

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ATTACKS ON COLUMBUS/CATHOLICS



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Columbus Messaging

There have been recent attacks on statues of historical figures such as Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass and our Order's namesake, Christopher Columbus. Statues of saints have also been vandalized, including those honoring St. Junípero Serra, St. Louis and even the Blessed Virgin Mary, and houses of worship and other religious symbols have been attacked.

- The Knights of Columbus took its name at a time of intense anti-Catholicism wanting to show that Catholics played an essential role in the exploration and development of America and that a Catholic could be both a good citizen and a good Catholic.
- These are not merely attacks on statues and history, they are increasingly attacks on Catholics and people of faith.
- While our Catholic faith calls us to be respectful of different perspectives, acts of vandalism are crimes against all who cherish democracy and mutual respect.
- The Knights of Columbus remains firm in its condemnation of all forms of racism and violence, including political violence.
- Our organization has called upon elected officials and leaders at every level to defend the religious freedom of all.

About the Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus is a fraternity of Catholic men striving to better ourselves and our world by helping and protecting those who are not able to do so for themselves--whether they are next door or around the world.

The Knights of Columbus is one of the world's leading Catholic volunteer and charitable organizations. Over the past year, Knights around the world donated more than 76 million service hours and \$185 million for charitable causes in their communities. The organization also provides financial services to groups and individuals, resulting in more than \$100 billion of life insurance in force and, through its money management firm, Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors, invests in accordance with Catholic social teachings. From helping children in need, to providing wheelchairs for the disabled, to helping stock food banks, to offering top-rated and affordable life insurance to its members, nearly 16,000 local councils and two million members, Knights have been at the service of the community for more than 130 years.

Knights of Columbus provides members and their families with volunteer opportunities in service to the Catholic Church Parish family, the community and families, and young people. We share a commitment to investing our time, efforts and resources into activities that assist our parishes and reflect our faith and our values. For more information, visit www.kofc.org

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