



January 10, 2025

Dear Brothers in Christ,

As Catholic gentlemen, we are called to a life of service to the church, to society and to each other. I am excited to share with you that a great and wonderful opportunity exists for Catholic men to answer this call to serve by becoming a member of the Knights of Columbus.

This exemplary order of Catholic men was founded in 1882 by a simple parish priest who had the vision and foresight to establish an organization that would provide Catholic men the opportunity to live out their faith through charitable works, care for their families and defending the Catholic faith. Today, the Knights of Columbus are over 2 million members strong in 16 countries and provide a strong moral example in an age when our society promotes secularism over sacrificial service. Last year this fraternity of practical Catholic gentlemen donated more than \$185 million and 50 million hours to charity, in addition to providing its members the opportunity to share a fraternal brotherhood with men of similar values and beliefs.

As a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus, I have personally witnessed the tremendous work that these men accomplish in our Diocese. However, there is much more that needs to be done in the name of charity. I strongly encourage each man in our Diocese who considers himself to be a practicing Catholic and is at least 18 years old to prayerfully consider joining the Knights of Columbus.

Knights will be in parishes after Masses in January and February with information for prospective members. Please take some time to visit with one of these Knights so that you, too, may join us in our mission to promote charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism or click this link [www.illinoisknights.org](http://www.illinoisknights.org) to learn more about becoming a Knight of Columbus. Thank you and through the intercession Blessed Michael McGivney, I ask God to bless you always.

As I remain –

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks  
Bishop of Joliet