

Knights of Columbus - Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Council 13639



The Knights of Columbus is the largest worldwide Catholic men's fraternity dedicated to supporting the clergy and the family. We of Council #13639 proudly serve the parish of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs in Sarasota FL.

In the late 1800's, when the family breadwinner died, the widow and children struggled to keep the family together. A New Haven, Connecticut parish priest, Fr. Michael J. McGivney, asked his predominantly Irish immigrant parishioners to help solve this problem. They created an organization that would financially help the widows of members who died. Today, Fr. McGivney is under consideration for sainthood, and his organization, the Knights of Columbus, is still growing.

Knights of Columbus are Catholic gentlemen committed to the exemplification of **charity, unity, fraternity, patriotism**, and defense of the priesthood. Our Order is consecrated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. We are unequivocal in our loyalty to the Pope, the Vicar of Christ on Earth. We are firmly committed to the protection of human life, from conception to natural death, and to the preservation and defense of the family. These were the bedrock principles that the Order was founded on over a century ago, and we remain true to them today. The larger worldwide Knights of Columbus organization is active in several countries, financially supports seminarians, has established several charitable organizations, and pays for the world-wide satellite transmission of the Papal Midnight Mass on Christmas and Easter.

Membership is open to practicing Catholic men in union with the Holy See, who are at least 18 years old. If you are interested in joining us, please speak with a Knight to learn more about our order. We will gladly answer any question you may have and assist you on your journey to Knighthood. We strive to do charitable works, both within our Parish and for the needy elsewhere, thereby serving the Church and following its teachings. Listed below are some of the service activities our council members at OLQM are involved with, both within the parish and in the surrounding community.

Church

- Lectors
- Eucharistic Ministers
- Ushers
- Altar Servers
- Help with spaghetti dinners to raise funds for OLQM parish
- Sacristan - opening the church and dressing the altar for Mass
- Take communion to the homebound
- Faith Formation religious education instructors

Family

- Nursing home visits – taking care of friends and family
- Caregivers for aging parents
- Help with the parish picnic

Community

- Computer help for seniors
- Toys for Tots – help packing up orders for needy kids at Christmas
- Helping aged parishioners get to church
- Volunteer at community preparedness project
- Prison ministry
- Volunteer at Resurrection House homeless support facility
- Help coach at local Special Olympics events for the mentally/physically challenged

Council

- Tootsie Roll drive fundraiser to help the mentally/physically challenged
- Family breakfast fundraisers
- Superbowl BBQ dinner fundraiser
- Staff concession stand at Orioles spring training games (council gets a percent of sales)

Youth

- Provide the OLQM youth group with bicycles for charity raffles
- Help with the Faith Formation Family Night Pot Luck to raise money for the religious education programs
- Provide recognition of Youth Ministers (e.g., altar servers, lectors, hospitality ministers)

Culture of Life

- Host Rosary at the shrine for the unborn
- Support 40 Days of Respect for Life by praying the Rosary outside abortion clinics

Council Charitable Contributions from Fundraisers

- Quarterly donations to OLQM parish
- Christmas gifts to OLQM parish priests
- Monthly stipend donation to support a seminarian
- Pro Life Across America
- Southeastern Guide Dogs
- St. Mary's Catholic School and Manatee County Special Olympics from Tootsie Roll Drive collection
- Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids
- Veterans' Day Memorial Mass at Sarasota National Cemetery
- Culture of Life Family Services for help with unplanned pregnancies

How to Join

Please contact our Grand Knight, Jack McNeeley (216-965-7540) or a brother Knight to request a Form 100 Membership Application.

Once we receive your application, a brother Knight will reach out to you to answer any questions you may have. Your application will be subject to a vote in our next council meeting. Once your application has been approved, we will contact you to arrange for you to attend your First Degree, which is the first stage of initiation in our order. Once you have completed your First Degree, you are a member of the Knights of Columbus.

During your first year as a member, a First Year Mentor will be assigned as your guide and resource to ensure you are acclimated into the council and become involved.

Knights of Columbus — In Service To One. In Service To All