



Knights of Columbus – Core Principles

Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism define the Knights of Columbus. Individual members who realize these ideals are recognized by corresponding Degrees.

Charity (1st Degree) – Our Catholic faith teaches us to “Love thy neighbor as thyself.”

We show love for our neighbors by fundraising for local food pantries, supporting the Coats for Kids program, hosting Thanksgiving dinner, supporting mothers who choose life for their babies, and many other worthy charities. Knights recognize that our mission and our faith in God compel us to action.

As a Council, we continuously evaluate our charitable programs to ensure our efforts provide benefit to worthy causes and are responsive to the needs of our community.



Unity (2nd Degree) – As a Knight, you can count on the support and encouragement of



your brother Knights as you work to make life better in your parish and community. We stand behind a body of key truths that are often denied and even vilified. This constancy of purpose makes our commitment all the more important in today's world.

The Knights of Columbus has pioneered the call for national unity and an end to racism. Its proud history of supporting integration, civil rights, and ethnic diversity was founded on the principle of unity. These positions were taken in the earliest days of the Order, long before they were accepted in our nation at large.

As an Order, we will continue to be a symbol of this unity that comes from a long and unwavering commitment to our faith and fundamental beliefs.

Fraternity (3rd Degree) – Blessed Michael J. McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus, in large part to provide assistance to the widows and children. The Order's top-rated insurance program continues to do this today. Additionally, the good works of individual Knights, who gave more than 75.6 million service hours in 2017, illustrates how Catholics serve each other in fraternity and mercy.



Within Council 85, we offer an inclusive environment that is open, warm, charitable, and engaging. Our vibrant Council embraces its Catholic identity, is active and growing, and pursues programs which promote our parish, community, and families.

Patriotism (4th Degree) – The primary purpose of the Fourth Degree is to inculcate a



love of country and impress the duties of citizenship. Its motto is “*Patriotism - enlightened and informed by religion*”.

Our 4th degree assembly has an 85-year history. This Assembly currently has 327 members from 20 Councils from neighboring Massachusetts communities. Examples of the good works performed in support of veterans and those currently serving our country include monthly visits

to the Veteran’s Hospital in Bedford MA. Here we pray the rosary and attend Mass with the veterans.

Additionally, members of the Assembly may belong to the Honor Guard that stands wake watch at members’ wakes, provides honor guards at Masses, and march in parades on the 4th of July, Columbus Day, Memorial Day, and other requested events.

In summary, members of the Knights are patriotic citizens who are proud of our devotion to God and country, and believe in standing up for both. We support our community, parish, veterans and active military. We believe that one can be a faithful Catholic and a faithful citizen by promoting Catholic citizenship and community involvement.