

I was watching television the other day and saw an advertisement with the theme “Shop Local.” The ad touted the many benefits of putting your dollars to work with businesses that are owned and operated by those folks who live and work right in your community. In addition to supporting the local neighborhood and community, the ad pointed to the personal service and the unique products one can find locally. Big box stores are great, they are convenient and provide goods at competitive prices. But many products are uniform; you can get the same thing at many other places. Their service is sometimes wanting; I can remember wandering in a big box retailer looking for help. However, when I shop at some of my favorite local spots, I always get a genuine greeting, personal help and the feeling that they really appreciate me being there and supporting them.

All this got me thinking about our local councils. The Order is doing great things in countries far and wide. We have big ideas, big plans...and they are important and have tremendous impact on making our world better. But on a local level you members are the face of the Knights of Columbus. When our local Catholic community thinks of the Knights of Columbus, I’m sure it is you members who come to mind. Our Catholic community sees all the good works you do locally. They see you volunteering to help at parish events, supporting your pastor in his needs. Local folks see you handing out coats for kids, holding fundraisers to help local families, taking the lead at sacramental events, visiting the homebound. For the Catholics in the council and in the parish—you, my Brother Knights...you, are the Knights of Columbus. You represent all that is good in our Order. When you lead with faith, protect your family, serve others and defend your values, you are a witness inspired by our founding principles.

Our recent Supreme Convention highlighted many of the accomplishments from the previous fraternal year. I think we can all be justly proud of the difference the Knights of Columbus makes in our community, our state, and our country. Thank you for all you do! I want to congratulate you on your contribution to the Order’s success and especially for the impact you in this council have had on the local Catholic community!

Vivat Jesus!

Larry Kennedy FICF MDRT

Financial Advisor/Central Florida

407-579-9888

[Lawrence.kennedy@kofc.org](mailto:Lawrence.kennedy@kofc.org)