

Good (evening) (morning), my name is John Staiert, a member of Nativity Parish and the current Grand Knight of Knights of Columbus Council 5660, which serves Nativity and Immaculate Conception Parishes.

When someone mentions the Knights of Columbus, what do you think of? The guys in the funny hats, the tootsie roll guys, the omelet breakfast guys. Yes, we are those things but we are so much more.

Would any Knights here this (evening) (morning) please stand up.

We're not a secret society, we're your neighbors, your friends, we sit among you at Church, at school events, at ball games. We are an organization of Catholic Men whose primary purpose is to serve our Parishes, our Priests, our community, and our families.

Our tootsie roll drives, with your help, give much needed support to several local agencies that help Persons with Intellectual Disabilities such as Mid Steps Services, Camp High Hopes, The Miracle League, and Stars.

Our omelet breakfasts provide support to Church and Community groups ranging from the Youth Group, to Siouxland Soldiers, Mary's Choice, and Coats for Kids to name a few.

We contribute to Capitol Campaigns at both Parishes, provided 10 Commandment Monuments at both Parishes, help pay for needed items and repairs, provide manpower for Parish events or projects, help facilitate the Lighthouse Media stand. We have events for children such as the Halloween Party Haunted House, The Easter Egg Hunt, and the Free Throw Contest.

With the help other local Knights of Columbus Councils, the Iowa Knights of Columbus, and Knights of Columbus Supreme, we purchased an Ultrasound Machine for Mary's Choice, and naming rights sponsorship of a room at Camp High Hopes.

In the last 18 months Council 5660, with the support of our community, has been able to donate over 36,000\$ back into the community.

We also do a few things just for fun, State KC bowling and Golf tournaments, a local Golf Outing, Knights night at an Explorers game, social gatherings, or an occasional pizza after a meeting.

Over the years we have had a lot of dedicated men that have made all these things possible. The work that these men did enriched the Parishes and the community, and in the process they also enriched themselves. By doing God's work we gain a sense of purpose, satisfaction, and fulfillment.

But as the years roll by Father Time takes a toll, older members who have done their part, now need to slow down, new members are needed in any organization or it will die. The Knights of Columbus are no exception. It seems like just yesterday I was one of the young guys, now for a few more years at least, I'll call myself one of the middle aged guys.

It doesn't take much, help out at a breakfast, help with the tootsie roll drive, go to a few meetings, do what you can, and I promise you, you will not regret it. What you give up in a little time, you receive back countless blessings. If you are Catholic Man 18 years of age or older who is practicing your faith, ask yourself why you are not a Knight. If you have never been asked, consider this your personal invitation.

Become a part of one of the most solid, charitable church, community, and family orientated organizations in the World. Whose worldwide membership is near two million, who give nearly 63 million volunteer hours annually, donated 136 million dollars to charitable causes, and give away over 600 scholarships totaling 1.3 million dollars annually?

Stop by and speak with one of us on your way out of Church this (evening) (morning) we will be in the Ping area in back of church. We will be happy to answer any questions or give you more details on the Knights. Or take some information home and discuss it with your family. Being a Knight doesn't take away from the family, it enhances it.

We will be having a 1<sup>st</sup> Degree (Admission) Ceremony on November 6th at Immaculate Conception Church. Join us. Join the Knights of Columbus.

By the way, those guys in the funny hats are The Honor Guard, a part of the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree of the Knights of Columbus. They provide ceremonial support during functions such as Confirmations, Parades, wreath- laying ceremonies, and Funerals of Brother Knights.

Thank you