

# FRATERNAL BENEFITS - KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

## Father Widmer Council #7877, Stafford, VA

Knights of Columbus Families enjoy many benefits, among them:

### *SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE*

When any member of a Knights of Columbus Family passes away, the Council provides specialized assistance to the surviving family members. We will help at the hospital, cemetery, funeral home, insurance claims, veteran's affairs, social security and any other area needed by the family. This service is provided by the Field Agent whether the Knight is an insured member or not.

### *ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT, FIREFIGHTERS AND MILITARY*

The Knights of Columbus provides a special program of support for our members who serve as Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters or in the Armed Services. Basically, we guarantee that should they die in the line of duty, due to criminal activity, their children will receive a full scholarship to a Catholic University.

This is to thank these men for their significant contribution to our communities and society at large.

### *SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS*

Knights of Columbus Family members are eligible for many K of C Scholarships. For more information see <http://www.kofc.org/en/scholarships/index.html> For more information, write to: **Department of Scholarships, Knights of Columbus, PO Box 1670, New Haven, CT 06507-0901, 203-752-4332**

### *SUPPORT TO UNIQUE LOCAL VIRGINIA/D.C. EVENTS*

The Annual **Aquia Field Mass** celebrates the 1<sup>st</sup> Catholic Community in Virginia with the Brent Family Cemetery Field Mass. It is held in October.

The Annual **Religious Freedom March** in Fredericksburg celebrates the 1777 drafting of "The Virginia Act" by Thomas Jefferson that became the basis of the religious freedom clause of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. It is held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in January.

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The Annual March for Life that has occurred for over 42 years on the anniversary (22 Jan) of the Supreme Court decision to allow abortion. This year (2017) the March will occur on January 27<sup>th</sup> as not to conflict with the Presidential inauguration ceremonies. Soup Supper follows in the SWOYCC Parish Center. Only a Virginia Knight can volunteer as a Marshal for the March which is a unique experience that is cherished.

### ENHANCED SOCIAL LIFE

Knights of Columbus Families enjoy an enhanced social life. Throughout the year there are many opportunities to meet and enjoy other families and individuals much like yourself. The Council sponsors many socials, educational speakers, dinners, breakfasts, fish fries dinners, donut Sunday, Muffin Sunday (Margaret Ladies), dances, celebrations, etc. that are open to all member families.

The Father Widmer Council No 7877 is a very social council. We provide many opportunities to interact with other Catholic Families. Check our Council Newsletter at [http://www.swoycc.org/information/kocnewsletter\\_1.pdf](http://www.swoycc.org/information/kocnewsletter_1.pdf)

Recognition programs include Knight of the Month, Family of the Month, Knight of the Year, Family of the Year, Outstanding Young Man and Outstanding Young Woman.

### KNIGHTS SPONSORED YOUTH PROGRAMS

ANNUAL SOCCER CHALLENGE AND FREE THROW  
CHAMPIONSHIP FOR LOCAL, DISTRICT, STATE AND  
INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

### INSURANCE PROTECTION

When Father McGivney started the Knights of Columbus, he had two goals. First to provide life insurance protection to our Catholic Families at the lowest possible cost and second, not to make any profit. One hundred seventeen years later these are still our goals. All proceeds from our insurance program are used for charity or returned to our certificate holders as dividends. Only Knights of Columbus Families have the benefit of our Fraternal Insurance Program.

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Family Fraternal Benefits help our members facing unique needs. Many of these benefits are unique to the Knights of Columbus and our members. Some of these benefits include:

- Guaranteed life insurance benefits for uninsurable children
- Death benefits available for stillborn or miscarried children
- Orphan benefits
- Member/spouse accidental death benefits

Today, we are one of very few insurance companies with the highest rating (superior) from both A.M. Best and Standard & Poor. Whole life insurance, term insurance and annuities are available to our members. For more information, contact Knights of Columbus Field Agent, [Don Murphy](#) or see <http://www.kofc.org/un/en/insurance/index.html>

### **Service Activities**

The Knights of Columbus is one of the largest and most active service organizations in the world. Its service activities all fall under one of six program areas: Church, Community, Council, Culture of Life, Family and Youth.

**Church activities** involve a wide variety of programs that benefit and assist the Catholic Church and its clergy. Fr. Widmer council #7877 provide financial support to men and women preparing for consecrated religious life, and have programs that promote religious vocations. Councils may also sponsor educational programs on the Catholic faith for members of their parishes, and may sponsor activities that involve all parishioners, whether or not they are members of the Knights of Columbus in supporting the Church. All these activities are designed to help build active and vibrant parish communities, and to faithfully serve our bishops and priests.

**Community activities** encompass programs that benefit those in need in the towns, cities and counties across Virginia. They may include programs sponsored by the Supreme Council, such as our Food for Families and Coats for Kids programs, or they may involve purely local efforts to meet local needs. In Virginia, our largest and most important community activities involve providing both financial and volunteer support for Special Olympics and KOVAR programs that benefit people with intellectual disabilities. Fourth Degree Knights often participate in community patriotic events such as parades and holiday commemorations.

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***Council activities*** contribute to ensuring that our efforts are well organized and that volunteers for our charitable work can always be utilized as the need arises. A Council Committee publishes a regular newsletter, maintains a council web site, issues news releases to local media about council activities, and assists the Membership Director in recruiting new members. Other activities include organizing special programs for monthly social meetings, as well as council outings. All of these activities help build a fraternal bond among brother Knights and strong social ties among their families.

***Culture of Life activities*** emphasizes the importance of protecting every human life, from conception to natural death. One of the most important programs in this area is our Ultrasound Program, in which councils raise funds for the purchase of ultrasound machines for local pregnancy resource centers. Local funds are matched by the Supreme Council. Thus far, more than \$10 million has been raised nationally, and Virginia Knights have donated twelve (12) of the machines in every part of the state. Fr. Widmer Council has donated two machines to the Fredericksburg Pregnancy Center. Virginia Knights are also very active in staging the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., where they have served for many years as marshals for the event and Fr. Widmer and the Margaret Ladies Axillary hosts a Soup Supper for the Marchers and Marshalls.

***Family activities*** are a vital part of the Knights of Columbus agenda. We are proud to call ourselves a "Family Fraternal Organization," and we always look for ways to involve our wives and children in KofC activities. Family activities are especially important for Knights with young children, because it gives them a way to be involved with the Knights of Columbus and their children at the same time! Council picnics, holiday parties, and other family oriented events are essential activities for every council. Other resources, such as the Supreme Council's Fathers for Good program are valuable aids to Catholic parenting in a secular world.

***Youth activities*** encompass a wide range of activities. We also sponsor youth sporting events, including the annual Free Throw Contest and Soccer Challenge. Councils sponsor events that recognize altar servers for their service to the Church.

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### **BEING A KNIGHT HELPS US BE A BETTER CATHOLIC**

Our modern secular society is often not very religion-friendly. The pressure to give your faith short shrift can be very strong. As Knights, we rely on one another to help keep our faith strong, and to establish meaningful ties with our bishops and priests. Our founder was a Catholic priest, Father Michael J. McGivney, who instilled in us a deep devotion to Christ and his church.

Being a Knight helps us be better husbands and fathers. When your children see the work that you do to help those in need and the effort you devote to supporting your local Catholic Church, they will be learning a valuable and lasting lesson. Children learn from the example that you set much more than from anything that you say.

Being a Knight gives us an opportunity to help those in need in very special ways. One of the biggest charitable activities for Virginia Knights is our support for people with intellectual disabilities.

Being a Knight helps working to build a Culture of Life.

Being a Knight brings with it the opportunity for friendship and fraternity with a whole new family of like-minded brother Knights who share your faith, your values and your aspirations for living a life that's worthy of a follower of Christ.

We work hard to make a difference in our families, parishes and communities.

### **Knights of Columbus Webpages for more information**

***Father Widmer #7877 - <http://www.staffordknights.org/>***

***Virginia State KOC - <http://www.vakofc.org/index.html>***

***Supreme KOC - <https://www.kofc.org/en/index.html>***

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### *Benefits of Membership Summary*

Many benefits and opportunities enjoyed by Knights of Columbus members and their families:

- *COLUMBIA* MAGAZINE – Free subscription to the Order’s monthly magazine examining issues of concern to Knights, Catholics and families.
- KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS ROSARY – Blessed by the supreme chaplain, presented during the First Degree exemplification to each new member.
- DAILY MASS OF REMEMBRANCE AT ST. MARY’S CHURCH – Mass for deceased members and their wives, and deceased members of the Squires program, at birthplace of the Order.
- INSURANCE – Portfolio of top-quality life insurance, long-term care, and annuity products exclusively for members and their families.
- FAMILY FRATERNAL BENEFIT – For eligible families: a) Pays \$1,500 for the child who dies before the age of 61 days; b) Pays \$750 for the child who is stillborn at least 20 weeks after conception; c) Offers guaranteed-issue insurance up to \$5,000 to any child under age 18.
- ORPHAN BENEFIT – \$80 monthly allotment for orphans of eligible families; up to \$7,000 in college scholarships available.
- MEMBER/SPOUSE FRATERNAL BENEFIT – Accidental death coverage for member and spouse at no cost.
- WIDOW BENEFITS – a) Continues to be covered under the Member/Spouse Fraternal Benefit; b) May purchase life insurance, long-term care insurance, or annuities up to one year after insured member’s death; c) Receives a free lifetime subscription to *Columbia*; d) Eligible with her children for scholarships, student loans, etc.
- SCHOLARSHIPS – Scholarship programs for higher education available to members, their spouses and children.
- LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT – Opportunity to build personal leadership skills, public speaking ability, organization skills, etc.
- FOURTH DEGREE – Eligibility to join the “Patriotic Degree.”
- HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP at Age 70 with 25 years of membership.
- MEMBERSHIP CARD – Entitles participation in all Catholic, fraternal and social activities in nearly 13,000 councils throughout the world.
- ACTIVITIES – FAMILY/YOUTH/RELIGIOUS/SOCIAL/ATHLETIC – Participation in a variety of programs and activities conducted by local councils.