

"THESE MEN THEY CALL KNIGHTS"



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No. 9



P. M. Brennan.

VATICAN CITY, September 16, 1959

Mr. Luke E. Hart, Supreme Knight
Knights of Columbus
Columbus Plaza
New Haven 7, Connecticut
My dear Mr. Hart:



I have read with interest your kind letter of the 1st instant, and the copy of your address during the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council meeting, held in Saint Louis on August 18th last. I am happy to know that the meeting

was a successful one, and I thank you warmly for the information concerning the activities of your Order which you have so thoughtfully provided.

Especially noteworthy and deserving of all commendation is the outstanding effort made by the Knights of Columbus in the erection of the bell tower of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, to be known as the Knights' Tower. The generosity with which your Order responded to the appeal of the Hierarchy in this instance is but the latest in a long series of benefactions in the cause of the Church, notable among which are the Pope Pius XII Memorial Library and your effective Advertising Campaign. The report of these praiseworthy achievements has brought much comfort and consolation to the paternal heart of the Sovereign Pontiff, Who would have me give expression to His heartfelt appreciation and warm gratitude.

His Holiness is moved by the sentiments of pious filial devotion and attachment which prompted you to suggest the possibility that He visit the United States of America on the occasion of the dedication of the National Shrine in Washington. While of course you realize that it not possible for the Holy Father to accept your thoughtful invitation, I am directed to assure you of His high appreciation of the affectionate loyalty to His Person and and Office which inspired it.

In testimony of His benevolent thankfulness, and as a pledge of copious heavenly graces and divine favors, His Holiness willingly imparts to you, to all the officers and members of the Knights of Columbus and their families, His particular paternal Apostolic Blessing.

With sentiments of high consideration and cordial esteem, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Domenico Cardinal Tardini
Secretary of State to His Holiness

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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, "for the purpose of rendering mutual aid and assistance to its members and their families."

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 through which they might advance 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 to him as he 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.

On February 6, 1882, the name Knights of Columbus was chosen and the decision made to apply 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, the Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Cuba and the Philippines. Its membership of more than 1,000,000 men—representing every walk of life—is in affiliation with the Supreme Council of the Order through membership in sixty-one state councils and over 4,500 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 over one billion dollars of insurance in force upon the lives of the members of the Knights of Columbus, and, more recently, upon the lives of families of members of the Order.

More than \$150,000,000 in benefits has been paid to members, 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 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 \$15,000,000 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.

During the year ended Dec. 31, 1959 the volume of Knights of Columbus insurance recorded was over \$145,000,000—a new record amount of insurance recorded in any one year. Over six million dollars of insurance benefits were paid during that same year.

The Knights of Columbus offers to its members the opportunity for participating in an insurance program designed to meet the needs of members and their entire families at low cost. Special attention is paid to Family Income Benefit features in keeping with the objective of the Order to protect the families of its members.

Catholic Advertising Program

No INSTITUTION in the Western world has been so widely misunderstood, and so continuously misrepresented, as the Catholic Church.

Anti-Catholic propaganda, carried on consistently and often cunningly through generation after generation, has distorted the apostolic teachings of the Church and caused non-Catholics to view it with fear and suspicion of its motives.

The Church, with all its facilities for the propagation of the Faith, was not in a position to put the truth into the millions of minds poisoned by such propaganda. The Knights of Columbus found the logical answer through its Catholic Advertising Program.

By paying for advertising space in national magazines and newspapers, the Order was able to reach into homes inaccessible to the Priests. It was able to convey to millions of minds simultaneously, authentic information as to Catholic beliefs, history and practices. It was able to contradict and refute misrepresentations of Catholicism which previously had gone unchallenged.

Backing up the Church's claim to be the one and true Church founded by Christ, the Order has published such advertisements as:



“This Was The Faith of Our Fathers”

“What Do You Mean—Only One True Church?”

“There Shall be ONE Fold and ONE Shepherd”

“Why Millions Call Him Holy Father”

“To Thee I Will Give The Keys of the Kingdom”

In answer to the propaganda that Catholics oppose the Bible, the Order publishes such ads as:

“The Bible Is a Catholic Book”

“But Can It Be Found In The Bible?”

“Does The Bible Contradict Itself?”

“What Does God's Law Say Between The Lines?”

“All Right . . . Let Us Judge Catholics By The Bible”

Refuting the allegation that Catholics adore images and statues was the purpose of an ad entitled: “But Why the Holy Water, Candles and Beads?” Criticisms of the Sacraments were answered in such advertisements as: Confession?—Ask The Man Who Goes There” . . . “Yes, Christ Gave Us the Catholic Mass” . . . and “The Real Secret of Successful Marriage.”

The loyalty of Catholic citizens often has been questioned

on the premise that their first allegiance is to the Pope—"a foreign potentate." The truth about Catholics in this regard is effectively explained in such advertisements as: "Is The Catholic Church a Menace to Democracy?" . . . "All Right, Let's Test Catholic Loyalty" . . . and "Is The Catholic Church Out of Place in America?"

Only the ignorant, some critics have said, could be Catholics. This was answered by the advertisement: "But How Can Educated People Be Catholics?" Our reasons for being Catholics are explained in such ads as: "All Right . . . I'll Tell You Why I Am a Catholic" . . . "A Letter to Our Non-Catholic Neighbors" . . . "Why So Many Decide to Become Catholics."

The Priesthood was explained in an ad entitled: "I Was Marked With the Sign of the Cross." The glory of the Catholic nun was pictured in: "What Makes a Woman Choose Such a Life?". Other messages covered such topics as miracles, prayer, parochial schools, the Eucharist, the Blessed Virgin, science and religion, tolerance and others concerning which great confusion has been caused by the subtle work of bigots.

The Missouri State Council began publication of advertisements of this type in 1944. This project clearly revealed a widespread interest in and curiosity about Catholicism among non-Catholics. Many were found to be actively interested and needing

only such an invitation as that extended through the advertisements.

In 1948, the Supreme Council decided to conduct a similar campaign on an international scale, using mass-circulation magazines to tell the Catholic story to millions of readers in the United States and Canada. The result has been the receipt of approximately 8,000 inquiries per week, year in and year out. And slightly more than one of each ten inquirers has enrolled subsequently for a course of Catholic instruction by mail.

Coupons resulting from the advertisements are received at the Order's Religious Information Bureau in St. Louis. Four Priests and a staff of 35 clerical employes handle the mail and correspondence courses. Two large residential buildings have been converted to headquarters for the Bureau, and more than 20 automatic electric typewriters are required for the effective handling of the large volume of mail.

Pope Pius XII commended the Knights of Columbus repeatedly for promoting what he termed a "special form of Catholic Action." The Apostolic Delegate to the United States, Archbishop A. G. Cicognani, has termed it "an almost unbelievable success."

A British Catholic clergyman, visiting the United States, said he was tremendously impressed by two unique manifestations of Catholic vitality in America. One was the strength of the Catholic

diocesan press . . . the other—
The Catholic Advertising Program. The international impact of the advertising project is further attested by the fact that a similar program is now being carried on by a small group of Catholic priests in London.

The Supreme Council's advertising project is the first of its kind on such a scale in all the history of religion. It constitutes a form of religious education which even the Church itself had never attempted, and is the first example of a strictly lay society performing what amounts to an official teaching mission of the Catholic Church.

A program of such magnitude is possible, of course, only to an organization of great numerical strength such as the Knights of Columbus, with its membership of more than one million men. The program, while costly in total, involves an expense of only 80c per year to each member, which pays for advertising space, advertising production, postage, printing, pamphlets and all the costs of personnel and

equipment of the Religious Information Bureau.

Observing the effectiveness of this Catholic advertising, a number of other denominations have attempted to follow its example. It appears, however, that none has been able to maintain a continuing program of positive explanation of Christian doctrine and practices because the true story of Christianity is the Catholic story.

For the Knights of Columbus advertising, there is never a dearth of positive, interesting and informative things to write about. Indeed, since the beginning of the Advertising Program, more than 300 advertisements explaining Catholic teachings, practices and beliefs have been written and published.

The Church itself . . . with its apostolic origin and continuing adherence to Christ's teachings . . . provides an unending source of religious truths. It gives us a wonderful message to tell, and the Knights of Columbus Advertising Program is wondrously fulfilling the opportunity to tell it.

"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.

Support of Education

ANOTHER ACTIVITY which has commanded much interest and support on the part of the Knights of Columbus is 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 over 900 young men to receive the benefits of higher education and over 250 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 30 years, a correspondence school was maintained by the Order providing instruction in 108 subjects for its wide-spread membership and their families. More than 45,000 took 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. Over \$100,000 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. 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. The children of four hundred and fifty-four of these valiant Knights have been declared eligible for the scholarships, 53 are enrolled at various colleges and universities and thus far 49 have completed their studies and have attained their Bachelors' degree.

The 1956 Supreme Council meeting voted to extend the benefits to children of members killed or permanently disabled in the Korean War.

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 contribu-

tion 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."

The microfilming project was completed in 1957 with the total number of manuscript codices in microfilm copies approximating 30,500. This is the equivalent of some eleven million handwritten pages. The 30,500 volumes, or codices, represent about three-quarters of the Vatican Library's total holdings in Latin, Greek and various modern languages. At the 1957 national meeting of the American Historical Association an entire general session was devoted to "The Knights of Columbus Vatican Film Library at Saint Louis University." The five speakers representing Saint Louis University, Catholic University, Columbia University and Iowa State found the large audience of

professional historians very enthusiastic over the research possibilities in the Vatican Film Library.

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.

"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 1906.

\$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 their 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, the Mexican people were themselves 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 the Order has made contributions 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 youth organization 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.

For many years the Order conducted 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, aboard transports and at points of debarkation.

Clubhouses were erected at all these places. Five were maintained in London, and 45 in France. Wherever there was a Knights of Columbus clubhouse, hut or tent, men of all races, creeds and color knew they were welcome. 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.

Public Approval

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 as an organization from performing a service for the armed forces of the United States 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 prevailed and Colonial fraternized with Imperial and Protestant with Catholic.

Catholic 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 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.

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 distributed 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.

Blood Donor Program

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

Since 1938, more than 150,000 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 20 years of the program represented a saving of over \$3,000,000 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 more than 1,000,000 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 has sponsored a Radio Rosary Crusade every October for over ten years.

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 \$60,000, more than \$300,000 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 25 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 Ohio State Council contributes to the maintenance of Chaplains at six state institutions at a cost of \$2,700 per year. It contributed over \$100,000 to the promotion of Newman Clubs at State Colleges and Universities and contributes \$60,000 or more annually to the Archbishops and Bishops for the promotion of the Youth Programs in their dioceses.

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 bursary 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 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 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 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 bursary. 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 is 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 bursary 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. One 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 \$100,000 for education of seminarians, \$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 \$800,000.

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 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 litera-

ture 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 several 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.

Help for Worthy Causes

TYPICAL OF the year in and year out assistance provided by the Knights of Columbus is the report of a survey which showed that in one year, 1958, 3382 units of the Knights of Columbus including State and local Councils, Chapters and Fourth Degree Assemblies, contributed \$5,670,190.21 to parishes, dioceses, seminaries, scholarships, Youth Activity, Newman Clubs, hospitals, homes for orphans, dependent or crippled children, homes for aged, community charities, colleges, universities etc. These were contributions from organized units of the Order and do not include contributions made to such causes by individual members of the Knights of Columbus. This is a record unsurpassed in the history of fraternal organizations.

An annual appeal to the membership in the State has resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars being raised for work with retarded children by the Massachusetts State Council which also conducts a fine program for youth work including camping, scholarships and Columbian Squires.

An annual Invitational Scholastic Basketball Tournament for the benefit of the Archdiocesan Scholarship Fund is sponsored by

the State Council of the District of Columbia.

The Alabama State Council has been active in the promotion of a Decent Literature campaign and the sponsorship of Circles of Columbian Squires.

Another jurisdiction active in the promotion of scholarship programs is Nova Scotia.

The distribution of folders showing the time and place of Sunday Masses throughout the state and the promotion of youth work are just some of the features of the Maine State Council's work.

The number of Columbian Squires Circles in Cuba averages better than one to a Council. Translation of the Catholic Advertisements and pamphlets into Spanish and active promotion of this program is another Cuban activity.

Training programs for health, social welfare, education, youth, agriculture feature the many fine projects sponsored throughout the Philippines.

Leadership groups, youth programs, major spiritual activities and community assistance are among the programs conducted throughout Mexico.

Spreading Democracy

"Magazines for Friendship"—a project to acquaint people in other countries with the customs and life in America, assistance to seminaries, Catholic Rural Life projects, scholarships and other programs are constantly promoted by Nebraska Councils.

Schools, hospitals, homes for the aged, orphanages, youth education, assistance to retarded children, forums for non-Catholics, a state-wide vocational program, a Junior Mock Parliament are samples of the extensive work conducted by Manitoba Councils. A Catholic Youth Center was built at the University of Manitoba through the efforts of the Knights of Columbus.

Providing leadership and funds the California State Councils made an outstanding contribution in defeating a proposal to tax parochial schools. In New Jersey a recent program is providing many scholarships and financial assistance to Catholic colleges.

A varied program of youth work, assistance to parishes, aid to the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, family projects

are a few of the programs featured throughout North Dakota.

In addition to their regular programs Panama and Puerto Rico sponsor programs for servicemen and government workers.

The South Carolina jurisdiction has been active in promoting participation in leadership programs for work in the community and for the Church.

Playgrounds in Rome

In 1920 Pope Benedict appealed to the Knights of Columbus to provide playgrounds for the needy children of Rome. Since that time the Order has established and maintained seven such playgrounds. On May 10, 1959 Pope John XXIII visited the playground known as St. Peter's Oratory and after expressing gratitude to all who bestow kindnesses upon youth noted particularly the "praiseworthy society of the Knights of Columbus" who made these playgrounds possible. The visitors to Rome have no difficulty in identifying these playgrounds marked by attractive modern signs showing they were founded by the Knights of Columbus.

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 more than 4,500 subordinate Councils comprising a membership of more than 1,000,000.

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 the Supreme Directors who appoint the Supreme Officers. 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 Knights of Columbus take this alleged “oath” has been offered and none can be produced, but to give it the appearance of genuineness, the notation “Copied from the Congressional Record, Feb. 15, 1913” is placed upon many of the pamphlets containing it. However, they fail to state that this co-called “oath” was printed in the Congressional Record merely as an exhibit in the report of the Committee on Elections in the contested Congressional election case

of Bonniwell against Butler who were opposing candidates for Congress from a Pennsylvania district, and for the purpose of proving its falsity, Bonniwell, a Knight of Columbus, claimed that his defeat was brought about by the circulation of this false "oath". His opponent, Butler, repudiated the document and in presenting his defense said:

"I apprehend 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, Feb. 15, 1913, P. 3219.)

In its report the Congressional Committee of 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 which is appended to the paper." (See Congressional Record, Vol. 49, Feb. 15, 1913, P. 3221.)

Bigots have read this foul libel and gloated over its expected destruction of the Knights of Columbus and the injury it would do to individual members; they passed it on to others, circulated it, approved it.

Some honest men have read it and have been sorely troubled in consequence. It seemed unlike the

Knights of Columbus they knew as honest men—yet would men dare publish such a thing if it was untrue? if untrue, would not the Knights of Columbus prosecute their defamers?

What, then, was the duty of the Society to itself, to its members, to the host of men who were in doubt?

In many cases criminal prosecutions were instituted. In other cases, publishers discontinued publication of the bogus "oath" upon demand. Some of these expressed regret at having been misled. Protestant and Masonic committees have studied the whole matter and have issued reports exposing this libel.

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 report 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 maintained 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 Oklahoma Supreme 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 of Appeals of Georgia 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 defendant 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. Bate-man 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."

There have been similar convictions in Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Colorado and in other states. None of the defendants in any of these cases ever attempted to prove that the alleged oath was true. The simple reason is that it could not be done, because it is utterly false and fraudulent.

Press Cites Lie

The bogus "oath" has been denounced from press and pulpit. Great newspapers, such as the Saint Paul Pioneer-Press, the Montgomery Advertiser, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, the New York World, the New Orleans Daily States, the Cleveland News, the Charleston (W. Va.) Gazette, the Raleigh (N. C.) News and Observer and many others assailed it. Two Masonic periodicals, The New Age and the Masonic Inspiration, denounced it. The Baptist News Service and the Council of Churches of Pittsburgh (Protestant) through its news service warned its members of its falsity and urged them to condemn it.

And still the bogus "oath" is circulated from time to time—usually in connection with a political campaign. But at no time can the Knights of Columbus re-

main passive and suffer to go unanswered the circulation of this so-called "oath," which constitutes an open, flagrant, unjustifiable attack on the members as citizens and Catholics, on their families and their faith.

Convictions on the charge of criminal libel against persons printing and distributing the bogus "oath" have been obtained in the criminal courts, and this positive and constructive action to meet the situation will be contained. The co-operation of every citizen and public officer is requested in bringing into court any person who publishes or distributes the so-called [Knights of Columbus bogus "oath."

The Knights of Columbus has published a booklet setting forth the complete facts retarding this "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.

On September 16, 1960, Judge John T. Duff, Court of Common Pleas, Allegheny County, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, issued a preliminary injunction against W. L. King, Finleyville, Pennsylvania, editor and publisher of The Voice of the Nazarene, restraining him from printing, typing or writing, mailing or otherwise distributing the bogus "oath". This action followed the previous arrest of King on August 5, 1960 on charges of criminal libel for distribution of the "oath" and for his continuing the distribution following the arrest.

Message From His Holiness POPE PIUS XII

Following is the text of message sent by His Holiness to Supreme Knight Luke E. Hart on the occasion of the 74th annual Supreme Council meeting:—

"It is my honored charge, at the august direction of His Holiness, to communicate the sincere good wishes of the Supreme Pontiff to you and your associates of the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus, on the occasion of your annual meeting, to be held in Detroit beginning on August 21st.

The Holy Father has been pleased to learn that the "Catholic Advertising Program", sponsored by you already for many years with such notable success, has been extended beyond the boundaries of the United States to Canada, Mexico and Cuba, and is reaching with its information concerning the Church and catechetical instructions, through the press and individual correspondence, an ever wider and more numerous public.

His Holiness would not fail, moreover, to take special note of the felicitous conclusion of the microfilming of the Vatican Library manuscripts, and their actual availability and deposit at the "Knights of Columbus Vatican Film Library" of the University of St. Louis. This priceless contribution to American scholarship, made possible, as it was, by the munificent generosity of your Order, will be a perennial monument to the honor of the Knights of Columbus.

Nor would the Common Father pass over without a word of gratitude the playgrounds and sports fields for youth which you have continued to maintain in Rome and which are ever more frequented by the parish groups and Catholic institutions of the Eternal City. These initiatives, singled out among your many valued activities of Catholic Action, illustrate the vitality of your Order and explain the happy result, attained for the first time during the present year, of a membership registration of over one million Catholic men.

In expressing the augury that the Order will continue to push on to ever further accomplishments in its collaboration, under the Hierarchy, with the divine mission of the Church, His Holiness would have me convey, as a pledge of His particular benevolence, to you and to the assembled Delegates, as also to all the membership of the Knights of Columbus and their families, His paternal Apostolic Blessing."

(signed) MONSIGNOR A. DELL'ACQUA
Undersecretary of State

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
Prosec.

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 more than 1,000,000 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.

A Social Responsibility

THE FOUNDERS of the Knights of Columbus realized that the first duty of a Catholic husband and father was to his family—to care for their needs while alive and, to his best ability, to provide for their care at the time of his death.

Lack of adequate financial resources is a great destroyer of family life. No matter what his income, the true Catholic father does everything in his power to maintain a true Catholic home during his life-time. What happens to that family upon the death of the father depends largely upon the protection he provided through a planned insurance program during his income earning days.

Children too often are the innocent victims of an inadequate protection plan. The mother may be forced to go to work and the children "farmed out" to relatives, or, in severe cases, placed in institutions or foster homes—none of which can take the place of the mother in the raising of the child. The physical home itself—clothing, medicine, education—all these may be lost if the funds to maintain them were not provided through an insurance program.

Dependence upon the charity of relatives or social organizations

is no substitute for a Catholic home in which the mother and children may remain together. Institutions are no substitute for love and home security for children.

The Catholic father should ask himself if he has provided for his family to maintain the minimum necessities of a Catholic home.

Today, Catholic families of our members in the United States and Canada are protected by more than one billion dollars of Knights of Columbus Insurance. Translated into social responsibility it means that thousands of Catholic families can be kept together—that thousands of Catholic mothers can remain in the home to raise the children. That thousands of Catholic boys and girls may be educated—that clothing, food and shelter can be provided to keep their homes intact and the families healthy. It means that tens of thousands can maintain a Catholic home life without becoming dependent upon charity groups.

Thus, in the fulfillment of our social responsibilities, the Knights of Columbus, in cooperation with other Catholic men, can greatly contribute to the future dignity, sanctity, stability and security of the Catholic home.

The Power of Organized Effort

THE HISTORY of the Knights of Columbus has been replete with many outstanding examples of the accomplishments made possible through organized effort. Many of these have been listed in this booklet. There are hundreds of others to which all members of the Knights of Columbus and all future members of the Order can point with pride. Some of these include—

Through the initiative of the Knights of Columbus, the words "under God" were added to the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States.

As a result of the protest of the Supreme Board of Directors, various State Deputies, hundreds of individual councils and Fourth Degree Assemblies and thousands of members, the proposed visit of Dictator Tito of Yugoslavia was cancelled.

Catholic families are protected by over one billion dollars of Knights of Columbus insurance.

Our insurance program is establishing new records every year. The Knights of Columbus insurance plans, to meet the needs of every member and his family, are available as a result of Knights of Columbus membership.

The efforts of an individual

Catholic layman are necessarily limited in making known the teachings of the Catholic religion. The Knights of Columbus, banded together with more than one million members, make possible the advertisements in secular magazines and newspapers—which have resulted in over four hundred thousand people enrolling for religious instruction and in over four million inquiries about the Catholic Church.

The development of constructive leisure-time activities for youth through the Supreme Council, state and individual councils is achieved through the organized efforts of the man-power of the Order. Tens of thousands of Catholic boys and girls receive training and leadership and are able to participate in worthwhile programs through this cooperative effort of the members of the Knights of Columbus.

The Order has pioneered many movements which have since become national or international in scope, including the Blood Donor Program and the training of professional leaders in the field of Youth Guidance.

The micro-filming of the previous documents at the Vatican Library and the establishment of a

depository at St. Louis University to make these documents available to scholars on the North American Continent is another achievement made possible through the organized man-power of the Order. This project has been endorsed as one of the greatest contributions to culture ever made.

Whether it is at the Supreme Council, the State Council or the local Council level, the story is repeated again and again as projects of real benefit to the Church and the Community are initiated, supported and developed through the organized efforts of the Knights of Columbus.

As one writer remarked—"The Knights of Columbus is providentially endowed with an essential and priceless asset—Catholic men of all professions, trades and states of life who willingly put in countless hours of mental and manual labor to help along whatever their society is undertaking to do, the inexhaustible enthusiasm of Catholic men working together under the principles of the society—Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism."

The Knights of Columbus constructed a CAMPANILE, or

Bell Tower, which is 329 feet in height, at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D. C. This tower, erected at a cost of more than \$1,000,000 is known as "The Knight's Tower" and is one of the highest Bell Towers in the world. The offer from the Cardinals, Archbishops and Bishops of the United States to the Knights of Columbus to construct this tower was made in recognition of the many works done by the Knights of Columbus for the advancement of the interest of the Church.

Hundreds of young men have been enabled to continue their training for the priesthood as Seminarians as a result of special scholarship funds that were established by State and local Councils.

One of the more recent projects undertaken by a State Council has been the providing of scholarships to help train lay teachers for the expanding parochial school system.

Early in 1960 a new record amount of over one billion dollars insurance in force featured the growth of the Knights of Columbus insurance system.

***How a Typical Knights of Columbus
Certificate
With a Family Income Benefit Rider
Can Work***

If you had a \$10,000 basic face value certificate with a 20-year \$20 per month F.I.B. rider and death occurs in the second year of its issue;

Your family will receive
\$2,500.00 immediate payment,

plus

\$43,200.00 in monthly payments of \$200.00 over an 18 year period, plus any balance due for second year

plus

\$10,000.00 cash at the end of the 20-year period or, under Settlement Option A, monthly income of \$96.10 for 120 months.

OVER

\$55,700.00—on a face value certificate of \$10,000.00.

Your family needs this kind of protection. Don't wait—see—
or write—your local K of C insurance advisor today.

Or Write To

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
P. O. Box 1670, New Haven, Conn.

"I Don't Like The Catholic Church BECAUSE..."

Ask many non-Catholics to finish this sentence in 25 words or less, and their answers might surprise you.

Some of them, no doubt, would attribute their opposition to doctrinal differences. They might be critical of some or all of the Seven Sacraments accepted by Catholics. Others might not like the Church's ritual and devotions, or even the Catholic attitude on social questions.

But none of these is the dominant reason for the opposition of some people . . . and the unwillingness of others to inquire into the truths of Catholicism.

The great stumbling-block is the unwillingness of many people to believe that Priests and Bishops and a Pope . . . all men like themselves . . . are vested with divine authority to speak for God.

They refuse to believe that another human being has the authority to forgive sin, even though Christ told the Apostles: "Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them; whose sins you shall retain, they are retained." They reject the idea that God delegated any of His powers to mere men, even though Christ gave Peter the power "to bind or loose on earth," and promised the disciples: "He that heareth you, heareth me."

Those who reject the discipline of the Church will contend, at times, that God would not have delegated His powers to any but the spiritually perfect . . . and there are no such people. In contradiction of this, Christ clearly DID appoint deputies to teach His gospel and . . . though He did not make them personally immune to temptation and sin . . . He guaranteed them against error in the teaching of His gospel.

It is quite possible that a perfectly sincere

person . . . after fully investigating the Catholic religion . . . might not in good conscience be convinced that he should become a Catholic. But if it is true . . . as claimed since the time of Peter . . . that the Catholic Church is Christ's true church, those seeking religious truth should not be deterred by personal objections to some aspect of Catholicism which may become acceptable to them upon investigation.

"What Do You Find Wrong With The Catholic Church" is the title of a frank and highly interesting pamphlet just published. It discusses freely why more than 400 million people throughout the world gladly accept the discipline of the Church, and why many others reject it upon request we will mail you a copy free . . . in a plain wrapper. Nobody will call on you. Just ask for Pamphlet No. A-54.

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One of the series of strikingly effective advertisements published by our Order in periodicals of large general circulations.



Dedication Day, November 20, 1959, as hundreds of dignitaries move in procession to the entrance of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D. C. through a corridor formed by more than 1,000 uniformed members of the Fourth Degree. The Campanile, left of entrance, is the **KNIGHTS' TOWER**, erected at a cost of \$1,000,000 by the Order as a result of the invitation of the Hierarchy of the United States in recognition of the many contributions and programs in behalf of the Church by the Knights of Columbus.

**LEGAL RESERVE NON-PROFIT
FAMILY SECURITY LIFE INSURANCE
PERSONALIZED FOR THE CATHOLIC FAMILY**

ADULT CERTIFICATES—From the 18th to 60th Birthdays

From \$1,000 to \$100,000

Whole Life Special (min. \$10,000)

Ordinary Life (min. \$1,000)

*Life Paid Up at Age 65 — *20 Year and 30 Year Payment Life

*20 Year Payment Endowment at Age 65

*Endowments at Age 55 and at Age 65 — *20 Year Endowment

Elective Income Endowment at Age 65—*Double Benefit to Age 65 (min. \$2,000)

Modified 5-Year Whole Life (min. \$5,000)

10 Year, *15 Year Term and *Term to Age 60 (Convertible) (min. \$2,500)

Mortgage Redemption Reducing Term

*Available to wives of members and female children to 21st birthdays.

FAMILY INCOME BENEFITS—Riders

for periods of 10-15-20 Years and to Age 65

\$10 or \$20 per month per basic \$1,000

Premium payable 3 yrs. less than period of rider

Provides monthly income for "Living Insurance" and "Mortgage Redemption."

JUVENILE CERTIFICATES—Male and Female

From birth to 18th birthday.

Full Face Amount Death Benefit for ages 6 months and over.

20 Year and 30 Year Payment Life

20 Year Endowment — Endowment at Age 65

Endowment at Age 18—Junior Estate Builder

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FAMILY PLAN. ONE PREMIUM—ONE CERTIFICATE

Protects Member, Wife, Minor Age Children

Available to Members, Ages 18 to 50.

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