County organizations to financially support and help package items for Christmas packages mailed to service personnel serving outside the continental United States .**

# Church and Youth Activities



- Award a scholarship to a graduating high school senior whose father is a member of our council. This scholarship is known as "The Father Kauer Scholarship".
- Support the Knights of Columbus Statewide Student Loan Program.
- Annual donation for tuition to a family sending their student to St Joseph Parish School.
- Annually we take part in the statewide activity known as "The Tootsie Roll Program". Funds stay in Carver County and are donated to handicapped youth programs.
- Financially support Seminarians and our council sponsors a Seminarian.
- Join together and pray a rosary for a deceased Knights of Columbus member.
- Our 4th degree members from our council join with other 4th degree members from councils in our area to serve as honor guards for events such as installation of new priests, wakes and funerals of Sir Knights Memorial and other events as requested.
- All 4th degree members from the local council belong to a 4th Degree Assembly that operates out of Shakopee, MN. The 4th Degree operates under the "Fathers Gaiter Assembly 542".
- Support mission trips.
- We provide financial and leadership support for the local Boy and Girl Scout Troops.

# Our Founding Principles



The Knights are guided by the founding principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism.

**CHARITY** – Our Catholic faith teaches us to “Love thy neighbor as thyself”. Members of the Knights of Columbus show love for their neighbors by recognizing that our mission, and our faith in God, compels us to action. There is no better way to experience love and compassion than by helping those in need.

**UNITY** – None of us as an individual is as good as all of us as a whole. Our members all know that together we can accomplish far more than any of us could individually. This means that, as a Knight of Columbus, you can count on the support and encouragement of your brother Knights as you work to make life better in our parish and community.

**FRATERNITY** – The Venerable Michael J. McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus, in large part, to provide assistance to the widows and children left behind when the family breadwinner died. Individual Knights give more than 10 million hours of their time to assist sick and disabled members and their families. In the Knights of Columbus, we watch out for and take care of one another.

**PATRIOTISM** – Members of the Knights of Columbus are patriotic citizens. We are proud of our devotion to God and Country and believe in standing up for both. Whether it’s public or private, the Knights remind the world that Catholics support their nations and are amongst its greatest citizens.

# Degrees and Exemplification



There are a total of four different Degrees in the Knights of Columbus. Each of these Degrees focuses on one of our four founding principles.

- The First (Admission) Degree focuses on Charity.
- The Second (Formation) Degree focuses on Unity.
- The Third (Full Knighthood) Degree focuses on Fraternity.
- The Fourth (Patriotic) Degree focuses on Patriotism.

Typically, the first three degrees are exemplified during a 30 min ceremony conducted by local Knight's or it can be done online. The exemplification focuses on the history and principles of our Order. It presents a full and rich understanding of who we are, what we stand for and what we are called to be. It hearkens back to the simple ceremonies of Unity and Charity first approved by Father McGivney. The ceremony can be held in a council chamber or in the parish with families and friends seated in the pews. They will see first hand, the organization that their husbands, fathers, brothers, sons and friends are joining—the principles and values they are committing to and why it matters.

# Knights of Columbus Website



Our Council Website can be located at: [www.waconiaknights2506.org](http://www.waconiaknights2506.org)

Council 2506 website contains information on our council that includes:

- Who We Are
- Membership
- Calendar
- Programs
- Events
- Newsletter
- Meetings
- Officers
- Resources

Minnesota State Website: [www.mnknights.org](http://www.mnknights.org)

Supreme Website: [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org)

# Insurance Agent



Each member of the Knights of Columbus has a dedicated, professional agent whom they can call on for their insurance needs.

Knights of Columbus agents are brother Knights first and foremost, and are charged with looking out for the best interest of our members and their families. These are good, Catholic men, who have taken on a career with the Knights of Columbus as their vocation. More than 1,500 full time agents work across the United States and Canada.

This is a voluntary program to our membership. No one forces you to buy insurance, but members are encouraged to allow the insurance agent to present the benefits of the program to them.

Our Knights of Columbus Field Agent is Joe Remer, member of the Winstead Council

Joe Remer  
161 Main Ave.W.  
P. O, Box 100  
Winsted, MN 55395  
612-272-8635  
[joe.remer@kofc.org](mailto:joe.remer@kofc.org)

# Knights In Action Newsletter



**Our Council Newsletter is called “Knights in Action”.**It is designed to keep our council members informed about up coming events, our many programs that you can be involved in and to hi-light our members and their families. The newsletters are e-mailed to members who have computers and can also be mailed to those who prefer to have a hard copy.

## **State Council Newsletter**

Each member will receive the newsletter – “MN Knightly News”

## **Supreme Council Columbia**

Each member will receive a copy of the “Columbia Magazine”

# Section 3 – Learn About Being Active In Your Council

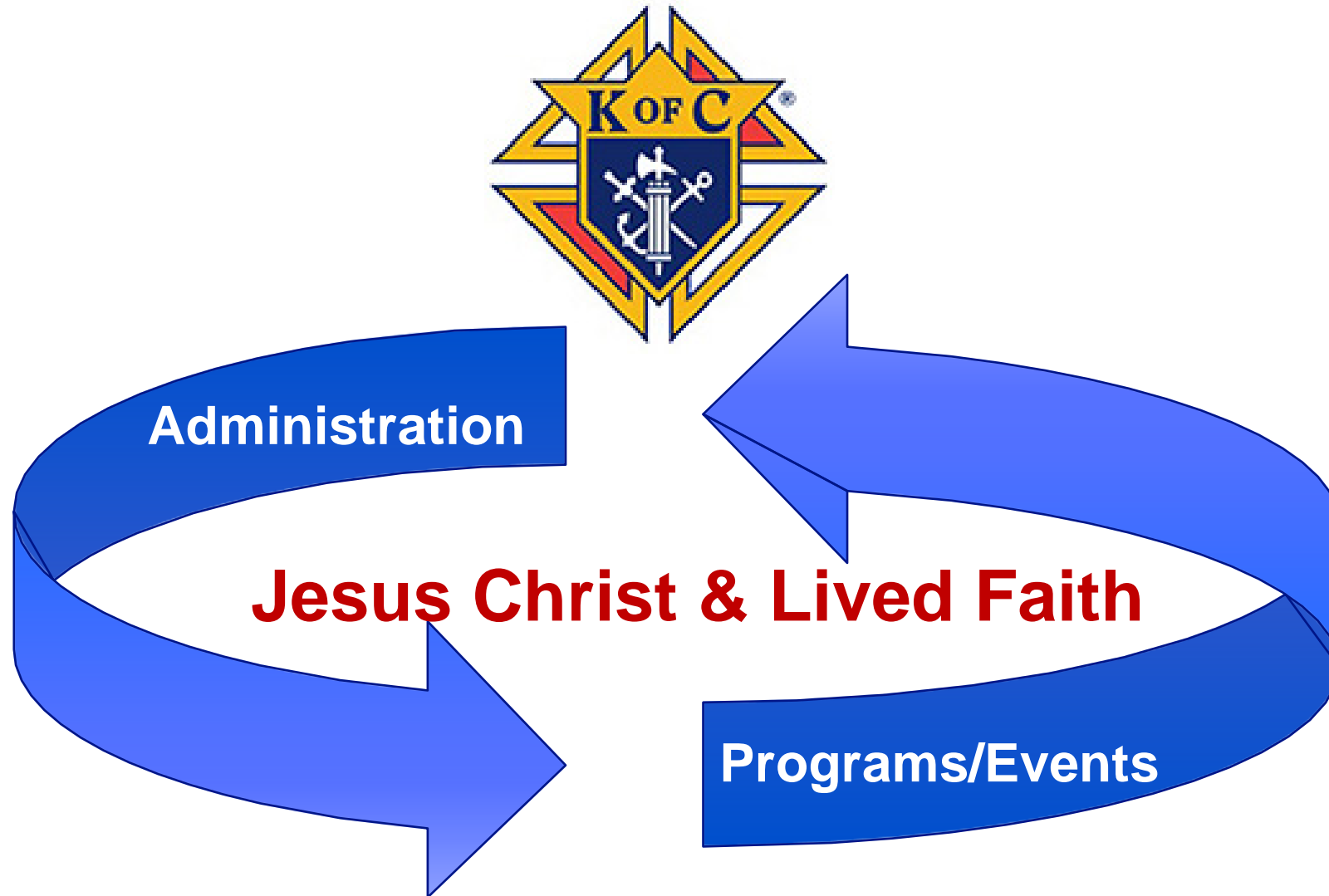


## Section 3- Learn About Being Active In Your Council





# Successful Councils Start with “Why”



# What it Means to be a Knight



## **Why we do it:**

**What does being a Knight mean to you? For some it's an opportunity to serve their community, for others it's a way to grow their faith, or it provides an opportunity to come together and share in friendships. Whatever the case may be, all Knights share a special bond by being a Catholic man of faith and keep Jesus Christ at the center of what we do to promote faith in our families and the community through service.**

## **How we do it:**

**We have many programs based on Faith, Family, Community, and Life that provide an opportunity to participate in serving our church and community. Your involvement is welcomed and part of being a Knight. Feedback on how our programs can be improved and have relevancy with the way you would like to grow your faith and serve within your own community is appreciated.**

## **What we do:**

**We are Catholic men who lead, serve, protect and defend. We share a desire to be better husbands, fathers, sons, neighbors and role models and to put charity and community first.**

# Shining Amor Award



**“Shining Armor Award” is given to those men who exemplify what a true Knight of Columbus is. It is used as a guideline for new and existing members on what it means to be an active member.**

**To qualify for the “Shining Armor Award” new Knights must during their first year of membership:**

- **Be involved in at least three council service programs**
- **Attend at least three council business meetings**
- **Receive their Second and Third degrees**
- **Meet with their council’s insurance representative**
- **Recruit at least one new member**

Thank You for What You Do



*Thank You for Being a Member of  
Waconia Knights of Columbus Council 2506*

**“VIVAT JESUS!”  
(Jesus Lives)**