



***Widows Not Forgotten Program  
(K of C ) St. Thomas Aquinas  
Council 3023***



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# The Knights of Columbus:

## A Legacy of Compassion from the very beginning.

The **Knights of Columbus** was founded with a mission to support **widows and orphans**. Father Michael McGivney, a parish priest serving an immigrant community, witnessed firsthand the hardship a family faced when the primary breadwinner passed away. After losing his own father, he had to pause his seminary studies to care for his family—an experience that shaped his vision for the Order. This legacy continues today. As a council, we believe it's our duty to **prioritize the care and support of widows** within our own parish. Here's how we can live out that mission:



## Program Purpose:

The Knights of Columbus Council 3023 "Widows Not Forgotten" program. Our committee will adopt Widows from council 3023. The committee will offer support, social contact, and practical assistance like transportation or manual labor as needed or requested. To make widows feel remembered and valued, Knights of Columbus can offer consistent support, active listening, and practical help. The program aims to provide widows with support after the loss of their spouse, aligning with the Knights' commitment to caring for the families of members.

## Program Funding:

*We are requesting 1,000.00 dollars be dedicated to the funding of this program in the 2025/26 fraternal year.*

# Support To Be Available

## Funeral Arrangements:

- Knights may assist in making funeral arrangements and completing necessary paperwork like insurance claims, Social Security forms, and other relevant documentation
- Arrange for 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Presence if requested
- Widows may be eligible for financial benefits through the Fraternal Benefit program, including continued coverage under the member's or spouse's plan. They may also have the option to purchase life insurance, long-term care insurance, or annuities. *Normally the KofC Insurance Agent would assist with the items above if the deceased Knight is an insurance member.*
- *We would also like to explore setting up a fund that can be used if financial assistance is needed for the deceased members funeral/burial.*

# Support To Be Available

## Check-ins:

- Regularly call or visit, offering a simple "hello"
- Be proactive and offer concrete assistance, such as:
- Yard work (mowing, raking, snow removal)
- Cleaning (house cleaning, errands)
- Errands (shopping, picking up prescriptions)

## Acknowledge Important Dates:

- Call or send a card on birthdays, or other significant dates
- The Knights sponsor a Mass once a year for the deceased

# **Program Roles (Chairman)**

## **Responsibilities:**

All requests for assistance from widows should be directed to the Chairman who will delegate to the proper resources.

Secure budget line item for the support of this program

*Note: I believe this should be the GK.*



# Program Roles (Communication Director)

## Responsibilities:

- Send initial communication/information gathering letter
- *(See Sample Information Gathering Letter)*
- Provide complimentary tickets to dinners and future events.
- Create a form to gather all the required information.
- Maintain widow information on a spreadsheet
- Create and maintain a widow specific e-mail distribution list



# **Program Roles (Communication Director)**

## **Responsibilities:**

- Send info gathering packets and council activity invitations
- Send birthday cards to widows signed by council members
- Set up a Mass once a year for the deceased member
- Maintain Widow list with a spreadsheet
- Maintain an Email distribution list for Widows
- Maintain an Email distribution list for committee members
- Maintain a list of committee members via a spreadsheet

# **Program Roles (Event Coordinator)**

## **Responsibilities:**

Coordinate with committee members to accomplish requested tasks i.e. (Project Manager).

Coordinate with committee members to buy and deliver Christmas Flowers to widows.

# Program Roles (Committee Members)

## Responsibilities:

Be available to assist the Chairman, Communication Director, and Event Coordinator as requested.

***Note: The Chairman, Communication Director, and Event Coordinator will require back up/alternate members in case we lose the Primary.***

## Showing Genuine Care:

Personalized Approach: Get to know the widow individually and tailor your support to her specific needs and preferences

Be Authentic and Genuine: Avoid being overly formal or rehearsed in your interactions. Follow Through: If you offer to help with something, make sure to follow through and deliver.

## Community and Communication:

Knights often maintain contact with widows and their families, keeping them informed about council activities and providing ongoing support. The initial communication package will include tickets to the fish fry's and St. Patrick's day dinner.

***Widows attending our events will never sit alone.***



# **Christmas Package Delivered to Widows**

## **Includes:**

- 6 Fish Fry meal vouchers
- 1 St Patrick's Day party voucher
- 1 Large Poinsettia
- 1 Large Gift Bag/Cookies/Candies/Candles
- Information Gathering Sheet
- Christmas Card signed by each Knight





# Lenten Fish Fry Dinner Ticket

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Receiver \_\_\_\_\_

GK \_\_\_\_\_



Saint Patrick's day

Dinner

Ticket



Date \_\_\_\_\_

**HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!**

Receiver \_\_\_\_\_ GK \_\_\_\_\_





# Christmas Package Delivered To Widows:



# Examples of assistance given in 2025

- Several Knights closed a Pool upon request
- Knights repaired a broken furnace
- Upon a widows request 2 Knights collected several boxes of hazardous waste and disposed at the towns yearly hazardous waste drop off day
- Widow requested assistance with a homeowners insurance claim for a leak. 2 Knights consulted with the widow, the Insurance adjuster, and contractor on a homeowner claim for a water leak

## **Examples of Thank You Cards:**

### **-Dear Knights:**

I so appreciated the thoughtful Christmas gifts from you. Your outreach ministry keeps alive Dennis's joy in being a Knight. Remembering the family of your deceased members is beautiful. I look forward to using the free passes to the Knights functions in the future. Thank you and may God Bless all the works of the Knights of Columbus.

### **-Dear K of C Members;**

Thank You from the bottom of my heart for remembering me at Christmas time. The poinsettia is beautiful and all the little gifts in the bag were perfect and very thoughtful. Being a member of the K of C meant so much to my husband Dave. Thank you for extending that friendship to me as well. May our good and gracious Lord bless you as you continue to pursue charitable work.



*Thank You*

DON BROWN

DD#4

K OF C NH STATE COUNCIL

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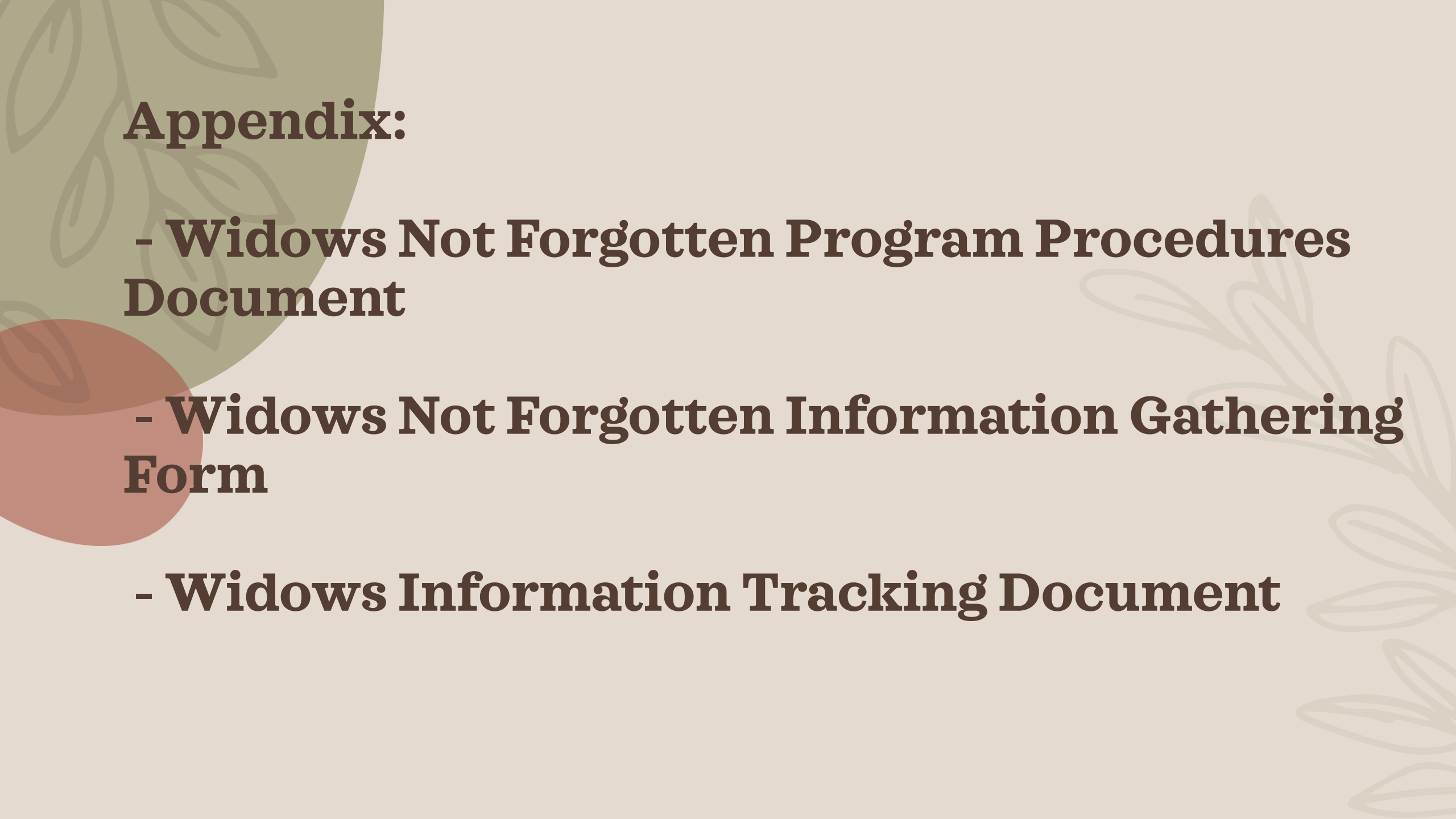






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# Questions:



## **Appendix:**

- Widows Not Forgotten Program Procedures Document**
- Widows Not Forgotten Information Gathering Form**
- Widows Information Tracking Document**