OUR STORY
FOUNDED BY A PRIEST TO PROTECT CATHOLIC FAMILIES

*The Knights of Columbus insurance story begins in the winter of 1882 in the bas*ement of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut.

It was there that our Venerable founder, Father Michael J. McGivney, gathered the men of his parish together to create a solution to a recurring problem.

Many Catholics — most of whom were immigrants — were working and living in unfavorable conditions. And many, tragically, were dying young, leaving behind widows and orphans with insufficient financial resources.

It was a cold reality that had confronted Father McGivney all too often — not only in the lives of his parishioners — but in his own. As a seminarian, he was forced to leave school and return home to aid his family when his father died unexpectedly.

Though this story of financial ruin for Catholic families was common, Father McGivney was convinced that there was a way to change the ending. He knew that if the Catholic men in his parish came together in mutual aid, widows and orphans could receive the support they needed.

He also knew that if Catholic men banded together, united by charity and unity, they could strengthen their faith, their families, and their communities.

So, _he established the Knights of Columbus_, and with it, a "pass-the-hat" insurance system to protect Catholic families in his parish. Over time, that system has evolved and today we stay true to our founding mission through the means of our multi-billion dollar, top-rated insurance program. Members in the United States and Canada have exclusive access to our insurance program and products, including life insurance, retirement annuities, long-term care insurance, and disability income insurance.

Our charitable giving and fraternal service have continued to grow too. More than 1.9 million men in over a dozen countries across the globe are proud to call themselves Knights. Last year alone, these men and their families donated more than $170 million to charity and performed more than 70 million hours of service.