



ARCHEVÊCHÉ
ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE
ARCHIDIOCÈSE DE SAINT-BONIFACE ARCHDIOCESE

BUREAU DE L'ARCHEVÊQUE
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

August 2013

Dear Brothers in Christ,

I am speaking to you today, not only as the Archbishop of the St. Boniface Diocese but also as the Honorary Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus in Manitoba at the present time.

The Knights of Columbus were founded by the Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney and a group of men of St. Mary's Church in New Haven Connecticut on March 29, 1882. The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic, family-oriented fraternal service organization dedicated to the principals of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism.

The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic lay men's organization, with more than 1.8 million members in 14 countries around the world. It operates through an active system of local parish councils as well as state (or provincial) councils that conduct extensive charitable and volunteer programs. Last year, on a worldwide scale, this organization of Catholic men donated more than \$167 million and 70 million hours to charity. For their part, the 1,100 members of the Knights of Columbus in Manitoba gave more than \$823,000 and 550,000 hours to various charities last year.

The Knights of Columbus are often called the "Right Arm" of the Church. In solidarity with their priests they are active in their parishes, supporting the parish community in whatever manner required, from volunteering for various ministries and pastoral activities to providing financial support for parish projects. Knights of Columbus members are often the key leaders amongst the laity in the parish.

They are also involved in many other causes outside the parish such as the Pro-Life March, the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics and support for seminarians, just to name a few.

However, the only way the Knights of Columbus can do all of this, is with members who are active and committed. I am inviting you to consider stepping forward and be of service to the Church and the Community. Being a Knight of Columbus can be a tremendous blessing to those who say "YES." Participation in the fraternity of the Knights of Columbus and its many charitable programs can help a Catholic man better live out his Catholic faith and become a better husband & father.

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I have often personally witnessed the tremendous work that these men accomplish. However, there is much more work which needs to be done in the name of charity. I encourage every Catholic man in Manitoba who is at least 18 years old to prayerfully consider joining the ranks of this fine organization. What better time to increase your service to your Church and Community. Please accept my invitation to become a Knight of Columbus today.

† Albert LeGatt
Archbishop of Saint Boniface