

WHO ARE THE KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS?

We are an Order of Catholic laymen with a Catholic family base, who participate in the mission of the Church ...

- through services to Church and community:
- through good example of and witness to the Christian way of life:
- through exercising a Christian influence in the world around us:
- through a fellowship of persons with life values, sharing gifts, talents and supporting one another.

Our objectives are to ...

- promote the advancement of Australia:
- foster the Christian way of life throughout the nation:
- promote the welfare of its members and their families:
- encourage spiritual, social and intellectual activities amongst its members:
- conduct and support Educational, Charitable, Religious and Social Welfare work.

A member of the Order is expected ...

- to attend Branch meetings and support Branch activities:
- to contribute his talents toward furthering the Objects of the Order:
- to encourage and foster family activity within the Branch:
- to recite daily the Knights' Prayer:
- to maintain his financial membership.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE A KNIGHT?

A desire to make a difference in any area that is in harmony with the Objects of the Order.

Through your talents and the support of like-minded Knights, you can achieve great strides.

The Objects are quite broad and allow you to work in almost any sphere of your interest. This work greatly enhances the four dimensions of our lives – intelligence, emotions, physical and spiritual.

A key vehicle to achieve these aims is regular attendance at Branch level. It is here that support and encouragement can be fostered. At times your energy will be directed towards issues in your local area, at other times you will focus on Diocesan, State or National level issues. Meetings also include prayer and opportunities for spiritual formation.

Members are committed to assist our Bishop and Parish Priests in any way possible.

Members of the Order realise the high privilege and honour bestowed on them and a member is obligated to recite daily the Knights' Prayer and maintain his financial membership.

Are you worthy to be included in the select group of men known as the Knights of the Southern Cross? You may well be more worthy than you think.

THE CHALLENGES TODAY

Since the birth of the Order over ninety years ago, Australian society has undergone fundamental changes. We now live in a more sophisticated and affluent society, in which the economic issues of yesteryear have been overtaken by far more pernicious and subtle attacks on our families, religion, and the very core of our society.

The gap between the moral standards of behavior in society and the moral truths proclaimed by the Church is continually being widened. There is much work needed here to serve God and Country.

Whilst recognizing the demands of a pluralist society, we take the opportunity to deal with these problems not merely in a fashionable way but in a Catholic way. We recognize that to 'secular man' the world is only a place of human projects and human problems.

We also recognize that there is much good which needs to be maintained. Many programmes exist across the Order that continue the work started not only in our organization but in others also.

Effort and funds are expended to assist various charitable organisations and causes. Grants and awards by way of scholarships are given to support education and a substantial effort to supporting seminarians education and post-ordination studies. Promoting the family and fostering the Christian way of life is a prominent feature.

By our name, through our tradition, and with our unique ecclesiastical approval the Order bears the stamp of Catholic orthodoxy in all we do and say.

OUR HISTORY

The Order of the Knights of the Southern Cross was instituted by the Australian Catholic Hierarchy in 1919 to improve the well-being of Catholics in the wider community.

The following decade saw great strides in:

- The reduction of discrimination
- Better employment and promotional prospects
- Justice in public funding of Catholic Schools.

This was largely due to the efforts and sacrifices of these early Knights.

In 1968, the Order established Southern Cross Homes (now known as Southern Cross Care), which has grown to become one of the largest and most respected Aged Care providers in Australia.

The Order continues its Catholic work in all it does and says. It is an Australia-wide organisation and is affiliated with like orders around the globe: in UK, Ireland, USA, New Zealand and various other countries.



THE KNIGHTS' PRAYER

O God
Please bless all fellow Members
Of the Knights of the Southern Cross
And their families.

Bless all our activities
and inspire us at all times
to work for the greater glory of God
and salvation of mankind.

May the souls of all the faithful departed
Rest in peace.

AMEN.

KSC MISSION STATEMENT

'To instill and maintain Christian values
and ethics in society'

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THE ORDER OF THE KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS VICTORIA

BENDIGO BRANCH



SERVICE AND CHRISTIANITY

*Catholic men committed to promoting
the Christian way of life throughout Australia.*