

## **WHAT THE KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS (KSC) DO**

### **HISTORY**

A Catholic Men's Organisation originally established in 1919 to help fellow Catholics obtain work and to support each other's families to live their Catholic Faith. The organisation is known as The Order of the Knights of the Southern Cross Australia and is a member of the International Alliance of Catholic Knights, whose members are recognised by the Vatican.

The Objects of the Order have been agreed by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and are:

1. To promote the Advancement of Australia;
2. To foster the Christian way of life throughout the Nation;
3. To promote the welfare of members of Member Organisations and their families;
4. To encourage social and intellectual activities amongst members of Member Organisations; and
5. To conduct and support educational, charitable, religious and social welfare work.

The Member Organisations are the State Branches (Organisations) of the Order. Each State Branch is an autonomous body which is represented on the National Council of the Order – the Governing Body of the Order.

### **THE WORKS OF THE KNIGHTS**

The Knights of the Southern Cross carry out a wide variety of works which vary from State to State. Some of the works are included below:

#### **In Australia:**

- Annual Mass for deceased members.
- Formation Programme written each year to be used by Branches throughout Australia to develop the spirituality of members and the knowledge of their Faith.
- Anzac Day Mass – Provision of Ushers and assistance with invitations and seating.
- KSC Education Foundation (established by KSC (WA) in the early 1990s) – provided over \$70,000 in 2006 to assist 41 teachers in the Catholic School system to attain qualifications in the area of Religious Education and Theology. \$8,000 of scholarships went to seminarians from the Redemptorist Mater Seminary studying at UNDA.
- Southern Cross Charitable Trust – donations made to the Sisters of St Joseph through the Mary MacKillop Foundation to help the disadvantaged and to Centacare (Qld) for assistance to people with disabilities through Soubirous Place.

- Sponsorship of an award in the Rock Band section of the Performing Arts Festival in Perth for Catholic Schools and Colleges.
- Australian Defence Force Project – the Order has provided 10,000 specifically designed prayer books and single decade rosaries to Catholic members of the Australian Defence Force.
- Australian Defence Force Support – The KSC provides support to all Catholic Defence Force Families and Military Chaplains as required.
- Working with aboriginal elders and young boys in WA.
- Financial support to committee arranging exchange of seminarians between the Perth Archdiocese and a Greek Orthodox seminary.
- Assistance to St Charles Seminary (WA) to overcome an urgent maintenance problem.
- Assistance to a Presentation Sister in WA to publish and promote a faith education and development program for young children that involves participation of Parish/School/Family.
- Financial support to Bishop Bianchini to assist aboriginal youth in his Diocese.
- Sponsorship of Fr Peter Hung Manh Tran C.Ss.R to publish his book “Advancing the Culture of Death: Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide”
- Working with Southern Cross Care (Australia) in the provision of aged care facilities throughout Australia.
- KSC is represented on the **WYD08 Communities Advisory Committee for World Youth Day 2008 in Sydney** and will be greatly involved in the project.
- Assisting voters to make informed choices at elections by obtaining the views of political candidates on matters of morals and ethics – abortion, same sex marriage, etc. – and facilitating public forums to meet candidates.
- Promoting the “Keep Christ in Christmas” campaign throughout Australia throughout the year.
- Visiting detention centres for asylum seekers.
- Established Priests Support and Education Funds to assist clergy and seminarians in a number of States – fundraising is generally carried out through annual dinners.
- Creation and sponsorship of the **Festival of Faith in Sydney** – to showcase the organisations and works of the Catholic Church.
- Mobile phones for jobseekers – Canberra
- Australia Day Mass – Organisation and Assistance
- Golf Tournaments for Members
- Barney’s Picnic for Members
- Retired Members Group
- Monthly Branch Meetings for Members
- Monthly State Council Meetings – Sometimes in Country Areas
- State Conferences for Members and Wives
- National Triennial Conferences for Members and Wives (Special Programmes for Wives)
- Collection of recycled paper and cans.
- Assistance with Christmas Bowl Appeal sponsored by the SA Council of Churches (KSC-SA).

- Preparation and distribution of regular State Newsletters to all members in Australia and to all IACK (International Alliance of Catholic Knights) organisations overseas.
- Helping the Josephite Sisters in a project to have a framed picture of Mary MacKillop sited in every church throughout Australia (KSC-WA initiative).
- Presentation of Rosary Beads to all First Communicants (KSC – WA initiative) in certain parishes.
- Installation of stained glass window depicting a Christian Knight in St Thomas' Parish in Claremont, WA.
- Preparation of submissions to Government on matters affecting morals and ethics.
- Support for Southern Cross Bioethics Institute in SA.
- In partnership with Notre Dame University Australia – organised a seminar on Ethics in Business for invited business leaders in Perth and the Alumni of the University.

### **Overseas:**

- Tools for East Timor – Huge project to provide 3 shipping containers of good quality tools to enable students in East Timor to learn trades to help themselves and their people.
- Running Water for St Peter's Junior Seminary, Tanzania - \$10,000 from KSC (NSW) to help extend water pipes to three dormitories. KSC(NSW) had been helping the seminary for three years previously.
- Pakistan - \$5,450 in support to Fr Anthony for his work to provide a safe environment for Catholics in the area. All IACK Orders were asked to contribute.
- KSC is represented by the Supreme Knight at all meetings of the International Alliance of Catholic Knights (IACK) held every 2 years in different countries.
- Twinning Arrangements have been established with the Knights of Our Lady Queen of Peace in Mauritius and joint projects are being arranged.

### **IN-HOUSE TIPS AND SUGGESTED TASKS FOR KSC MEMBERS**

- KSC Branches should be Visible, Vibrant and Vocal.
- Provide a Christian perspective on Halloween for families in the parish.
- Provide a Piety Stall at the local Church on special days or every week.
- Wear standard name tags – similar to Lions.
- Hold a Garage Sale annually as a fundraiser.
- Hold a Trivia Night.
- Support youth groups in the parish.
- Congratulate Australia Post on the use of Christian Images on Stamps.
- Notify Head Office in Each State promptly on funeral notices.
- Contact members by e-mail where possible – if you can build up an e-mail group for local members, information can be disseminated quickly.
- Consider raising money to provide School Scholarships in the name of the KSC.

- Provide assistance to members who wish to contact the media to express their views on matters of morals or social justice.
- Run Parish Dinners with Guest Speakers.
- Driver Reviver – provide a reviver stop for travellers – with Branch support or assist an organisation already running the facility.
- Assist at local country shows – assist with parking (possibly raising money) – you are covered by the National KSC Insurance Policy.
- Run a Parish Picnic.
- Organise a Ladies' Social Outing for wives, relatives and friends.
- Provide Transport to Masses or Outings for Aged or infirm parishioners.
- Provide support for Catholic Institutions and Clergy.
- Provide Baptismal Cards at Baptisms in the Parish.
- Run a Games Night or Social Night for those who assist the work of the local KSC Branch.
- Erect a Crib at Christmas and lights.
- Support Schools in their fundraising efforts.
- Repair headstones of deceased clergy.
- Organise a combined dinner for Catholics and other Christian Churches in your area.
- Support Carols promotion at Christmas and especially in aged care facilities.
- Visit parish priest and invite him for a meal – he may be feeling isolated.
- Watch media standards and act where necessary.
- Organise or support The Way of the Cross activities.
- Support St Vinnies and CWL in their efforts.