



 THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
SOUTH HILLS COUNCIL 3084

NOT ALL KNIGHTS WEAR ARMOR.

Article by Chris Reibold



Photo by Edward Macko

South Hills Council 3084 meets on the 1st Wednesday of the month in Harkins Hall at St. Anne's Church. If you would like to know more about our council or to inquire about joining, please visit our web page at www.southhillsknights.com or contact Matthew Hoffman, Grand Knight – at matthewhoffman421@gmail.com.

The Knights of Columbus are a Catholic fraternal service organization founded by Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney in New Haven, CT in 1882.

Today, the Knights of Columbus have approximately two million members worldwide. We are involved in charitable giving, service work, disaster relief, Catholic education, pro-life activities, faith formation, and evangelization.

We operate a wholly-owned life insurance company for the benefit of our members, that has more than \$100 billion of life insurance in force.

In 2018, the Knights of Columbus gave \$185 million to charity, and performed more than 76 million hours of volunteer work in support of our parishes, schools, and communities.

Why are the Knights of Columbus called knights?

In the medieval period, various orders of knights were organized to escort pilgrims to the holy land, to fight in the crusades, and to defend church property. With the passage of time, some of these orders evolved into fraternal organizations that focused on charitable work and the ongoing

spiritual formation of their members. While the mission changed, these organizations nevertheless retained their religious character, ceremonies, and organizational structure. Some of these knightly orders, such as the Teutonic Knights, and the Knights of Malta, still exist today. Fr. McGivney looked to these knightly orders as the model for his new organization.

Why are the Knights of Columbus named for Christopher Columbus?

In the 19th Century, large scale immigration from Catholic countries, particularly Ireland and Italy, provoked significant anti-Catholic backlash in this country.

Additionally, parishes of the day were largely segregated by ethnicity. There were Irish parishes, Italian parishes, etc., but not much interaction between the various ethnic groups.

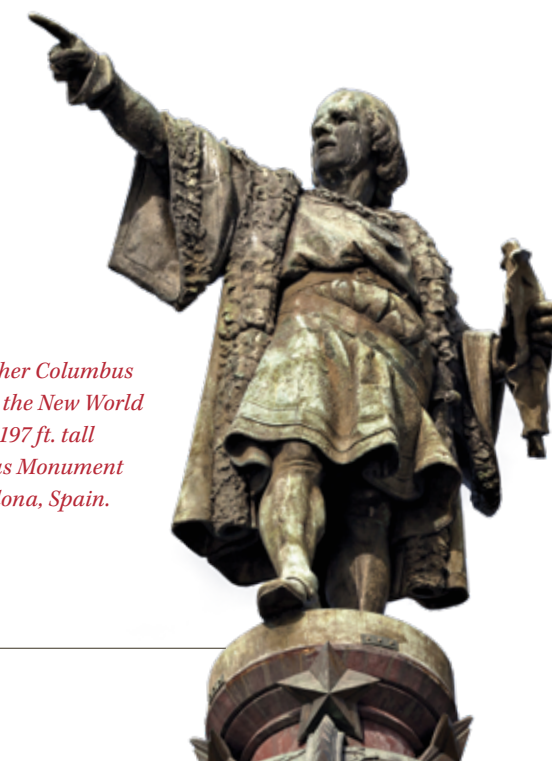
For reasons that are beyond the scope of this article, Christopher Columbus came to be an important symbol of the Catholic contribution to America, and a unifying figure among American Catholics. Fr. McGivney chose Christopher

Columbus as the namesake for his new organization as a way of saying that Catholics make good Americans, and to emphasize that the Knights of Columbus would be a Catholic organization, not an Irish organization, or an Italian organization, etc. 🔥

South Hills Council 3084 is the Knights of Columbus council that serves the parishes of St. Paul of the Cross, St. Catherine Laboure, Resurrection, and Our Lady of Hope.

Our council is large and active. We support various pro-life organizations and activities, provide scholarships for Catholic school students and seminarians, host memorial masses and holy hours, and help with the St. Winifred food pantry,

We also provide financial, material, and service support to the parishes in our footprint — activities that range from helping make needed repairs, to pulling weeds and cleaning up prayer gardens, to sponsoring educational and social events, including an annual family picnic.



Christopher Columbus points to the New World atop the 197 ft. tall Columbus Monument in Barcelona, Spain.