

## What the Knights Mean to Me

By Tate Pumfrey

For 134 years, the Knights of Columbus have served God's people throughout the world. Founded in 1882 by Venerable Michael J. McGivney with only a few members, it has since grown to nearly two million members. This, as nice as it is, begs the question, what do the Knights of Columbus mean to me? I have grown up around many kind knights, my own father and grandfather being knights themselves. To me, the Knights are a shining light in any community, both inside and out of the Church. The Knights teach the value of volunteering, and build church community. Through their works, guided by their Catholic faith, they help build God's Kingdom, here and now.

Growing up, I recall spending many times in the summer volunteering to sell ice cream for the Knights, to help raise money for different causes. My father has also been involved for several years in the local Basketball Free-throw, and I, in turn, have helped with this event. I would help set up the gym, work the kitchen, clean it all up, just to do it again next year. In selling ice cream and helping with Free-Throw, I had to give up my time, but in doing so, I realized the power of volunteering. By giving up my free time, I can freely give of myself, to create change in the world. Nothing is more precious than time, and by sharing our most valuable commodity, we can have a lasting impact on this life.

Many fond memories of growing up in Thamesville at St. Paul's include the monthly Knights of Columbus breakfasts. The knights would spend hours in the kitchen, cooking up a delicious meal to serve to the congregation after Mass. I would go help Dad and the others

in the kitchen, and helped to prepare the tables. By having these breakfasts, the Knights are building community. People come and talk, eat a good homecooked meal, and engage in one of the core values of the Knights of Columbus: fraternity. Building relationships within the Church, both between Brother Knights and others helps to foster a greater sense of kinship.

The Knights of Columbus have been building God's Kingdom here on Earth bit by bit, through volunteering and community building activities, such as breakfasts. The Knights to me an honourable group of gentlemen who work tirelessly to serve God and His people. I have so much respect for the Knights, that I joined Council #12158 while at university. Not only did I want to join these brave Catholic men in serving God, I also wanted to have a sense of community, somewhere where I could belong. I found this with the Knights of Columbus.