

## **MASS MEMBERSHIP APPEAL BY BOB FRENCH:**

I am here this morning to invite Catholic gentlemen to join a group of men that I have been a member now for about seventeen years. That organization is the Knights of Columbus. I was invited to join the KofC almost immediately after converting to the Catholic faith.

The KofC was founded by a parish priest by the name of Fr. Michael McGivney in 1882. Father McGivney founded the order to care for and support the many families who had lost their husbands and fathers. At that time, there were no social safety nets and instead of waiting for society to take care of the problem, a humble parish priest had a vision that Catholic men could make a positive impact on society.

On a national and international level, the KofC is involved with many charitable projects such as Special Olympics, Food for Families, Global Wheelchair Mission, Coats for Kids, and so on. In 2016, the KofC donated more than \$177 million to charity and 75 million hours of service.

At St. Peters, another parish priest had a vision. About four years ago, Fr. Hahn asked that St. Peters have a council. The vision was similar, that a small group of Catholic men would be assembled to lend support to the church and community. That led to the formation of the Fr. Charles Griffin council here at St. Peters. Many of you are familiar with some of our work such as the Forty Cans for Lent which, with your help, gathered food and money for St. Vincent DePaul, hosting monthly pancake breakfasts, bringing in speakers to discuss the recent heroin epidemic and human trafficking, painting and getting the convent ready for the sisters, assisting with the Rosary procession, March for Life support, supporting seminarians, Eucharistic procession, and so on. Basically, Fr. Hahn's vision was to have a group of Catholic men that could be called on who were willing to sacrifice a little time, money, and sweat to make a positive impact.

I became a KofC member as it seemed a worthy organization that supported the Church I had fallen in love with as well as the community I live. I stayed a member because I recognized God working through the men I was surrounded by. Many had some rough edges, but they all have a love for Christ and our Church. Another part of why I stayed a Knight was I have never really been satisfied by "going with the flow" of society, especially when it is headed in the wrong direction. The Knights of Columbus is an organization that does not "go with the flow". It is one that shows its' strength by being a witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

One example I can give is something our council began doing about a year ago after Fr. Hahn asked us to try to find ways to make a positive impact regarding the heroin epidemic. After the 5:30 Mass on the second & fourth Monday of every month, you will find the Fr. Charles Griffin council here in church, on our knees, reciting the Rosary for those effected by addiction. Our society has a very backward view of strength. Strength is not shown by loud voices, harsh words, or the like. Real strength is shown when a man is humble and gets on his knees to petition the Mother of God for the strength, courage, and blessings needed to help bring the Gospel to those in need.