



8 **Work in collaboration with local, state and supreme council officers.**

- Make use of supreme council materials for both annual programs and periodic special events, as well as materials such as prayer cards and posters.
- State deputies adopt a special religious theme for their term in office — help them build on that theme at the local council level.

9 **Approach council meetings as an exciting opportunity to provide faith formation and inspiration, not as a chore.**

- Be prepared. Give serious thought about how to use your time at council meetings to build enthusiasm for putting faith into action.

10 **Reinforce the Order’s emphasis on pro-life activities.**

- Building a Culture of Life is a major goal of the Order at every level.
- Help council members and their families develop a “pro-life” mentality that will respect all human life from conception to natural death.

A Message from the Supreme Knight

As a Knights of Columbus chaplain, you are a key figure in the structure and spirituality of our Order, and you are heir to the great vision and legacy of our founder, The Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney. The genius of Father McGivney was that he saw the great potential inherent in the respectful collaboration between clergy and laity that lies at the heart of our Order.

As you know, Father McGivney bears the title of Venerable and his cause for canonization is under consideration by the Vatican. He is a wonderful model for all priests, and especially for all Knights of Columbus chaplains. Let us join together in praying for his guidance, and for his eventual beatification and canonization.

More than ever before, your role as chaplain is indispensable to the Order, and on behalf of all Knights I wish to express my thanks and gratitude for all you do for us in carrying out your duties. Together, we can help build the Knights of Columbus, our parishes and the Church as we live out the principles of charity, unity and fraternity.

Carl A. Anderson, Supreme Knight



SUPREME CHAPLAIN’S

10 Keys to Success

As a Chaplain



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10 KEYS TO SUCCESS AS A CHAPLAIN IN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



1 Nourish the special role that the Knights of Columbus plays in the Church as a lay fraternal organization.

- Recognize that Knights take great pride in being “the strong right arm of the Church.”
- Encourage their charitable work and the way in which it helps Knights and their families to live the Gospel.
- Encourage active involvement in the spiritual and social life of the parish.

2 Acquire a working knowledge of the Order’s operation at all levels.

- Try to be present at all of your council’s meetings, and take the opportunity to get to know the officers and members.
- Make a point of comparing notes with other K of C chaplains in your area and share good ideas.
- Consider attending your state convention or other statewide K of C meetings.
- Stay current with the Order’s initiatives by reading *Columbia* magazine, *Chaplain’s Report* and *Knighline*, and by visiting www.kofc.org.

3 Involve members of the council in the sacraments and prayer.



- Promote the Eucharist and Mass attendance, and help members deepen their understanding of its unique and central role in the Catholic faith, and of the sacraments generally.
- Encourage recitation of the Rosary, both at council meetings and as the core of prayer life at home.
- Promote vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

4 Promote devotion to Knights of Columbus founder, the Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney.

- Join the McGivney Guild, and encourage council members to join as well.
- *Parish Priest*, the biography of Father McGivney by Douglas Brinkley and Julie Fenster, can provide many ideas for council discussions, as well as an understanding of how the organization grew and developed.

5 Provide solid catechesis on faith and morals: what it means to be a practicing Catholic in the 21st Century.

- By virtue of their activity in the organization, Knights are affirming their willingness and desire to be faithful Catholics. Take the opportunity to help them embrace and fully understand how to practice and defend the faith in a highly secularized world.

6 Lead by example and effective teaching.

- Knights cultivate reverence and respect for the clergy – respond by providing spiritual leadership and taking seriously the educational needs and desires of your brother Knights.
- Make your views known without trying to take control of council activities. Allow the men to respond out of respect for you and your teaching office, rather than attempting to dominate.

7 Exercise an apostolic ministry among the Knights and their families, as a friend, teacher and sanctifier of souls.

- Be present in times of joy and celebration, as well as sorrow and solace.