

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

The Knights of Columbus has approximately 1.7 million members in the United States and its territories, Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Philippines and now in Poland, consisting of more than 14,000 councils. The Order is governed by a Supreme Board of Directors (12), based in New Haven, Connecticut.

State Councils – In the United States, each state is referred to as a jurisdiction. Each state has a State Council. Colorado has more than 13,500 Knights of Columbus members. Annually, each Council sends two delegates to the State Convention to conduct the business of the Order. The State Officers consisting of a State Deputy, State Secretary, State Treasurer, State Advocate and State Warden are elected by the delegates at the convention and come from the Colorado's general membership. The State Officers manage state level affairs of the Order.

There are numerous state level directors that are appointed to oversee various programs and activities. The State of Colorado consists of 30 districts headed by a District Deputy. Each District Deputy has a primary role to advise the council officers in his respective district and to promote the programs and activities identified by the Supreme and State Councils.

Councils – There are 125 councils in Colorado. Each of these councils, although autonomous, follows the laws and rules of the Order as specified in the Charter, Constitution and By-laws of the Order. Each council is separately chartered and may have its own By-laws. Each council is identified by a unique council number assigned at the time of its establishment. There are over 14,000 councils in the Order. Councils elect officers and Trustees to conduct the business of the Council.

Councils in Colorado range in size from 30 members (minimum number required to establish a council) to more than 300 members. Councils can serve one or more parishes or communities. Councils hold business meetings for the membership once or twice a month and sponsor a variety of programs. Each Council is asked to participate in activities in five areas: Church, Council, Community, Family and Youth. Sponsorship of 4 activities in each of these 5 areas makes a Council eligible for the Columbian Award.

A relatively small percentage of the subordinate councils have a "Council Home", that is, a building that they own. These Councils establish a "Home Association or corporation" for the purpose of holding title to real property.

Chapters – Many of the Order's jurisdictions have established Chapters that are formed largely for the purpose of increasing communication among the councils in a diocese. There are 3 Chapters in the State of Colorado. Chapters elect officers and Trustees usually meeting less frequently than councils, i.e. once a month or quarterly, meeting most often in council halls. Chapters may also sponsor some program activities.

Assemblies – Members of the Knights of Columbus are either First, Second, Third or Fourth Degree members. Although these degrees are taken in order, they are not hierarchical, and each degree teaches a major principle of the Order: Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. If a member takes all four degrees, he becomes a Fourth Degree member. The Fourth Degree (Patriotism) was not one of the original principles of the Order when it was founded. Fourth Degree members are organized into units that specifically promote patriotism; these units are called Assemblies.

Assemblies are composed of Fourth Degree members from Councils within specific geographic areas in the State. In Colorado there are 38 Assemblies. Fourth Degree members are generally the most visible aspect of the Knights of Columbus that the general public identifies with in that they are the men who wear tuxedos, capes and plumed hats in parades and various ceremonial occasions. Assemblies tend to meet at schools or council or church halls once a month. The size of Colorado Assemblies range from small numbers to relatively large assemblies.