

2026 IMPACT REPORT SUMMER



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A MESSAGE FROM **JOHN MARRELLA**

“Duc in altum! Put out into the deep!” These words are Christ’s famous exhortation to Saint Peter as he came ashore after a night of fishing without success.

You know what happens next. Their nets stretch to bursting with the massive haul of fish they bring in. When Simon Peter falls in fear to his knees before Jesus, Our Lord assures him: “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men” **LUKE 5:10.**

You might notice a similar theme emerge as you read the stories in this newsletter. Each one contains Knights “putting out into the deep,” throwing themselves with open hearts into the service of their neighbors in need—whether that entails helping flood victims in O’ahu, Hawaii (p. 3), driving through snowdrifts and over frozen lakes to deliver beds to Manitoba children in need (p. 6-7), or bringing warriors to bathe in the healing waters of Lourdes (p. 4-5).

You are part of each one of these stories. Your kind support of Knights of Columbus Charities supports programs like Warriors to Lourdes, Disaster Relief, and Coats for Kids.

On behalf of every Knight who “puts out into the deep” through your generosity, I thank you. You, too, are a “fisher of men” as you bring Christ’s healing love to people who need it most, all around the world.

Sincerely in Christ,

John Marrella
Supreme Secretary



“WE BECAME THE *Rescue*”

When Record Flooding Hit Hawaii, Knights Rose to the Occasion

“I turned around, and my backyard was underwater.” Jade Matsumoro knew the heavy rains pummeling O’ahu would cause flooding. But the speed and scale of the devastation shocked her.

Over two weeks in March, Hawaii was rocked by massive floods and mudslides that forced thousands to evacuate, knocking out roads and power lines. The state government estimated the damage to be the worst in decades.

But amid the crisis, local Knights were on the scene to provide emergency support.

“They all descended on the street, rescuing people, coming in with backhoes, with food, with water, anything that they could do,” said flood victim Rafe Maldonado. Knights were **“digging everybody out and helping every single person. It was the most beautiful thing.”**

Your support of Knights of Columbus Charities fueled these efforts, with over \$100,000 going to support the state council’s emergency response efforts and resource distribution for flood victims. The catastrophe became an opportunity to serve.

“We could’ve waited until somebody came to our rescue,” said Joseph Kapika, a Knight whose hometown of Waialua was hit especially hard in the floods. **“Instead, we became the rescue. That’s what it means to be a Knight of Columbus: to be the rescue in those moments that are difficult.”**

You play a vital role in this mission. Your partnership with the Knights sends a clear message to people in crisis:

“WE’RE HERE. WE DO CARE.”

HEALING Waters



Each year, the Knights of Columbus partners with the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, to sponsor a five-day retreat in Lourdes, France, for those who have served and who suffer from the wounds of war—both visible and invisible.

This annual Warriors to Lourdes Pilgrimage is one of a kind. The generosity of friends like you sends U.S. military personnel to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, where they follow in the footsteps of Saint Bernadette, support each other in fellowship and healing, and participate in the annual International Military Pilgrimage (PMI) with men and women from around the world.

These PMI events include an international opening ceremony, special Masses, visits to the famous healing baths at Lourdes, a Unified Sports Challenge, Stations of the Cross, and a candlelight vigil with tens of thousands of participants.

Some of these warriors are physically wounded or ill. But all carry prayer intentions and hopes of healing to the Marian shrine. In 2026, your support of Knights of Columbus Charities helped to bring 170 warriors to Lourdes and accompany them on their pilgrimage of healing.

For many, the experience of spiritual renewal and closeness with Christ was astonishing.



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“I wasn’t expecting what I received,” said Capt. Maria Froelich of the 513th Military Intelligence Brigade. “Just a closeness with Our Holy Mother, [a feeling of] her veiling me and giving me peace.”

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“The sense that’s been most overwhelming is really a sense of joy,” added Capt. Joseph McInerney, USN/Ret. “That people, despite our challenges, are so happy to be here and happy to share this with one another. We had so many contingents from all over the world, and we’re all really wanting Christ, and you get to see that at this really special place.”



Warriors to Lourdes is at the heart of the Knights of Columbus mission. By helping warriors heal their wounds, we help them become the men and women God wants them to be. As they become whole, they become better able to serve their families, their parishes, and their communities.

“Healing doesn’t mean curing,” said Dino Ciccone, a participant in the Warriors to Lourdes pilgrimage. “It just means getting a little bit better every day.”

Thanks to you, men and women who have served our country faithfully are finding healing and wholeness through this encounter with Our Lord and His Mother at Lourdes.

THROUGH SNOW AND ICE: A KNIGHTS' SPECIAL DELIVERY

The air in the Winnipeg warehouse smelled of sawdust and vinegar. But something very special was afoot.

The Knights of Columbus Manitoba State Council was partnering with a charity called Sleep in Heavenly Peace to build beds for children who have none. Knight volunteers helped craft 22 sturdy wooden beds, complete with headboard, frame, and slats, which were quickly dipped in a vinegar and steel wool solution to prevent staining and bedbugs. A mattress, pillow, and bedding were added to complete the gift.

That was the easy part. The hard part: figuring out how to transport the beds over 700 kilometers (435 miles) of highway, icy roads, unplowed snow, and frozen lakes and rivers to children in the Mathias Colomb Cree Nation in the northernmost reaches of Pukatawagan, Manitoba.



“I was clutching my rosary,” said Cleo Castillo, a Winnipeg-based Knights of Columbus general agent, describing the truck drive over frozen bodies of water. **“A lot of prayers along the way!”**

For State Deputy Mark Desjardins, the destination was never in doubt. He cited the Holy Spirit and Blessed Michael McGivney for prompting him to think about how impoverished children in the province could get a good night's sleep.

“There are not enough beds for all the children here,” explained Fr. Dhana Amarlapudi, who serves the Pukatawagan community. **“They sleep on couches or on the floor.”** Families also suffered acutely when they were forced out of their homes because of wildfire evacuations. When they returned after months away, much of their furniture and bedding had been damaged by neglect and moisture.

So imagine the joy when the Knights arrived, having braved hundreds of kilometers of treacherous snow and ice, with hand-crafted beds that will allow almost two dozen children to get the rest their little bodies need to grow and thrive!

Your generosity makes moments like this possible. Knights of Columbus Charities also helped equip the courageous expedition of Manitoba Knights with seven wheelchairs for the sick and elderly and 500 warm winter coats, one for each child in Pukatawagan.



Fr. Amarlapudi had asked for fifty coats. But when Desjardins learned that 500 children lived in the community, Knights stepped up. A hand-painted sign at the coat distribution said it simply enough: **“THANK YOU! KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS”**

Not all of us have the know-how or ability to lead a charitable expedition over hundreds of kilometers of ice and snow. But each of us has a part to play in bringing Christ's love to all the world. Thank you for all you do through Knights of Columbus Charities to help Knights like Mark Desjardins, Cleo Castillo, and their fellow Manitoba Knights bring warmth and comfort to people in need.

LEAVE A LEGACY *of Love*



By including Knights of Columbus Charities in your estate plan, you help the Knights continue to put faith and Catholic values into action. Simply add Knights of Columbus Charities as a designated beneficiary in your will or living trust and rest assured that your generosity will continue to touch lives for generations to come.

You've seen in this newsletter how big a difference you can make. Make your legacy part of the Knights' service far into the future!

If you're interested in learning more about estate giving, reach out to us at info@kofccharities.org.



By the Numbers:

YOUR KOFC CHARITABLE IMPACT IN 2025

