

Why the Knights of Columbus?

From Knightline <knightline@kofc.org>

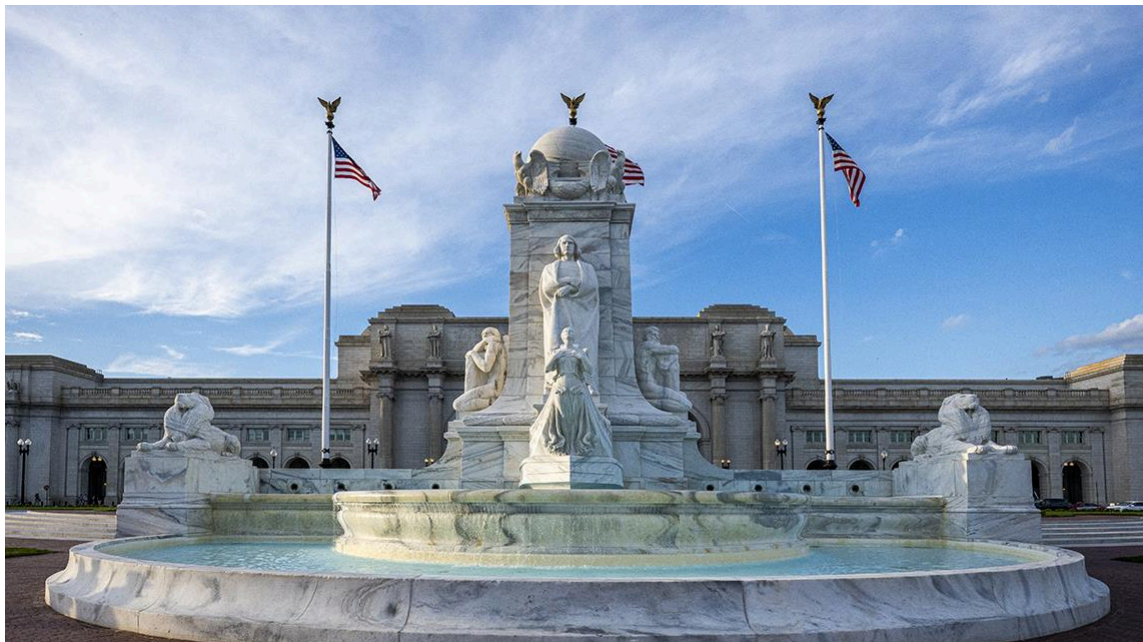
Date Monday, October 12th, 2026

News for Knights of Columbus



VOLUME 44 | NUMBER 41 | OCTOBER 12, 2026

In 1892, just two years after the death of Blessed Michael McGivney, Knights of Columbus enthusiastically celebrated the first national Columbus Day, marking the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' landing. Today's observances of Columbus Day in the United States and Thanksgiving Day in Canada remind Knights of Columbus of the gratitude they owe their countries. Since the Order's founding — and especially since the establishment of the Fourth Degree more than 125 years ago — Knights have exemplified patriotism and demonstrated that one can be a faithful Catholic and faithful citizen.



The Christopher Columbus Memorial by sculptor Lorado Taft stands outside Union Station in Washington, D.C. (Photo by Matthew Barrick)

Why the Knights of Columbus?

In an era of anti-Catholicism and anti-immigrant nativism, Blessed Michael McGivney chose the Catholic explorer Christopher Columbus as the Order's namesake in 1882. In an essay in the September 2020 issue of *Columbia*, historian William J. Connell explains, "For [the Knights] and many others, Columbus was celebrated as a figure of civic unity and a symbol that immigrants, particularly Catholics, possessed a rightful share in American identity."

[READ MORE](#)



The Virtue of Patriotism

Addressing the annual States Dinner at the 144th Supreme Convention in Denver, Archbishop Paul Coakley of Oklahoma City, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and a longtime Knight, reflected on the virtue of patriotism in light of the 250th anniversary year of the United States. "Patriotism is not, first and foremost, a political virtue. It is a religious one," he said. "It flows from the Fourth Commandment, honor your father and mother, and it can rightly be understood as a form of familial love extended outward."

[READ MORE](#)



Rhode Island District Master John Tracy III confers the Fourth Degree on a member of Friar Council 5787 at Providence College.

Called to Be Catholic Patriots

The Fourth Degree exemplification celebrates the Order's fourth principle, patriotism. At Providence College, more than 20 members of Friar Council 5787 recently advanced to the Fourth Degree, embracing the call to live their faith in the public square, serving both God and country.

[WATCH HERE](#)



The Chatham-Kent Barnstormers pause for the Canadian national anthem before a game.

Batting for a Stronger Community

Named for a baseball tradition dating back more than a century, the Chatham-Kent Barnstormers Baseball Club has brought baseball to its community, competing in the Canadian Baseball League since 2024. More than 150 Knights of Columbus volunteers from 10 councils help make game days possible — from preparing the field to running concessions and selling tickets. Their work supports local charities, including the Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids program, which has provided more than 20,000 coats to children across Ontario.

[WATCH HERE](#)



Maximize Your Charitable Giving

Are you looking for opportunities to maximize your charitable giving? Generosity is at the heart of our Catholic faith. Knights of Columbus Charitable Fund (KCCF) helps donors maximize their giving in a distinctly Catholic way. On Oct. 20 at 4 p.m. ET, join Dennis J. Gerber Jr., president and CEO of KCCF, and Joshua Gideon, chief of strategy, for a free webinar on the benefits of a donor-advised fund and how you can ensure your charitable giving aligns with your faith through KCCF. [Register today and reserve your spot!](#)

Tell others about *Knightline*

Forward this newsletter to Catholic men interested in the Knights, and let them know that they can become a member at kojc.org/join. You can also share your questions, feedback and story by emailing knightline@kojc.org.

Any links to third-party sites outside of the Knights of Columbus are provided for information purposes only. This is not an endorsement of the service providers. Share questions and feedback by emailing knightline@kojc.org.

**Follow us on Facebook,
Twitter, Instagram, and more**



This email was sent by: **Knightline**.
