

MEDIA FACT SHEET

Knights of Columbus



Around the World

- One of the world's leading fraternal and service organizations
- 2 million members worldwide
- 206,522 members in Canada [as at Dec. 31, 2020]:
 - Alberta – 19,378
 - British Columbia – 12,195
 - Manitoba – 7,681
 - New Brunswick – 12,095
 - Newfoundland & Labrador – 5,162
 - Nova Scotia – 4,336
 - Ontario – 55,232
 - Prince Edward Island – 1,284
 - Quebec – 78,742
 - Saskatchewan – 10,417
- 16,000+ local councils worldwide
- Knights donated in 2019 more than 77 million service hours and US\$187 million for worthy causes in their communities
- The organization also offers extensive life insurance services to members and their families, resulting in more than US\$113.5 billion of life insurance in force
- From helping children in need, to providing wheelchairs for the disabled, to stocking food banks, to offering top-rated and affordable insurance products to its members, Knights of Columbus has supported families and communities for more than 138 years
- In 2020, Knights of Columbus introduced a new combined ceremonial rooted in the order's rich past but tailored to the present. Instead of having separate ceremonies, the first three degrees (out of four) can now be conferred in a single ceremony. The new ceremony can be held in a council chamber or in the parish with families and friends seated in the pews
- Launched in 1998, the Father Michael J. McGivney Guild serves as a source of information about the life, works and spirituality of Blessed McGivney. Today, it has more than 177,000 members. Learn more at fathermcgivney.org



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Columbus®**

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In Canada

- Canada was a country that held special significance for Knights of Columbus founder Blessed Michael McGivney. Even before the Knights existed, Fr. McGivney spent significant time in Canada as a seminarian—first at St. Hyacinthe College (outside of Montreal) and later at St. Mary’s College in Montreal
- 15 years after Knights of Columbus was founded in New Haven, Conn., the Knights took root in Canada with the establishment of Montreal Council No. 284 in 1897
- Former Mayor of Montreal James Guerin served as the first Grand Knight and, within 12 years, the Knights had established councils throughout Canada
- During World War II, Knights in Canada established “Army Huts”, homes away from home for Canadian troops at training bases and behind the lines
- Knights helped fund Pope John Paul II’s 1984 visit to Canada, supported the Canadian Special Olympics team, and established the \$1 million Bishop de Laval fund, the annual interest on which is given to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. The Order also provided \$1 million to World Youth Day in Toronto in July 2002
- In 1989, York Catholic District School Board named one of its secondary schools Father Michael J. McGivney Catholic Academy
- In 2008, Knights of Columbus donated \$1 million to support the 49th International Eucharistic Congress held in Quebec City and supplied volunteers for the event
- In 2010, Knights of Columbus helped finance a documentary on the life of St. André Bessette, the first Canadian-born male saint—God’s Doorkeeper
- Knights from every province in Canada have donated wheelchairs to the Order’s campaign to help disabled people in Mexico, Central and South America, as well as in Haiti
- Canadian Knights have also been key supporters and participants in Canada’s annual March for Life in the national capital of Ottawa each May, as well as in every provincial capital

State Councils (per province)	Year Founded
Quebec	1900
Ontario	1904
British Columbia	1910
Alberta	1911
Newfoundland	1919
Nova Scotia	1920
Prince Edward Island	1921
New Brunswick	1921
Manitoba	1923
Saskatchewan	1923



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