

Who Are The Knights of St. John International?

During the 1800's, European immigrants who had left their homelands to find religious freedom in the United States and other Countries, formed many benevolent Societies within their parish churches, often named after medieval Knights societies from the Crusade era.

Soon afterward, the American Civil War ended, and a real need existed for physical and spiritual healing. More benevolent societies were formed, often with a military theme.



The organization took for itself a model and patron, St. John the Baptist. That St. John was a testament and open witness of faith in his own unbelieving world rings appropriate in today's materialistic times.

The members of the Knights of St. John International continue to witness their faith in God, through Jesus Christ, in their daily works in the Church, Commandery and Community.



In 1879, in Baltimore, Maryland, many of these groups met and agreed to merge, forming the Roman Catholic Union of the Knights of St. John, later shortened to the Knights of St. John.

The word International was added in 1992 to reflect the reality that the Order had spread to many other Countries, including Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, the Republic of Panama, and recently, the United Kingdom.



Why Should I Join these Knights ?

Good Fellowship Among Members...

Many local commanderies have built their own homes or meeting halls which have become a center for activity, whether it be sports, social activities, tourneys, or just a place to enjoy each other's friendship.



Spiritual Advancement:

The Knights encourage their members to be active members of their local Church - lay distributors, commission members, lectors, festival workers, catechists - while fully participating on a regular basis with their families.



Uniform Aspect:

The Knights of St. John are recognized by the Church in their work as a semi-military Order - their uniforms, of which there are two types - are specially blessed and a prayer is recited each time they wear them. The uniform group in each commandery offers its service to the Church and Community.



Support of it's Members in Need:

Through its network of fellowship and brotherhood, they offer financial, physical and spiritual support of their fellow Knights and their families in times of need. They also extend this aid to their neighborhoods.



What Do The Knights Do?

The St. Vincent de Paul Society - the designated Charity of the Order. Many state and local Commanderies also support their own favorite charities:

- Hospital Burns Unit in Cleveland, Ohio
- Special Olympics in New York
- Community Soup Kitchens in Michigan
- Diocesan Children's home in Kentucky
- The National Shrine in Washington D.C.
- Food fly-ins for the poor in Nigeria
- St. Rita's School for the Deaf in Cincinnati
- Special Education in Indiana
- "So Others May Eat" in Baltimore
- Support centers for the hungry in Ghana
- Senior Housing Center in Kentucky
- Honor Deceased Members & Vets in N.Y.
- Anti-Drug Programs in Michigan
- Senior Citizens Dinners and Outings
- Handicap Scouting Activities in Michigan
- Youth Scholarships in Cincinnati, Maria Stein, Cleveland, Michigan, Kentucky
- Sponsorship of Youth Sporting Teams, Buffalo, Washington DC, Detroit, Albany
- "Sewing Machines for the Needy", Ghana and Nigeria.



Sporting and Social Activities for All:

- Annual National Bowling Tournament
- Local and State Golf Tourneys
- Softball Men, Ladies and Youth Sponsors
- Horseshoe and Billiards Tournaments
- New Year's Eve Dances
- "Chicken Frys" and Parish Festivals
- Communion Masses, Breakfasts, Dinners

