The Knights of Columbus was founded in 1882 by Father Michael McGivney, a parish priest in New Haven, Conn. The Knights has grown to one of the country's largest charitable organizations, with more than 1.9 million members worldwide. Last year, the Knights donated more than $173 million and more than 71.5 million hours of service to charitable causes.

Animated by its core principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism, the Knights of Columbus has a long history of serving the military, beginning with its celebrated Army Hut program during the First World War. Since then, the Knights has helped sponsor war relief activities, education programs for veterans and sponsorship programs for military chaplains, in addition to providing Catholic spiritual resources for military members and a steady stream of volunteers and services to the more than 135 VA medical centers. More recently, the Knights has partnered with the Gary Sinise Foundation by providing funding to help complete the construction of computer equipped custom smart homes for severely wounded heroes.

Application Deadline

All applications and payments (if applicable) are due by 15 January, 2016.

Application and submission instructions are available at warriorstolourdes.com.

Have questions? Contact us at Lourdes@KofC.org.

About the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA

The Archdiocese for the Military Services (AMS) was created by Blessed John Paul II to provide Catholic pastoral ministries and spiritual services to members of the United States Armed Forces. Serving at more than 220 installations in 29 countries, the archdiocese offers aid to patients in 153 VA medical centers, and federal employees in 134 countries. Numerically, the AMS is responsible for the spiritual well-being of more than 1.8 million men, women and children.
A Pilgrimage Like No Other

The 2016 Warriors to Lourdes Pilgrimage to Lourdes, France, will take place 18–23 May, 2016. Sponsored by the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, and the Knights of Columbus, the event takes place during the 58th annual International Military Pilgrimage in Lourdes, France.

Non-wounded, wounded, disabled or sick military personnel will travel from the United States and Europe to Lourdes for a time of rest, prayer and participation in the 58th annual International Military Pilgrimage. The six-day retreat will consist of a number of spiritual events, including special Masses, Eucharistic Procession and Benediction, a visit to the baths at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes, a candlelight vigil and a closing ceremony that draws tens of thousands of troops to the sacred shrine every year.

“We will journey and pray with pilgrims from around the world,” said Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services. “It will be an occasion to raise our hearts and minds to the Prince of Peace and beg for an increase in understanding and a decrease in strife.”

About Lourdes

Lourdes is one of the most popular Catholic pilgrimage destinations in the world. It was the setting for a series of 19th-century apparitions, during which the Virgin Mary, under the title of the Immaculate Conception, appeared to 14-year-old Bernadette Soubirous. During the past 100 years, millions of pilgrims have flocked to the site, with the hope of receiving a special healing and a deepening of faith.

2016 Pilgrimage

Those interested in applying to attend the 2016 Warriors to Lourdes Pilgrimage for the 58th annual International Military Pilgrimage (Pèlerinage Militaire International or PMI) can find an application form at warriorstolourdes.com.

Eligibility

To be eligible for this pilgrimage, non-wounded, wounded, disabled or sick military personnel applicants must be either serving on active duty or recently separated (post-9/11 era) from the United States Military. Wounded, disabled or sick warriors must be able to fully perform their “activities of daily living” either alone or with the assistance of their designated caregiver. Potential applicants and their clinical providers should not anticipate that professional medical or nursing services, including hospitalization, will be delivered during the pilgrimage. In addition, potential applicants should be spiritually motivated to participate as a pilgrim.

Applications will be reviewed by our pilgrimage leadership team and pilgrimage medical director. Applicants may be contacted by pilgrimage staff with additional questions for clarification of information. All applicants will be notified of decisions regarding their application.

Cost

All expenses for approved non-wounded, wounded, disabled or sick military personnel, as well as designated caregivers, will be covered by Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc. Companions are invited to attend, and may be offered needs-based financial assistance on a case-by-case basis. European-based medical and non-medical volunteers are also encouraged to apply.

The AMS-KofC package rate for companions and volunteers is $530 for a double occupancy room and $730 for a single occupancy room. Packages include round-trip transportation from Kaiserslautern, Germany, as well as lodging, meals and PMI credentials. Approved Knights of Columbus-affiliated volunteers will be given a reimbursement to help cover the costs of the trip. Volunteers from elsewhere in Europe participating in other tour packages are welcome to apply.