

Hands, Heart and Soul

From Knightline <knightline@kofc.org>

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News for Knights of Columbus



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As interest in vocational training programs increases throughout the United States, Catholic trade schools are emerging that guide students toward lives of meaningful work and active faith — including Knight-led programs that reflect the Order's core principles. Around the world, Knights are responding to needs in countless communities. In Canada and the Philippines, councils are partnering to provide vision care for Filipino villagers in need, while Knights in Ukraine are providing generators to cities struggling through repeated power outages due to war.



Santiago Catholic Trade School instructor Jeff Rice (foreground), who also serves as a district deputy in Orange County, Calif., oversees students constructing a confessional during a build in March. (Photo by Juanito Holandez Jr.)

Hands, Heart and Soul

As enrollment at trade-focused institutions in the United States has risen over the past several years, innovative trade schools that form young men in both a craft and Catholic discipleship have begun to take root. With its emphasis on charity and fraternity, the Knights of Columbus naturally aligns with the mission of these new schools, and three in particular — in California, Illinois and Michigan — are led by Knights.

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To the Heights Together

Blessed Michael McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus so that men could experience communion and fellowship with one another and with God, a mission that remains critical in an age of growing isolation and loneliness. In his latest column for *Columbia*, Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly highlights St. Pier Giorgio Frassati as someone who understood the importance of holy friendship. “With the help of his friends, he continually sought God’s will,” he writes, “and, by his grace, climbed to the heights of heaven.”

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Residents in Villamarzo, Philippines, are fitted for glasses during an eyeglasses distribution event hosted by Cordon Council 7303 in Isabela.

Glasses With Wings

In Villamarzo, a small village on the Philippine island of Luzon, many people do not have the option to purchase eyeglasses and are forced to choose between food and vision care. To meet this need, Villamarzo native Rolando Lagmay, now a member of St. Leonard's Council 11752 in Ottawa, Ontario, helped his council partner with Cordon Council 7303 in Isabela, Philippines, to create Glasses With Wings — an initiative that provides used eyeglasses to people in need.

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Ivan Sichak and Dmytro Hladii of St. Volodymyr Council 15800 serve dinner to people in need at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ in Kyiv, Ukraine, in January.

Light in the Darkness

As missile and drone attacks cause frequent power outages in Kyiv, Ukraine, dozens of parishes are keeping their doors open to offer shelter to people seeking refuge. With support from the Supreme Council, the Ukraine State Council launched the Powering Our Parishes program in 2023 to provide generators to these parishes, delivering 161 generators throughout Ukraine to date.

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