

## **A pulpit announcement where a council exists (3min)**

### **Nebraska**

Good Morning/Evening; I am \_\_\_\_\_ a member of \_\_\_\_\_ (council name) # \_\_\_\_\_ (council #) here at \_\_\_\_\_ (parish name).

Thank you for allowing me to speak to you this morning. My purpose for being here is to talk to you about the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic, Family, Fraternal, Service organization dedicated to serving the Church and the community. This is not an organization for men only to hear about, but involves women and children, as well.

The Knights of Columbus was started in 1882, 126 years ago, by Fr Michael J McGivney and a few parishioners of St Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut whom saw a need among the Catholic immigrants of their time, to band together; spiritually and fraternally, and to develop a plan that would provide financial security to member's families during times of need.

His plan and his organization exists much the same today as it did then. Today, Knights totaling over 1.75 million members in the US, Canada, Mexico, the Philippines, Poland and in several other countries continue to serve their pastors and priests, their Church and their communities. The cause for sainthood of the Fr McGivney continues with his elevation to "Venerable" and the continued hope that our founder may one day soon be bestowed the honor of sainthood.

Today, over 23,500 Knights in Nebraska are actively carrying out the dream of the young priest at St Mary's church in New Haven. Last year, the members in this state volunteered nearly 1 million hours of time to their church, community, youth and other miscellaneous causes. Over \$1.6 million was given to charities and other needy organizations.

In the spring of each year, we hand out Tootsie Rolls and solicit money which provides financial assistance to organizations that help persons with intellectual disabilities. This statewide fund drive raises an average of \$170,000 each year. This is just one example of many activities conducted by Knights in Nebraska each year.

You can quickly see that the members of this organization are very active in the church, in the community and with their families. Each local council, of which there are 160 in the state, is privileged to conduct such activities as it sees are needed in their community.

Our council here at \_\_\_\_\_ is involved in many activities: List a few:

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Fr McGivney saw the need for a program that would provide financial protection for the family should there be a death of a supporting spouse. Throughout the years, our insurance program has grown to over \$70 billion of life insurance in force. There are several other fraternal benefits available for the members and their families. A staff of benefit consultants is exclusively available to assist Knights with all their insurance needs. These benefits are of exceptional quality. Your participation in these programs is however, voluntary.

God made us, 'to know, to love and to serve Him and to be with Him forever in Heaven'. And so it is with that understanding that I ask you to consider joining the Knights of Columbus so that you might come to know God through His works and His teachings, to love God and His people, and to serve Him through the united effort of other men and women who faithfully serve Him by serving others. Many find that through the good works in which they become involved, whether it is through the Knights of Columbus or any other organization, they soon enjoy and appreciate the fraternity and the friendships they have made. It is the organized ambitions of so many that achieve great accomplishments. The opportunity awaits you and your family, as well.

After Mass today, Knights will be in the rear of the Church. They will have more information available for you and are anxious to answer any questions you may have about the Knights of Columbus or about our council.

We invite you to hear what we have to say. Only good things will come from your commitment to get more involved. Thank you.

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