



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE of
SPRINGFIELD-CAPE GIRARDEAU

Office of the Bishop

March 1, 2026
Second Sunday of Lent

Dear Brothers in Christ,

I write to extend my personal invitation to all Catholic men, eighteen years of age or older, to join the Knights of Columbus. This fraternal Catholic organization was founded by Blessed Father Michael McGivney over 140 years ago in Connecticut. To this day, its members adhere to the teachings of the Church and embrace the great principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism that guide their relationships with God, their family, the Church and society.

For the Knights, commitment to family and personal responsibilities come first, followed by support for their parish, local community and the Diocese. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the Sacraments, along with devotion to the Blessed Mother and Saints are essential component in their life that strengthen their faith and commitment to serve. A new initiative for the Knights is called *Cor*, which is a flexible framework of prayer, small group formation and fraternity that helps focus men on Jesus through building Christ-centered brotherhood. The various activities of the organization help support the members to fulfill their Christian responsibilities. The Knights involve themselves with the youth, the elderly and other members of the parish through their participation in the various ministries, events and programs. The Knights do many other good works that enhance the common good through their prayers, charity and service to the poor and the most vulnerable.

I myself, am a Knight of Columbus and have witnessed the impact of this Catholic organization on their families, our Diocese in particular, and in our society. The Knights of Columbus have been strong partners with the priests in the mission of evangelization and are always ready to respond generously when their bishop or pastor request their assistance. Their support for the sanctity and dignity of human life, for vocations to the priesthood, religious life and seminarians has been a significant contribution to the work of our Church.

I encourage all Catholic men to consider becoming a member of the Knights of Columbus. Our world needs more Catholic gentlemen who can witness to others how to be a good father, a loving husband, a devout Catholic and an active member of the Church. For more information, visit and talk to a member of your parish's Knights of Columbus Council or to inquire online go to: www.kofc.org and join online for free using the promo code BLESSEDMCGIVNEY.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Edward M. Rice

The Most Reverend Edward M. Rice
Bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau



Knights of
Columbus®
Missouri State Council

