

A Catholic Convert Speaks Out: Forget the Stereotypes! I'm Proud to Be a Knight

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praying the Rosary before a council meeting, participating in a day of reflection or simply attending Mass with their families, these men have a heart for Christ. They pray in front of abortion clinics, participate in a variety of ways during the Mass as lectors, altar servers and extraordinary ministers, and commit their lives to Christ and His Church.

Some make light of the order's insurance program, forgetting that this was a part of the dream by Father Michael J. McGivney when he founded the Knights over 128 years ago. He wanted financial protection to be afforded for the families of working class Catholic immigrants, who at that time were given the most dangerous, difficult and unhealthy jobs to accomplish.

The Order also is not an insurance joke. Rather, we are one of the most robust insurance companies in America. As Carl Anderson shared in his annual report, "In the 18 years that Standard & Poor's has been rating the Knights of Columbus, there have been three recessions. In the 35 years that we've been rated by A.M. Best, there have been five recessions. And in every single one of those years, we've gotten the highest rating that those companies award."

Not only are we among a handful of exceptional companies, our profits are used to benefit the work of the Church in many ways.

I have no doubt that critics can and will cite exceptions to my observations, but this is the heartbeat of the Order. This is what every Knight is called to be and what every Knight is challenged to do. Those who rise to the occasion exemplify the best of the Order and honor Christ.

As I said, I'm proud to be a Knight. This fraternal brotherhood can truly make a difference in this world as we give ourselves wholly to Christ and the work of the Gospel. As Shakespeare writes in "Henry V" -

"From this day to the ending of the world

FROM THE DAY TO THE ENDING OF THE WORLD,
But we in it shall be remembered-
We few, we happy few, we band of brothers.

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