

# A Fourth of July Message from the Supreme Knight

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From Knights of Columbus <knights@KofC.org>

Date Friday, July 3rd, 2026 at 9:30 AM

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Dear Brother Knight,

This Fourth of July, we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the birth of the United States. Such a milestone gives us the opportunity to reflect on our country's promise and the work still necessary to form a "more perfect union". As we mark this anniversary, it's worth recalling how the Knights of Columbus have helped strengthen our nation.

When Blessed Michael McGivney founded the Order, the United States was at a crossroads. The Civil War was a fresh and painful memory. The Industrial Revolution was disrupting communities. Not only were Catholic men dying in factories, but they and their families faced widespread discrimination. After barely a hundred years, the American promise of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" seemed beyond the reach of many.

Enter the Knights of Columbus. We gave Catholic men a place to belong, and we proved that good Catholics make good Americans. As followers of Christ who know that every person is created in the image and likeness of God, we fought for racial equality when few others dared. We advanced the cause of religious freedom, protecting Catholic education from being banned. We led the charge to add "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance. And generations of Knights have defended this "one nation under God" by serving and sacrificing in uniform.

Much of our work has been recorded in the history books. Yet many of our most important contributions go unheralded. When you gather in your council or assembly — when you come together in faith and service — you give something powerful to America itself. You devote your lives to lifting up the less fortunate. You build the bonds of community, cohesion and Christian

conviction on which the nation's future depends. The very act of being a Knight of Columbus makes you a patriot.

On this 250th anniversary, I thank you for making America better through your daily work and witness. And I offer a prayer: May God bless you, my brother Knight, and may God continue to bless this country we call home.

Patrick E. Kelly  
Supreme Knight  
Knights of Columbus

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