



# FAITH IN ACTION



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# FAITH IN ACTION

## HIGHER PURPOSE

In the opening lines of *Evangelii Gaudium* (*The Joy of the Gospel*), His Holiness Pope Francis invites “Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ” (3). The Faith in Action program model extends that same invitation to Knights of Columbus members and their families. It is a renewed personal invitation to live out the calling of their faith, the call to service of their neighbor and to answer the age-old question, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” (Gn 4:9).

Today, a man’s work can follow him home through his smartphone. At the same time, he is picking up a larger share of household responsibilities and striving to meet more intense demands of fatherhood as the pace of kids’ activities has accelerated. Despite this, many men are drawn to opportunities to be hands-on and to express their faith by working alongside peers in service to others. They want to spend precious free time involved with their families while also building bonds of friendship and fraternity that will last a lifetime.

As Supreme Knight Carl Anderson said, “If we can’t meet young Catholic men where they are, they will go somewhere else. And in this era, it is too easy to go somewhere else when we need them to be home. Home in the Catholic Church, home in their parishes, and home with their families.” As leaders and brother Knights who care about the long-term sustainability of the Order, we are excited about men’s desire to serve and the opportunity to consistently adapt to meet the demand of a changing world and the needs of future members. We know that the chance to roll up our sleeves and demonstrate our faith through service is as powerful as it is rewarding. The calling is a fundamental part of the Order’s history and genesis for our new program model, Faith In Action. This mission-driven platform is an excellent way to express our service program, as it speaks to our own efforts and to the interests of prospective Knights.

The Faith in Action model is a realization of the changing needs of men in the twenty-first century. It seeks to balance all of our key priorities with theirs — Faith, Family, Community and Life — and present them in a

way that is clear to our leaders, members and prospective Knights. The simplicity of Faith in Action is that it fully integrates Building the Domestic Church programs as a foundational part of the model, limits the number of required programs to earn the Columbian Award and, most importantly, allows councils to concentrate on implementing quality faith-filled family programs. Our goal is for men to lead their family in service — not leave their family for service. The focus of this streamlined program is quality, not quantity.



## FAITH IN ACTION

This Faith in Action manual provides you and your council with information to both implement Supreme-recommended programs and create unique programs that help men to live out their commitment to the Catholic faith and their desire to serve family, parish and community.

Woven within these four categories is the opportunity to share something that all generations and cultures within our organization seek in their membership in the Knights of Columbus. The Faith in Action model allows us to come together to share our faith, celebrate fraternity with our families, and do what we do best — stand shoulder to shoulder in service to our community and to defend life at all stages and in every condition.

# FAITH IN ACTION

This manual fully explains the Faith in Action program model, its four categories, and associated Supreme-recommended programs for each. Additional service program resources and recommendations can be found at [kofc.org](http://kofc.org).

The resources included in this guide and online are meant to serve as guidelines and not intended to be prescriptive or exacting. Your council should adapt the information for each program to meet the needs and resources of your local parish and community. By conducting well-run programs, your council continues the vision of our founder by assisting people in need, strengthening the bonds that unite our members, and continuing the strategy of Building the Domestic Church.

## Planning the Program

Start planning immediately after the election of council officers. At that time, the grand knight should appoint program and membership directors. Remember that programs and membership go hand in hand. A council cannot conduct successful programs without member support, but without quality faith-filled family programs, prospective members will not be interested in joining your council.

After the appointment, the program director works with the grand knight to name committee chairs for each of the four program categories.

## Service Program Personnel Report

Once the directors and committee chairs are appointed, complete and submit the *Service Program Personnel Report* (#365) through the Member Management application — located in the Officers Online section of [kofc.org](http://kofc.org) — no later than Aug. 1. The report is also found at [kofc.org/forms](http://kofc.org/forms).

Submitting this report allows the directors and chairpersons to receive important information from the Supreme Council and the state council.

If there are changes in committee chairs during the fraternal year, you may also use the Member Management application to make updates or submit a new *Service Program Personnel Report* (#365) to the

Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission with only the new or changed information.

## Implementing the Service Program

It is critical that the grand knight have an organizational meeting with the council's appointed directors and chairs in advance of the new fraternal year: before July 1. This meeting sets the groundwork for the entire fraternal year and is essential to the success of the council.

## Council Organizational Meeting

Council officers — including the program and membership directors with their respective committee chairs and your council's financial secretary and chaplain — should attend. Use it to help set the program calendar, membership and insurance goals, budget and social calendar.

## Before the Organizational Meeting

Review the programs that were conducted in the past year and examine the reasons for success or failure of each project. Develop a brief summary on each and be prepared to discuss the analysis during the program portion of the Council Organizational Meeting.

## Parish Pastor, Council Chaplain

Consultation with the pastor and his staff is critical. Well in advance of the Council Organizational Meeting, discuss your council's tentative plans for the new fraternal year on programs that may come out of the meeting. Personally invite him to the Council Organizational



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Meeting with ample time for him to plan his attendance. Obtain his guidance and permission, an important and fundamental aspect of our relationship with our pastors/chaplains and our ability to serve the parish community.

## Draft News Article

Assign a public relations chairman to write a draft news article updating the parish and community on the success of the council's activity in the previous year and asking for parish and community support in the coming year.

## Program Portion of the Council Organizational Meeting

During the programming portion of the Council Organizational Meeting, your council officers should:

- Review the programs that were conducted in the past year
  - Discuss the summary analysis of each project
  - Review and approve the draft of the news article prepared by the public relations chairman.
- Based on the review, decide which programs should be repeated in the current fraternal year and which new programs should be included
  - Assign directors and chairmen responsible for each program
  - Assign tentative dates for each program and when each program will conclude. Establish a meeting schedule for the program committee chairs.
  - Consider the parish calendar before finalizing these dates and review with the pastor and his parish staff
  - Set a budget for each program
  - Prepare a list of programs to present to your council for approval
  - Communicate the date of each program to the public relations chair to ensure that your council's programs are communicated to the parish and community in a timely fashion using the sample announcements prepared for many of the programs

## After the Organizational Meeting

If the pastor or chaplain was not in attendance, the grand knight should arrange to follow up with him on the outcome of the Council Organizational Meeting and obtain final approval of programs (and associated dates) that the council seeks to conduct within the parish. The



council leadership should work with the parish leadership to secure required facilities as needed.

## Keeping Program Personnel Motivated

The program director and committee chair are responsible for keeping volunteers motivated. Recognition for a job well done can go a long way to keeping morale high. Here are some suggestions:

- Publish the work the council is doing in the parish and community. Use the various resources available to you to help with this and refer to the *Public Relations and Publicity Guide* (#2235) for assistance.
- Be sure that each Knight gets full credit and recognition for his work. An occasional personal note may mean a great deal to the recipient.
- Consider presenting a *Certificate of Appreciation* (#1462) to the directors, chair and other individuals who were instrumental in the success of the program.

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- Listen to the suggestions of your council members and acknowledge good advice. Tell your brother Knights that you appreciate their interest and will consider their ideas.
- Be prepared to listen when a member has a question or problem. Guide him but allow him to do most of the thinking. This indicates respect for his judgment, giving him confidence and a feeling of importance.
- Accept responsibility for your mistakes. This shows your team that you know you are human and fallible.

## STAR COUNCIL AWARD

The goal of every council is a commitment to obtain the Star Council Award. Councils that conduct well-rounded Faith in Action programs will find that their activities are attractive to men of the parish. Recruitment and retention are far easier when programs invite men and their families to live their faith in service to one another, their parish and the communities in which they live and work.

The Star Council Award recognizes the efforts that councils put forth in continuing Venerable Michael McGivney's mission. In order for your council to earn the Star Council Award, it must:

- Earn the Columbian Award for well-rounded council programs
  - Submit the *Columbian Award Application* (#SP-7) — due by June 30
- Earn the Father McGivney Award for membership growth
- Earn the Founders' Award for insurance growth
- Submit the *Service Program Personnel Report* (#365) — due by Aug. 1
- Submit the *Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity* (#1728) — due by Jan. 31
- Be compliant with training and background checks
- Remain current with assessments from the Supreme Council headquarters

There are opportunities for your council to earn additional stars on the Star Council Award. Earn the Star Council Award and attain 200 percent, 300 percent, 400



percent, etc., of your council's membership quota. For additional information on how your council can earn the Star Council Award, visit [kofc.org/star](http://kofc.org/star).

## Columbian Award

Earn the Columbian Award for well-rounded council programs. There is no reason why every council in the Knights of Columbus should not earn the Columbian Award. It recognizes your council's quality faith-filled family programs in each of the four Faith in Action program categories. In order for your council to earn the Columbian Award, it must:

- Conduct at least four major programs in each of the Faith in Action categories of Faith, Family, Community and Life
- Complete the *Columbian Award Application* (#SP-7) — due by June 30
- Submit the *Service Program Personnel Report* (#365) — due by Aug. 1

## Father McGivney Award

The Father McGivney Award recognizes excellence in membership growth. Each year, your council is assigned a membership quota from the Supreme Council. For award purposes, growth is considered net increase over loss through suspension or withdrawal. Deaths do not count against your quota, and transfers in or out of your

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council do not count for or against your quota. Your council quota can be found under the Membership tab in Officers Online, which is updated daily. There is no application for the Father McGivney Award, as the Supreme Council automatically determines eligibility.

Again, conducting well-rounded faith-filled programs will aid in attracting and retaining members. Do not forget that programs play an integral part in earning the Father McGivney Award. To earn the Father McGivney Award for excellence in membership growth, councils must:

- Conduct frequent church drives. Visit [kofc.org/drive](http://kofc.org/drive) for additional information on how to conduct a church drive.
- Recruit at all levels. Everyone can recruit — all members of the council should be part of your recruitment team. Visit [kofc.org/recruit1](http://kofc.org/recruit1) for more resources.
- Schedule monthly First Degree ceremonials. A consistent schedule enables recruiters and future members to know when they can become Knights of Columbus.
- Invite non-members to volunteer in one of your council's programs. After the program, invite the non-member to join your council.
- Members and leaders can learn more about how to recruit, by visiting [kofc.org/trainingmicrosite](http://kofc.org/trainingmicrosite) and taking the Personal Recruiting Skills course.

## Founders' Award

The Founders' Award recognizes excellence in your council's promotion of our insurance products. Each year, your council is assigned an insurance quota from the Supreme Council. For award purposes, growth is considered net gain above loss through suspensions, withdrawals and transfers from insurance to associated membership. Deaths do not count against your quota, and transfers in or out of your council do not count for or against your quota. Your council quota can be found under the Membership tab in Officers Online, which is updated daily. There is no application for the Founders' Award, as the Supreme Council automatically determines eligibility.

To Earn the Founders' Award for excellence in the promotion of our insurance and fraternal benefits:

- Appoint an insurance promotion chairman to work closely with the field agent to help the council obtain the Founders' Award
- Ensure that completed *Membership Documents* (#100) are promptly delivered to your council's insurance agent
- Conduct Fraternal Benefit Nights
- Invite your council's insurance agent to speak at council meetings

## State Council Service Program Awards

Each year during a jurisdiction's convention, the state councils should recognize the best program conducted by the councils in each of the four program categories. A subordinate council must complete and submit the *State Council Service Program Awards Entry Form* (#STSP) — one form per entry per program, along with supporting documentation for each entry — directly to the designated state council program chair. Any entries received by the Supreme Council from a subordinate local council are not sent to the jurisdiction.

Entries are judged first and foremost on program effectiveness. Award application content is also extremely important in conveying the effectiveness of the program. Submitting a quality entry will improve your council's chances of being selected as a state or international winner.

To assist your council in preparing its entry for the State Council Service Program Awards, please refer to the *Service Program Awards Booklet* (#10173). The booklet contains helpful suggestions and examples of how your council should submit its entry.

Winning entries — with the endorsement of the state deputy — are submitted to the Supreme Council for consideration as an International Service Program Award winner.

## International Service Program Awards

Once the jurisdiction has chosen its winners for each category, they should promptly forward the submission to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Please note: there is only one entry per category. The entry must include:

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- *State Council Service Program Award Entry Form* (#STSP)
- Executive summary of the winning program prepared by the state council, highlighting why it was chosen as the winner
- Original submission from the winning subordinate council
- Supporting documentation of the winning program

Winning programs at the international level are recognized at the annual Supreme Convention in August. The grand knights of the winning councils, along with their wives, are invited to the convention as guests of the Supreme Council. Any council that is in good standing is eligible and encouraged to compete for this distinguished honor.

### Safe Environment — Office of Youth Protection

Under Faith in Action, certain state and council officers/chairmen are required to take safe environment training and may also be required to provide authorization for a background check. Some positions also have access to Praesidium’s ARMATUS Administration dashboard to view member compliance within their council or jurisdiction.

If members in certain positions are not compliant within 30 days of notification, they are subject to removal from those positions.

As the *Service Program Personnel Report* (#365) is being completed, ensure that all member email addresses are accurate. Praesidium, the Order’s safe environment partner, will use these email addresses to send email notifications to the program directors and chairs who are required to complete safe environment training and to provide authorization for a background check. Directors and chairs should look for email notifications from Praesidium in their inbox or spam folder. These will provide assigned username and password to complete the required training and the link necessary to provide background check authorization. The Knights of Columbus covers all costs associated with these requirements.

Email notifications are unique to each recipient and cannot be forwarded or used by another director or chair. The time-sensitive notifications require the recipient to complete training and background check authorization within 30 days of receipt.

ROLES	TRAINING	BACKGROUND CHECK	ARMATUS ADMINISTRATION
<b>State Council</b>			
State Deputy	✓		✓
State Advocate	✓		✓
State Program Director	✓		✓
State Youth Director	✓	✓	✓
State Family Director	✓	✓	✓
State Community Director	✓	✓	✓
State Squire Chairman	✓	✓	✓
<b>Subordinate Council</b>			
Grand Knight	✓		✓
Faithful Navigator	✓		
Program Director	✓		✓
Family Director	✓	✓	
Community Director	✓	✓	
Chief Counselor	✓	✓	
Adult Counselor	✓	✓	

*Safe Environment Program Training and Background Check Requirements — Table 1*

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For more information, please visit [kofc.org/safe](http://kofc.org/safe) or the Officer Desk Reference in Officers Online.

## Ordering Supplies

The Supreme Council has many materials available to help your council promote and conduct Supreme-recommended programs. Programming and print supplies can be ordered through Supplies Online, the supply-ordering portal available on Officers Online. All Knights of Columbus-related gift and clothing needs, including Knights of Columbus apparel, accessories, books, religious supplies and liturgical items, can be ordered through KnightsGear. Included below are tips to ensure that your order is processed and shipped in time for your programs:

- All council supplies must be ordered through your council's grand knight or financial secretary. To charge orders against your council's account, each grand knight and financial secretary must first log in to Officers Online. Once logged in, officers may access the link to Supplies Online and KnightsGear.
- Fraternal Mission will no longer place orders for district deputies or council officers, except in rare circumstances.
- There is no longer a need to complete a *Requisition* (#1) when ordering council supplies through Supplies Online or KnightsGear.
- Order materials at least four to six weeks in advance of your program date. Materials that are needed sooner will be shipped in an expedited manner; however, extra shipping charges will be applied to the order.



## Online Fraternal Training

Incoming fraternal leaders and all brother Knights are welcome to the Open Enrollment microsite! Part of the Fraternal Training Portal, this website gives you the opportunity to take customized training courses for these exciting and important roles. Once you start, you can proceed at your own pace. Please remember that the content is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Through this training site anyone can take the following:

- District Deputy Course
- Grand Knight Course
- Financial Secretary Course
- Deputy Grand Knight Course
- Council Officer Training
- Personal Recruitment Skills

Visit: [Kofc.org/trainingmicrosite](http://Kofc.org/trainingmicrosite)

## Webinars

Join the staff of the Fraternal Mission Department live, as we discuss relevant topics for effective council operation, membership recruitment, and charitable outreach programs that engage council members and build a stronger council. All Knights of Columbus members are welcome to join us for these fun, engaging and informative webinars.

Offered approximately once a month on an ongoing basis, these interactive webinars allow participants to view, ask questions and receive answers related to the topic being discussed in real time. You can register even if you are unavailable for the live presentation. Each webinar is recorded and archived, so fraternal leaders can participate at a time and place convenient to them.

For further assistance, please contact the Fraternal Mission department. Phone: (203) 752-4270 or email: [fraternaltraining@kofc.org](mailto:fraternaltraining@kofc.org)

To sign-up and see the upcoming webinar or view the archived webinars, visit [kofc.org/webinar](http://kofc.org/webinar).

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## PROGRAM CATEGORIES

A well-rounded council program will have activities in each of the following categories: Faith, Family, Community and Life.

This manual highlights the 32 Supreme Council-recommended programs, inclusive of existing and new programs. Your council is encouraged to implement any program(s) that will help make a difference in your parish and community. Obtaining a maximum of 16 program credits qualifies the council to earn the Columbian Award. For additional information on the Columbian Award, visit [kofc.org/star](http://kofc.org/star).

The programs highlighted here are meant to inspire your council to put their faith into action. Your council may choose to conduct one or more of the programs in this manual, or it may develop programs unique to the parish or community. The goal is for the council to be active and conduct programs that draw men closer to their faith, families and communities — and defend life in all stages and in all conditions.



## Supreme-Recommended Program Category Matrix

FAITH	COMMUNITY
<b>RSVP</b> Into the Breach Marian Icon Prayer Program Building the Domestic Church Kiosk Rosary Program Spiritual Reflection Program <b>New</b> Holy Hour <b>New</b> Sacramental Gifts <b>New</b>	<b>Coats for Kids</b> <b>Global Wheelchair Mission</b> <b>Habitat for Humanity</b> Disaster Preparedness Free Throw Championship Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest Soccer Challenge Helping Hands <b>New</b>
FAMILY	LIFE
<b>Food for Families</b> Family of the Month/Year Keep Christ in Christmas Family Fully Alive Family Week Consecration to the Holy Family Family Prayer Night <b>New</b> Good Friday Family Promotion <b>New</b>	<b>Marches for Life</b> <b>Special Olympics</b> <b>Ultrasound Program</b> Christian Refugee Relief Silver Rose Mass for People with Special Needs <b>New</b> Pregnancy Center Support <b>New</b> Novena for Life <b>New</b>

***Bold** denotes Featured Programs  
 Faith in Action Programs — Table 2*

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## FEATURED PROGRAMS

The Supreme Council has designated select programs as featured programs in each of the program categories. When your council conducts a featured program and satisfies the associated requirements, it will receive two credits toward that program category.

FAITH	COMMUNITY
RSVP	Coats for Kids Global Wheelchair Mission Habitat for Humanity
FAMILY	LIFE
Food for Families	Marches for Life Special Olympics Ultrasound Program

*Featured Programs — Table 3*

## REQUIRED PROGRAMS

Additionally, a council must conduct one required program in each category to be eligible for the Columbian Award. The vast majority of councils are already doing one or more of these programs, which are designed to enrich the spiritual life of the council, family and community. Required programs are incredibly simple to implement, often complementing other activities the council is already doing.

FAITH	COMMUNITY
Spiritual Reflection Program	Helping Hands
FAMILY	LIFE
Consecration to the Holy Family	Novena for Life

*Required Programs — Table 4*



# FAITH



Our goal is to strengthen our men and their families in the faith. When we entered the Order, we were reminded to constantly inform ourselves in the Catholic faith. This formation goes beyond mere facts or religious practice to an authentic connection with a loving God and his son Jesus Christ. Programs in this category are designed to draw us closer to God and the Church in a tangible and meaningful way — whether through helping the future shepherds of the Mother Church, quiet contemplation in a spiritual reflection program, or honoring Mary, Mother of God. These programs should strive to arm us for the spiritual battle that our men and families face daily.

## Refund Support Vocation Program (RSVP)

Keep the faith alive by supporting our seminarians and postulants.

As the strong right arm of the church, Knights of Columbus are committed to providing moral, financial and spiritual support to our future priests and religious at all stages of their formation. A featured program, RSVP counts for two credits toward the Columbian Award.

Through this program, council and parish families will raise funds to support seminarians or religious in formation, in their area. For every \$500 donated to an individual, the Supreme Council will refund \$100 back to the council — up to a maximum of \$400 (four individuals) per council per fraternal year. Though financial support is vitally important, it is not the only aspect of the RSVP program. Councils are also called to provide their “adopted” seminarian or religious with moral support and prayers for their success.



## Into the Breach

Deepen member spirituality and formation to combat crisis of religious faith in our world.

In his Apostolic Exhortation, *Into the Breach*, Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted outlines the challenges faced by men of faith in the world today. *Into the Breach* is a call to battle for Catholic men which urges them to wholeheartedly embrace masculine virtues in a world at crisis. Councils will institute men’s study groups to read the Apostolic Exhortation *Into the Breach* and use copies of the *Into the Breach Booklet and Study Guide* as a resource. By reading and discussing Bishop Olmsted’s inspirational words and the accompanying study guide with like-minded men of faith, councils will prayerfully examine the enormous breach in the battle line that lies before them. In doing so, they will begin to devise a personal plan of spiritual battle.

## Marian Icon Prayer Program

Spread devotion to Our Lady through the Marian Icon Prayer Program.

As the new Marian Icon pilgrimages through the jurisdiction, councils will host a prayer service at their parish. Like its predecessors, the program features a unique Marian image that is renewed with a new Icon approximately every two years. Each Knights of Columbus jurisdiction receives several Marian images, which serve as the centerpieces for prayer services conducted in churches and council meeting places throughout the Order for the duration of the initiative. Previous Orderwide Marian Prayer Programs have gathered more than 16 million people together at 140,000 prayer services.

## Building the Domestic Church Kiosk

Help strengthen the domestic church (our families) by providing exceptional religious education materials to all Catholics.

*Building the Domestic Church Kiosks* (#BDC-K) contain engaging, faith-based literature and are available for councils to distribute to members, parishioners, and the general public. By organizing activities in their parishes, councils will educate and evangelize using the rich resources found in the Catholic Information Service (CIS) *Building the Domestic Church* series of booklets.

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Since 1948, CIS has been the major evangelical arm of the Knights of Columbus. Through multiple booklet series and various media formats, CIS makes our Catholic faith accessible and continually provides tools for catechesis and faith formation. For \$150, councils will receive a *Building the Domestic Church Kiosk* (#BDC-K) and the first set of 225 booklets of the most popular CIS resources, aimed at helping Catholics to live out the Church's vision for our families.

## Rosary Program

Build faithful families and communities by praying the rosary.

This program encourages devotion to Mary, the patroness of our Order, and emphasizes the importance of prayer in community and as a family. The Rosary Program encourages councils to schedule regular rosary prayer services on any day of the week, at any time of the year, with the guidance of their pastor. Councils should personally invite each family of the parish and offer attending families a copy of the Knights of Columbus Catholic Information Service's *A Scriptural Rosary for the Family* (#319). Encourage families to read this booklet and learn how their faith can be strengthened through a devotion to Our Lady, while praying the rosary at home together regularly. Kits with rosary rings, rosary prayer guides, and leader books are available for councils to order by visiting Supplies Online through the Officers Online Portal.

## Spiritual Reflection Program

Create annual opportunities for prayer and reflection as a fraternity.

Many Catholic young people can attest that religious retreats are radically rejuvenating spiritual events that often leave a lasting impact on participants' relationship to their faith. Yet, so often, retreats seem only to be open

to students and youth. Under the guidance of their chaplain, councils can attend a retreat or day of reflection together or perhaps organize their own event for the men of their parish. Councils and jurisdictions can also hold low-cost retreats of their own. These events might be open only to council members or men of the parish — or may be open to entire families. If councils are unable to organize these events themselves, they could go as a group and attend a retreat in their area to satisfy the requirement. Council participation in Spiritual Reflection is required to qualify for the Columbian Award.

## Holy Hour

Encourage deep personal encounter with God.

The chivalric character of the Knights of Columbus and the Church's long tradition of spiritual combat resonate with men today — especially as threats from the world and the devil are so keenly felt. Eucharistic adoration in the form of a regularly scheduled Holy Hour is a simple, direct, and meaningful way to address these needs. It is familiar to many, easy to organize, and something everyone can participate in together regardless of age, vocation, stage of life or membership status. Councils can organize their Holy Hours in a variety of ways and incorporate aspects such as: perpetual adoration, the sacrament of reconciliation, prayer for particular intentions and more. A Knights of Columbus Holy Hour, prepared for the men of the parish, could include a reflection, communal rosary, prayers for intercession by Father McGivney or St. Joseph, and various other aspects as decided by the council.

## Sacramental Gifts

Support families during the most important events in the life of the domestic church: the sacraments.

The sacraments stand as the most significant events in the life of the domestic church. The Knights of Columbus will be there to support and embrace our parish families at these essential moments of encounter with Christ. Councils will play an integral role in these momentous faith events and the lives of our families and parish community through prayer and the presentation of symbolic gifts. As children and adult members become more integrated into the life of the church and their parish, they should know that members of the Knights of Columbus will always be present in a tangible and meaningful way, regardless of who else is there for them.



# FAMILY



Put simply, programs in this category are developed for families, by families. Father McGivney sought to strengthen the familial bond of father to mother and children to parents. Catholics often struggle with the reality that they do not

have the opportunity to socialize and/or pray with other faith-filled Catholic families. It can be quite a challenge to continue to ground ourselves and raise our children in the faith when there is such limited exposure.

Our family programs are an evolution and response to a society that seeks to weaken the bonds of family. We must make it clear that society should value a family that is faithful to God and each other. Father McGivney's vision for family life was not only financial and material aid but also spiritual strength, as holiness is the calling of all baptized Christians. Put plainly, the majority of our time is easily spent in secular circles unless we intentionally create ways to live the domestic church. These programs help us to live this call.



## Food for Families

Help end hunger in communities across North America and around the globe.

The goal of Food for Families is to ensure that as few as possible go to bed hungry each night. Many in our communities are struggling through hardship and unable to provide food for their families. Knights of Columbus are committed to helping end hunger through the Food for Families program which has donated millions of dollars and millions of pounds of food toward this end.

A featured program, Food for Families counts for two credits toward the Columbian Award. Council and parish families will raise funds to support their local food pantries, food banks and soup kitchens. For every \$500 or 1,000 pounds of food donated, the Supreme Council will refund \$100 back to the council — up to a maximum of \$500 per council per fraternal year. Though in-kind donation of food is valuable, leaders of hunger-relief organizations often comment that financial contributions can be stretched even further and allow nonprofits to procure the exact items needed by the organization and its clients.

## Family of the Month/Year

Promote and support the development of strong and vibrant families.

Each month, the council Family of the Month committee selects one parish family that models Christian family values and visibly lives them every day. Each council establishes a committee to recognize a deserving Family of the Month and Family of the Year with potential for recognition on the international level. Once a year, each participating council also selects one of the previous twelve Family of the Month winners to represent the council/parish as the potential international Family of the Year. The Knights of Columbus Family of the Year is chosen by the Supreme Council and recognized each year at the annual Supreme Convention.

## Keep Christ in Christmas

Promote the true spirit of Christmas in our homes, schools, parishes and communities.

Councils will evangelize society through their faithful acts, celebrations and a variety of activities. The Knights

# FAMILY

of Columbus offers multiple activities that promote Christmas and the season of Advent in their proper context: Journey to the Inn, Light Up for Christ, Crèche or Advent Wreath Blessing, and the Christmas Poster Contest. These programs are centered on the example of the Holy Family and the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The new Keep Christ in Christmas (KCIC) program brings all KCIC activities together under one umbrella. It encourages councils to compel their neighbors to shift from a preoccupation with materialism to the light of Christ and the spirit of giving. KCIC activities include whatever efforts best suit the parish and community of a particular council and do not need to originate from the Supreme Council.

## Family Fully Alive

During his visit to the Philippines, Pope Francis cited the need for “holy and loving families to protect the beauty and truth of the family in God’s plan and to be an example for other families” (Address to Families at the Mall of Asia Arena, 2015). The Family Fully Alive monthly devotions are concrete ways that Knights of Columbus, in solidarity with Pope Francis, can support the growth of holy and loving families in the Church.

The Family Fully Alive program asks families to invite God into their homes and cultivates each family as a miniature domestic church. Using the *Family Fully Alive Booklet* as a devotional guide, this program provides monthly themes, reflections, meditations and group

projects. Through prayer and reflection, each family has the opportunity to grow in holiness together. This is a flexible program that can be started at any time of the year and continues year-round. Councils will order booklets to distribute or direct parish families to program resources on [kofc.org](http://kofc.org), all available at no cost.

## Family Week

Help families place God and the Catholic faith at the center of their lives, year-round.

Knights of Columbus councils will dedicate a special week of the year for their parish to recognize the vital importance of families as the foundation of our domestic church and to promote Catholic family values. Activities presented in this program seek strengthen the parish community and affirm the central importance of Catholic family life.

When choosing a week, councils should consider factors that might affect parishioner schedules such as school vacations, holidays and other local events. Though traditionally celebrated in the summer to commemorate the birth and death of our founder, Father McGivney, this program can take place anytime during the year.

## Consecration to the Holy Family

Strengthen families and revitalize our parishes.

To help families live out the joy of Christ, Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori has composed a prayer through which families will come together to consecrate themselves under the protection of the Holy Family. In this prayer, we ask for the aid or intercession of the perfect son Jesus Christ, Mary the perfect mother, and Joseph who is a model for every father.

Seeking to strengthen families and revitalize our parishes, councils will guide their parishes and community to understand and offer this important and impactful prayer. Preparing for the Consecration to the Holy Family is not a single event. It is choosing a way of life for your family. Through this consecration, each participant is consciously choosing to be a beacon of God’s love through his Church. Council participation in Consecration to the Holy Family is required to qualify for the Columbian Award.



# FAMILY



## Family Prayer Night

Strengthen the bonds within our parishes and build faith-filled families.

Catholics often struggle with the reality that they do not have the opportunity to socialize and/or pray with other faith-filled Catholic families. It can be quite a challenge to raise our children in the faith when their only exposure comes from Mom and Dad. Family Prayer Night is an opportunity for children to be exposed to regular people living their faith in a casual setting. This is an opportunity for council members, their families, and the whole parish community to come together once a month for an evening of prayer, dinner and fellowship.

Families of council members, as well as other Catholic families within the parish and community, will gather for prayer, dinner and fellowship. Multiple groups can be formed and families are encouraged to rotate between these groups.

## Good Friday Family Promotion

Bring families into more robust practice and better understanding of our Catholic faith and the triduum.

Despite Good Friday's central role in the heart of Christianity, attendance at services remains low. In an effort to change this, councils will encourage participation in Good Friday services through a promotional campaign. In an effort to increase parish attendance and involvement, councils will conduct a promotional campaign to educate their parishes on the vital importance of Good Friday.

Setting an example for their community, Knights will attend Good Friday services with their families and work with their pastors to encourage increased parishioner involvement at these liturgies. In conjunction with these efforts, councils will also work to educate their parishes about the plight of Christians in the Holy Land and other areas around the world where Christians are persecuted for their faith.



# COMMUNITY



As Knights of Columbus, we are called to serve our family and our God. Our first principle is Charity, at home with our families or in our communities. This is a critical part of our Knights of Columbus mission. Have you ever wondered, “How can I make my community better?” Individuals can do great things on their own but there is something bigger than self when Knights of Columbus members come together as one through their council and accomplish great things. Councils that conduct these programs are positively shaping their communities by addressing the needs of its citizens.

## Coats for Kids

Provide warmth for deserving children during cold winter months.

Families struggling to make ends meet use their scarce resources to meet the most basic needs and cannot always afford the vital essential of a new winter coat. The goal of the Coats for Kids program is to ensure that no child in North America goes without a coat during the winter season. Through the dedication of councils across the United States and Canada, hundreds of thousands of new winter coats have been distributed to children since program inception.

Councils across North America can purchase new winter coats for children in need at a discount and distribute them in their local communities. A featured program, Coats for Kids counts for two credits toward the Columbian Award.

## Global Wheelchair Mission

Change the lives of people with disabilities worldwide.

The Knights of Columbus has partnered with the Global Wheelchair Mission since 2003 with the goal of providing wheelchairs to all those who lack the freedom of mobility, changing the lives of people with disabilities worldwide. Working with the Global Wheelchair Mission is a perfect opportunity to put your faith into action and involve the entire parish in the rewarding charitable work done by your council. Councils are encouraged to raise funds and make donations to purchase deeply discounted wheelchairs. Through



partnerships, councils can also purchase a large container of 110 to 280 wheelchairs at \$150 per wheelchair for their own donation sites. A featured program, Global Wheelchair Mission counts for two credits toward the Columbian Award. Today, this initiative started in the United States has expanded into Canada through partnership with the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation.

## Habitat for Humanity

Build homes for families in need.

Knights of Columbus councils work closely with Habitat for Humanity, a nonprofit Christian organization, to build homes for families in need at substantially reduced costs. Each year, councils throughout the Order donate a considerable number of volunteer hours and dollars to this worthy cause. In order to satisfy program requirements, councils are asked to donate a minimum of \$1,000 — or 200 service hours — to Habitat for Humanity projects in their community. A featured program, Habitat for Humanity counts for two credits toward the Columbian Award.

# COMMUNITY

## **Disaster Preparedness**

Prepare your community before disaster strikes.

Communities can be brought to a halt when disaster occurs — from large natural disasters to local crises. As community leaders, Knights of Columbus will ensure that their members, families and parish communities are prepared through a campaign that promotes planning and education. This program motivates councils to take a holistic approach to emergency situations by promoting readiness in times of crisis, assessing response capabilities, and learning how to properly respond well ahead of a disaster. Councils will engage their parish and community in disaster preparedness exercises by organizing trainings, fundraisers and various awareness activities.

## **Free Throw Championship**

Provide an athletic outlet for youth ages 9 to 14 in your community.

Since 1972, councils have sponsored the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship for boys and girls between the ages of 9 and 14 to provide an athletic outlet and encourage the values of sportsmanship and healthy competition. Kids compete within their own gender and age and progress from local level to district, regional and state/province competitions. This program is a great way to introduce the Order to your community and recruit faithful family men of service. Councils can sponsor a competition by ordering a Free Throw Championship Kit, or volunteer to host and/or support the district, regional and state/province championships.

## **Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest**

Encourage youth in your community to become citizens grounded in their faith through creative writing. Open to all Catholic students (public, private, home, or parochial schools) in grades 8 to 12 during the current school year.

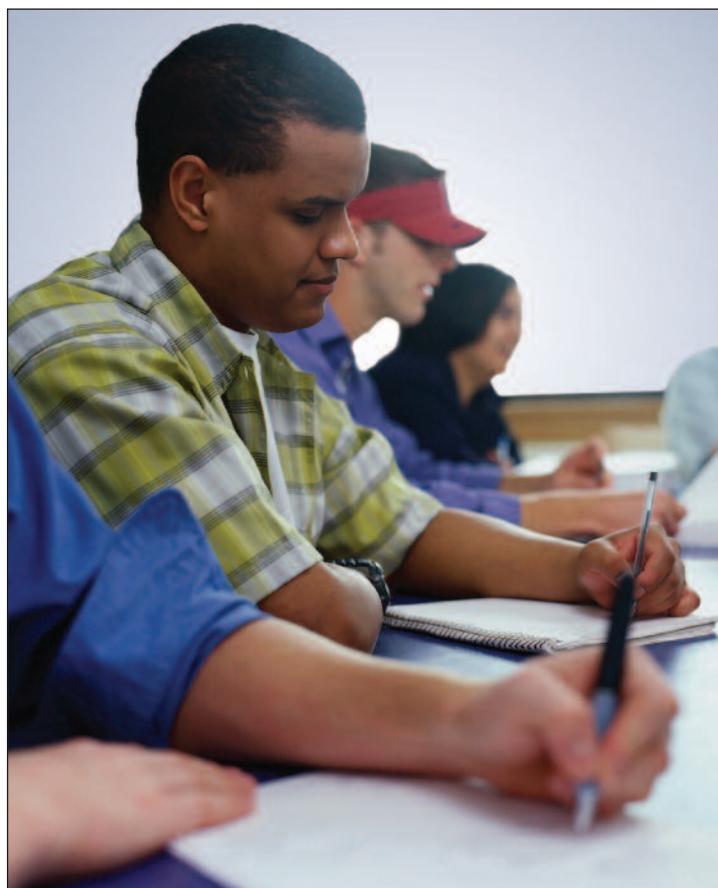
This contest encourages today's youth to be more connected to their community and their faith. The goal of this program is to involve young Catholics in 8th through 12th grade (public, private, parochial or home schools) in civic discourse and instill in them religious and life-affirming values. The essay should be approximately 500-750 words on a specific subject,

changing every other year. Entrants will be judged on grammar, style, and how clearly they present the theme — which should showcase creativity, imagination and overall development of the topic.

## **Soccer Challenge**

Provide an athletic outlet for youth ages 9 to 14 in your community. Designed for players to demonstrate their skills in the penalty kick. Councils can sponsor a competition by ordering a Soccer Challenge Kit, or volunteer to host and/or support the district, regional and state/province championships.

The Soccer Challenge is a great way for councils to engage in their communities with an athletic event for youth that encourages the values of sportsmanship and healthy competition. Children demonstrate the most important skill in soccer — shooting accuracy on the penalty kick — and compete to reach the international level of competition. The program is a great way to introduce the Order to your community and recruit faithful family men of service.



# COMMUNITY



## Helping Hands

Pope Francis writes in *Evangelii Gaudium*, “Our faith in Christ, who became poor, and was always close to the poor and the outcast, is the basis of our concern for the integral development of society’s most neglected

members” (186). He goes on to say, “In this context we can understand Jesus’ command to his disciples: ‘You yourselves give them something to eat!’ (Mk 6:37): it means working to eliminate the structural causes of poverty and to promote the integral development of the poor, as well as small daily acts of solidarity in meeting the real needs which we encounter” (188).

In the model of our founder, Father McGivney, councils will lead efforts to assist those most in need. The Helping Hands program is designed to recognize the important work many councils already do to care for the most disadvantaged members of our communities — the homeless, the addicted, the elderly who may feel isolated and abandoned, and many others. Through this program, councils will aid the needy through the activities they feel best suit their community, such as serving at or running a soup kitchen, repairing the facilities of a local service organization or something entirely unique. The requirements for this program are very broad in order to allow councils to serve their community in whatever way is most needed. Council participation in Helping Hands is required to qualify for the Columbian Award.



# LIFE



The urgency of the threat to a culture of life cannot be misunderstood. Respect for the dignity of life demands a commitment to human rights across a broad spectrum. Both as Knights of Columbus and as followers of Christ, “Catholics must be committed to the defense of life in all its stages and in every condition” (St. John Paul II, 1995).

The Knights of Columbus defends the dignity of each human being at every stage of life. Knights work together to build a culture of life and a civilization of love. Your council should stand ready to assist any pregnant woman in need, care for the elderly, aid the handicapped, empower those with special needs to realize their full potential and bring attention to the injustices of abortion, embryonic stem cell research, euthanasia and assisted suicide.

## Marches for Life

Show public support for the right to life.

The Knights of Columbus encourages others to choose life through public support of the pro-life cause. Knights can organize and participate in local/state/province/regional Marches for Life and/or organize participation of Knights/parishioners/students/etc., in bus trips to the

national Marches in Washington, D.C., Ottawa, Mexico City, throughout the Philippines, or in other countries.

Showing unwavering public support for the right to life. Councils are encouraged to participate in or sponsor local, state/province, regional or national Marches for Life. Councils that coordinate at least 50 participants or who organize a local March for Life will receive credit for this program. A featured program, Marches for Life counts for two credits toward the Columbian Award.



## Special Olympics

Celebrate the intrinsic worth and dignity of every single human being through the Special Olympics.

The Knights of Columbus has a unique partnership with the Special Olympics and has helped disabled athletes train for and compete in games around the world. Knights of Columbus councils have assisted with all aspects of the program from fundraising to feeding the athletes, organizing and judging events, and providing equipment and awards. Without the support of the Knights, participants would not be able to train for the events that they love.

Work with Special Olympics affiliates to determine how best to fund, sponsor or volunteer for events in the local community. Featured program credit is awarded to councils providing at least \$2,000 in donations or 200 service hours in a fraternal year. As a featured program, Special Olympics counts for two credits toward the Columbian Award.



# LIFE

## Ultrasound Program

Save lives by helping each abortion-minded woman who visits a pro-life pregnancy care center to choose life by viewing her unborn child on an ultrasound machine.

This initiative is funded by state and local councils and matching grants from the Supreme Council's Culture of Life Fund. The Knights of Columbus works together to purchase ultrasound machines for qualifying pregnancy centers. After the state and/or local council raises 50% of the cost, the Supreme Council will provide the other 50% to complete funding for purchase of an ultrasound. Or, if the council raises 100% of the cost of a vehicle outfitted to serve as a mobile medical unit for a pregnancy center, the Supreme Council will provide 100% of the funds for an ultrasound machine to be used in that vehicle. A featured program, Ultrasound Program counts for two credits toward the Columbian Award.

## Christian Refugee Relief

Help save persecuted and at-risk Christians facing genocide all over the world, particularly in the Middle East.

Knights of Columbus are called to bring awareness and support to those who have suffered for their faith through various parish-based programs and fundraisers. The Knights of Columbus Christian Refugee Relief Fund, which has provided humanitarian assistance, primarily in Iraq, Syria, and the surrounding region. Councils will aid this cause by collaborating with their parishes to spread awareness and raise funds to help these Christians and those in their care. In particular, councils

are encouraged to utilize Solidarity Crosses as a fundraiser and prayer campaign in their parishes.

## Silver Rose

Share the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe and promote respect for life by participating in this meaningful pilgrimage.

The Silver Rose program demonstrates the unity between Knights of Columbus in Canada, the United States, and Mexico, through a series of prayer services promoting the dignity of all human life and honoring Our Lady. Each year, from early March through mid-December, Silver Roses are stewarded by councils along routes from Canada to Mexico. Every stop the Silver Rose makes throughout the pilgrimage is a rosary-centered occasion for Knights, parishioners and community members to pray for respect for life, for the spiritual renewal of each nation, and for the advancement of the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

## Mass for People with Special Needs

Welcome individuals or families who might not normally feel comfortable participating in a regularly scheduled Mass.

People with special needs resulting from physical, emotional, mental or cognitive conditions are all around us in society, at school, at work and in our families. It can be challenging for these important members of our society to participate in church due to physical and social barriers — or even family member anxiety. Councils will sponsor a distinct Mass, conducted annually, for people with special needs. Celebrating a Mass for People with Special Needs can be the first of many steps toward integrating them into regular weekly or even daily Mass — and more deeply into all of the sacraments and other aspects of parish life. Holding this Mass sends the message that all of God's children are welcome under the parish roof and that every person is an integral part of the parish family.

## Pregnancy Center Support

Change the hearts and minds of society about abortion by showing that we love both mother and child before and after birth.



# LIFE

More than three thousand pro-life pregnancy centers now operate in jurisdictions throughout the Order. By the very nature of our founding, Knights of Columbus are called to care for the widow and orphan. Abortion vulnerable unborn children and mothers experiencing unexpected pregnancies certainly fall within our mandate. With our aid, pregnancy centers can offer support to help them choose life. Councils can provide material, financial, labor and other support to pro-life pregnancy centers that help pregnant women during pregnancy and following the birth of their newborn children. Councils can “adopt” a pregnancy center and provide material, labor, and spiritual support throughout the year.

## **Novena for Life**

Lead your community in the spiritual fight to establish a culture of life in our nations.

The protection of life is a sustained prayer intention of the Church, and in particular of the Knights of Columbus. Knights remain firmly committed to defending the right to life of every human being — from the moment of conception to natural death. To commemorate and bolster this important cause, councils will promote a novena, nine days of sustained prayer, to build up a culture of life in our parishes, homes and wider community.

Knights and their families will come together in both public and private acts of prayer to promote the protection of life. Council participation in Novena for Life is required to qualify for the Columbian Award.



# FAITH IN ACTION

## SUPREME CHAPLAIN'S FAITH IN ACTION MONTHLY CHALLENGE

Few if any organizations can unify nearly two million Catholic men and coordinate their efforts to live their faith in their councils, homes, parishes and communities. Through this challenge, all Knights of Columbus around the world will grow in their faith and be united with their brother Knights doing the same. They will be personally blessed by their efforts and equally reassured not to give up if they struggle to live the challenge.

The supreme chaplain's monthly challenge is a council activity in which each member of the council is challenged to read and then fulfill the activity. The challenge is simple and consistent. The supreme chaplain chooses a few lines from scripture that will be heard at a Sunday Mass during the upcoming month. He then shares a brief reflection on the scripture verses. Finally, he gives his monthly challenge to all Knights of Columbus, and they are instructed to live that challenge for the month.

At the next month's council meeting, during the chaplain's message, the chaplain will lead a discussion about what it was like living the challenge for the month. If the chaplain is unable to attend the meeting, this discussion is to take place during the grand knight's report. The monthly challenge will be found primarily in:

- Monthly email blast to grand knight, chaplain and lecturer
- Social media
- *Knightline*
- *Columbia Magazine*
- [kofc.org/domesticchurch](http://kofc.org/domesticchurch)

## Faith in Action Monthly Challenge Instructions

1. Begin with a prayer of your choosing or use the following:
  - Make the Sign of the Cross
  - **Prayer:** Come Holy Spirit. We thank you for guiding our lives and pray that we may have the courage exemplified by Father McGivney to live our faith to the fullest through our council, our families and in society. May our words today give glory to your Sacred Heart and if we struggled this past month in living our faith, help us to never stop turning to you and always try again.
2. Re-read the Faith In Action monthly challenge from the previous month
  - Invite the men to talk about what it was like to try and live last month's challenge from the supreme chaplain
  - Do not be concerned about the order that men speak in
  - It's OK if there is silence in between men speaking
  - Try to make sure that others are listening when one man is speaking
  - It is fine if someone doesn't want to speak
  - The men are welcome to give encouraging comments to each other
3. When finished, read the Faith in Action for the next month
4. Ask the men if there is anything they would like the group to pray for and end with this prayer:
  - **Prayer:** Heavenly Father, we thank you for this time together with our brothers. We ask you to have mercy on all those people and intentions we prayed for. Give us the perseverance to live next month's Faith in Action and to remember that we are united with our brother Knights around the world in doing so.
  - Make the Sign of the Cross



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
1 COLUMBUS PLAZA NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-3326  
203-752-4270 [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org)

# FAITH IN ACTION

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

On April 6, 2018, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson announced the introduction of the *Faith in Action* program model. Although *Surge...with Service* has served us well through the years, this replacement model is being implemented in order to simplify our program structure and better align programs under main priority areas.

Below is a list of questions and answers that can be shared with the jurisdictions and local councils. If you have additional questions or would like clarification of an answer, please contact the Fraternal Mission Department.

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### Overall *Faith in Action* Model:

#### Q: What is *Faith in Action*?

A: *Faith in Action* will be the new umbrella for all Supreme Council-recommended programs, replacing *Surge...with Service*.

#### Q: Why the need for the change?

A: *Surge...with Service* has provided a strong foundation for Knights of Columbus programming over the nearly five decades of its life cycle. During that time we have added and removed various programs. While our mission remains unchanged, it has evolved to meet a changing world. With the announcement of the *Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening Our Parishes* initiative we committed to evaluating our service to parishes and families so that our work might become even more relevant and effective.

*Faith in Action* reflects this shift with a strong call to action and a focus on quality faith-filled family programs. It simplifies the requirements and gives a home to all of our supreme council-recommended programs.

#### Q: What happened to *Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening Our Parish*?

A: *Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening Our Parish* remains and is foundational to the vision and ongoing strategy for creating strong and dynamic parish-based councils. This will include resources for spiritual renewal and the integration of family, council and parish life in a complementary relationship. *The Faith in Action* program model is an evolution of the *Building the Domestic Church* initiative and focuses on the most direct way a council can impact its parish community – activities. All of the programs included in *Building the Domestic Church* have now been integrated into the *Faith in Action* model or retired. There is now only one model that encompasses all Supreme recommended programs and it is *Faith in Action*.



**Categories:****Q: What are the program categories?**

A: The new program categories are Faith, Family, Community, and Life. We have reduced the number of categories from six to four and eliminated the Youth and Council categories.

**Q: What happened to the Youth category?**

A: The Youth category is consolidated into the Community category to better align all community outreach programs including those involving youth and their families.

**Q: Do I need to assign a council youth director?**

A: No, there is no need to assign a council youth director. The program responsibilities have moved under the Community program category.

**Q: With no Youth Category, where do we record our activity for Columbian Squires?**

A: If your council is involved with a Columbian Squires program, which should now be sponsored by your parish, you can record that activity in the Community category. However, Columbian Squires is no longer a featured program within the *Faith in Action* model.

**Q: What happened to the Council category?**

A: The Council category is consolidated into the Faith and Family categories. Council programs that involve fraternity should include both faith-based activities and family activities. These programs offer opportunities for Knights to come together in shared purpose to foster unity and spirituality.

**Q: Why were these four categories chosen: Faith, Family, Community, and Life?**

A: These four categories represent our main priorities as an Order. This model by no means seeks to eliminate the need for Knights to serve youth or foster fraternity; rather, it seeks to expand on these in a more holistic way.

- **Faith:** Our goal is to strengthen our men and their families in the faith. When we entered the Order, we were reminded to constantly inform ourselves in the Catholic faith. This formation goes beyond mere facts or religious practice to an authentic connection with a loving God and his son Jesus Christ.
- **Family:** Father Michael J. McGivney sought to strengthen the familial bond of father to mother and children to parents. Our family programs are an evolution and response to a society that seeks to weaken the bonds of family. We must make it clear that society should value a family that is faithful to God and each other.
- **Community:** As Knights of Columbus, we are called to serve our family and our God. Our first principle is Charity, at home with our families or in our communities. This is a critical part of our Knights of Columbus mission.
- **Life:** The urgency of the threat to a culture of life cannot be misunderstood. Respect for the dignity of life demands a commitment to human rights across a broad spectrum. Both as Knights of Columbus and as followers of Christ, “Catholics must be committed to the defense of life in all its stages and in every condition” (Saint John Paul II, 1995).

**Programs:**

**Q: How many programs are required to fulfill Columbian Award requirements for each category?**

A: Four (4) in each category are required to earn the Columbian Award. This has not changed. In fact, to earn the Columbian Award, the council is required to complete a maximum of sixteen (16) programs instead of the twenty-four (24) that were required in the *Surge...with Service* model.

**Q: Are there still featured programs?**

A: Yes, the featured programs have remained. They are: RSVP, Food for Families, Coats for Kids, Global Wheelchair Mission, Habitat for Humanity, March for Life, Special Olympics, and Ultrasound Program. Note, however, that Columbian Squires is no longer a featured program.

**Q: What are the Supreme-recommended programs?**

A:

FAITH	COMMUNITY
<b>RSVP</b>	<b>Coats for Kids</b>
Into the Breach	<b>Global Wheelchair Mission</b>
Marian Icon Prayer Program	<b>Habitat for Humanity</b>
Building the Domestic Church Kiosk	Disaster Preparedness
Rosary Program	Free Throw Championship
Spiritual Reflection Program <b>New</b>	Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest
Holy Hour <b>New</b>	Soccer Challenge
Sacramental Gifts <b>New</b>	Helping Hands <b>New</b>
FAMILY	LIFE
<b>Food for Families</b>	<b>Marches for Life</b>
Family of the Month/Year	<b>Special Olympics</b>
Keep Christ in Christmas (Posada, Poster Contest, etc.)	<b>Ultrasound Program</b>
Family Fully Alive	Christian Refugee Relief
Family Week	Silver Rose
Consecration to the Holy Family	Mass for People with Special Needs <b>New</b>
Family Prayer Night <b>New</b>	Pregnancy Center Support <b>New</b>
Good Friday Family Promotion <b>New</b>	Novena for Life <b>New</b>

**Bold** denotes Featured Programs

**Q: Will the council still receive four credits, or full credit, per category for a featured program?**

A: No. The council will only receive two credits, or half credit, per category for a featured program. While we realize that this may seem like a penalty, we are encouraging councils to enhance their fraternal and parish life with a variety of enriched programs available in the new *Faith in Action* model or programs uniquely their own.

**Q: Are there required programs?**

A: Yes. In each category, in order to earn the Columbian Award, we ask that each council conduct one essential program. The vast majority of councils are already doing one or more of these types of programs. These programs were designed to enrich the spiritual life of the council, family and community and are incredibly simple to implement, often complementing other activities the council is already doing.

**Q: What are the required programs?**

A: These programs are:

- Faith: Spiritual Reflection Program
- Family: Consecration to the Holy Family
- Community: Helping Hands
- Life: Novena for Life

**Q: Are there any new Supreme-recommended programs?**

A: Yes. In an effort to provide symmetry to the program model, we introduced the “four programs in four categories” model. Each category then has eight programs. This facilitated the need to add programs to some categories – programs that we found many councils are doing already.

**Q: What are the new programs?**

A:

<b>FAITH</b>	<b>COMMUNITY</b>
Spiritual Reflection Program Holy Hour Sacramental Gifts	Helping Hands
<b>FAMILY</b>	<b>LIFE</b>
Family Prayer Night Good Friday Family Promotion	Mass for People with Special Needs Pregnancy Center Support Novena for Life

**Q: What is the Spiritual Reflection Program?**

A: Many Catholic young people can attest that religious retreats are radically rejuvenating spiritual events that often leave a lasting impact on participants’ relationship to their faith. Yet, so often, retreats seem only open to students and youth. In conjunction with pastors, councils and jurisdictions can hold low-cost retreats of their own. These events might be open only to council members or men of the parish – or may be open to entire families. If councils are unable to organize events themselves, they could go as a group and attend a retreat in their area to satisfy the requirement.

**Q: What is the Holy Hour Program?**

A: In our First Degree, we exhort: “In times past a Knight would spend the evening before his Knighting in a church, on his knees, placing his Shield and Sword before his Lord and his God. Our Sword is prayer, our shield, Good Works informed by faith.” The chivalric character of the Knights of Columbus and the Church’s long tradition of spiritual combat resonates with men today, especially as threats from the world and the devil are so keenly felt. Eucharistic adoration in the form of a regularly scheduled Holy Hour is a simple, direct, and meaningful way to address these needs. It is familiar to many, easy to set up, and something all can participate in together regardless of age, vocation, stage of life, or membership status.

Councils should work with their pastors to organize regular Holy Hours of Eucharistic adoration. A Knights of Columbus Holy Hour could be specifically prepared for men, complete with a reflection, communal rosary, and prayers for intercession by Venerable Father McGivney, St. Joseph, or other saints as chosen by the council.

**Q: May men who are not Knights attend Holy Hour?**

A: Yes, and they should be encouraged to attend! A Holy Hour is a wonderful recruiting opportunity and a time for non-members to see, firsthand, how central a role faith plays in the lives of Knights of Columbus.

**Q: How many Holy Hours do we have to organize?**

A: To satisfy the requirement, Holy Hours should be organized at least four times per year (quarterly). However, councils are encouraged to hold them on a more regular basis.

**Q: What is the Sacramental Gifts Program?**

A: In the fullness of the *Building the Domestic Church* initiative, the Knights of Columbus will be present for the most important events in the life of the domestic church: the sacraments. Our councils can play an integral role in these important spiritual events by supporting families, and the whole parish community, through prayer and the presentation of symbolic gifts.

The sacraments stand as the most significant events in the life of our families, the domestic church. The Knights of Columbus will be there for our parish families to support and embrace them at these important moments of encounters with Christ. Becoming more integrated with parish life means that a family and child should know that the Knights of Columbus will always be present in a tangible and meaningful way, regardless of who else is there.

**Q: What is the Family Prayer Night Program?**

A: All councils need an opportunity to gather regularly as a fraternal family. This program provides an opportunity for families of council members, as well as other Catholic families, to come together regularly for prayer, dinner, and fellowship.

Catholics often struggle with the reality that they do not have the opportunity to socialize and/or pray with other faith-filled Catholic families. It can be quite a challenge to continue to ground ourselves and/or to raise our children in the faith when there is such limited exposure. Put plainly, the majority of our time is easily spent in secular circles unless we intentionally create ways to live the domestic church.

Family Prayer Night is an excellent opportunity for families to come together for prayer, dinner, and fellowship. If needed, more than one group may be formed and families are welcome to rotate throughout these groups. It is encouraged for the location to rotate. The host family leads the prayer and all bring a dish to share.

**Q: What is the Good Friday Family Promotion Program?**

A: Councils should lead the promotion of attendance at the Good Friday liturgy and education of parish families about the plight of Christians in the Holy Land. This initiative is also intended to bring families closer to their parish while practicing their Catholic faith. Knights of Columbus councils implement this program by attending the Good Friday liturgy with their families and working with their pastor to encourage increased parishioner attendance.

**Q: What is the Helping Hands Program?**

A: Pope Francis writes in *Evangelii Gaudium*, “Our faith in Christ, who became poor, and was always close to the poor and the outcast, is the basis of our concern for the integral development of society’s most neglected members” [186]. He goes on to say, “In this context we can understand Jesus’ command to his disciples: ‘You yourselves give them something to eat!’ (Mark 6:37): It means working to eliminate the structural causes of poverty and to promote the integral development of the poor, as well as small daily acts of solidarity in meeting the real needs which we encounter” [188].

This program is designed to recognize the important work many councils already do to care for the most disadvantaged members of our communities – the homeless, the addicted, refugees, the elderly who feel isolated and abandoned, and many others. With this program, councils will aid the needy through activities they feel best suit their community, such as serving at or running a soup kitchen, repairing the facilities of a local service organization, or something entirely unique. The requirements for this program are very broad to allow councils to serve their community in whatever way is most needed.

We remember too that our commitment does not consist exclusively in activities or programs. The great majority of the poor have a special openness to the faith; they need God and we must not fail to offer them His friendship, His blessing, His word, the celebration of the sacraments and a journey of growth and maturity in the faith.

**Q: What is the Mass for People with Special Needs Program?**

A: Culture of Life is not simply about the beginning stages of life; it is a commitment to affirm and defend life in all its stages and in every condition. A Knights of Columbus-sponsored Mass, conducted annually for people with special needs, is an opportunity to welcome individuals or families who might not normally feel comfortable attending regularly scheduled Mass.

Those with special needs are living icons of the love of Christ in the world and must be welcomed fully into a parish community. Physical or social barriers may dissuade some people from attending Mass. Family member anxiety may keep them from bringing a loved one out of concerns of disrupting the Mass or, unfortunately, even because they may not feel welcome.

A dedicated Mass may be the first of many steps toward integrating people with special needs into weekly or even daily Mass as well as sacraments and other aspects of parish life. Holding this Mass sends the message that all of God’s children are welcome under the parish roof and that every person is an integral part of the parish family.

**Q: What is the Pregnancy Center Support Program?**

A: Over 3,000 pro-life pregnancy centers now operate in jurisdictions throughout the Order. By the very nature of our founding, Knights of Columbus are called to care for the widow and orphan. We can change the hearts and minds of society about abortion by showing that we love them both – mother and child – before and after birth. Councils can provide material, financial, labor and other support to pro-life pregnancy centers that assist women during pregnancy and following the birth of their children. Note that this is different from the Ultrasound Program. Councils are encouraged to do both programs but fundraising for ultrasound machines do not also count toward the Pregnancy Center Support program.

**Q: What is the Novena for Life Program?**

A: The Knights will come together through both public and private acts of prayer to lead their communities in the spiritual battle to establish a culture of life in our nations. The protection of life is a sustained prayer intention of the Church and, in particular, of the Knights of Columbus. At set times of the year, a council can promote a novena, which is nine days of sustained prayer, to build up a culture of life in our parishes, in our homes, and in the wider community via communal gatherings and promotional efforts. These novenas could precede or end major feast days or pro-life events.

**Q: What happened to the Columbian Squires?**

A: The Columbian Squires program is still a program of the Knights of Columbus, and a council may choose to continue to support the program within their parish. However, all Columbian Squires programs (in the United States and Canada) should have transferred their sponsorship to the local parish. Councils may continue to support and gain a credit in the Community category for this program.

**Q: What happened to the Affirmation of Wedding Vows program?**

A: There were several issues with this program that lend themselves to fall outside the norms of the Roman Catholic Church. This may create confusion in the liturgy and place our bishops and priests in a very challenging situation. In light of this, Affirmation of Wedding Vows will no longer be part of the updated program model.

**Q: What happened to the Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest?**

A: While popular in some areas, this program had very low participation rates. As with all things, our programs must evolve to make room for other programs that have more involvement and engagement. With that in mind, the choice was made to remove this program as a Supreme-recommended program. However, this does not prevent councils from continuing to promote the program or its intent to our youth.

**Catholic Information Service:****Q: What role does the Catholic Information Service (CIS) play in the new *Faith in Action* program model?**

A: CIS will continue to provide the same resources it has in the past. As always, councils are strongly encouraged to order booklets that will supplement the *Faith in Action* Programs.

**Safe Environment Program:**

Under *Faith in Action*, certain state and council officers/chairmen are required to take safe environment training and may also be required to provide authorization for a background check. Some positions also have access to Praesidium's ARMATUS Administration dashboard to view member compliance within their council or jurisdiction.

Safe Environment Program Training and Background Check Requirements – Table 1

ROLES	TRAINING	BACKGROUND CHECK	ARMATUS ADMINISTRATION
<b>State Council</b>			
State Deputy	✓		✓
State Advocate	✓		✓
State Program Director	✓		✓
State Youth Director	✓	✓	✓
State Family Director	✓	✓	✓
State Community Director	✓	✓	✓
State Squire Chairman	✓	✓	✓
<b>Subordinate Council</b>			
Grand Knight	✓		✓
Faithful Navigator	✓		
Program Director	✓		✓
Family Director	✓	✓	
Community Director	✓	✓	
Chief Counsellor	✓	✓	
Adult Counsellor	✓	✓	

If members in certain positions are not compliant within thirty (30) days of notification, they are subject to removal from those positions.

As the *Service Program Personnel Report* (#365) is being completed, ensure that all member email addresses are accurate. Praesidium, the Knights of Columbus' safe environment partner, will use these email addresses to send email notifications to the program directors and chairs required to complete safe environment training and to provide authorization for a background check. Directors and chairs should look for email notifications from Praesidium in their inbox or spam folder for their assigned username and password to complete the required training and the link necessary to provide their background check authorization. Knights of Columbus covers all costs associated with these requirements.

Email notifications are unique to each recipient and cannot be forwarded or used by another director or chair, and are also time sensitive. The recipient must complete the training and background check authorization within thirty (30) days of notification.

#### Website Support:

**Q: Will the [kofc.org](http://kofc.org) website be updated to reflect the new program model?**

A: Yes, we are planning to roll out a completely refreshed and updated version of the programs section of [kofc.org](http://kofc.org). This will streamline the categories and programs into easy-to-find information, resources, video, etc.

**Q: Will the *Building the Domestic Church* (BDC) section of the website go away?**

A: No. *Building the Domestic Church* will continue to live on as part of its original intent to provide members and their families with resources to build up the family and the Church. All BDC programs will now be listed only on the *Faith in Action* page of the Knights of Columbus website, as *Building the Domestic Church* is foundational to the new program model and no longer has a separate program component.

#### Forms:

**Q: Will the *Columbian Award Application* (SP-7) Form be updated to support the new model?**

A: Yes, the *Columbian Award Application* (SP-7) will be updated to support the model, although it might not be available at the beginning of the 2018-2019 fraternal year.

# BUILDING THE DOMESTIC CHURCH KIOSK



## A Higher Purpose

Help strengthen the domestic church (our families) by providing exceptional religious education materials to all Catholics. *Building the Domestic Church Kiosks* (#BDC-K) contain engaging, faith-based literature and are available for councils to distribute to members, parishioners, and the general public.

## Overview

By organizing activities in their parishes, councils will educate and evangelize using the rich resources found in the Catholic Information Service (CIS) Building the Domestic Church series of booklets.

Since 1948, CIS has been the major evangelical arm of the Knights of Columbus. Through multiple booklet series and various media formats, CIS makes our Catholic faith accessible and continually provides tools for catechesis and faith formation. For \$150, councils will receive a *Building the Domestic Church Kiosk* (#BDC-K) and the first set of 225 booklets of the most popular CIS resources, aimed at helping Catholics to live out the Church's vision for our families.

## Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Consult with your pastor to determine the viability of and potential location for a *Building the Domestic Church Kiosk* (#BDC-K).
- Order the initial *Building the Domestic Church Kiosk* (#BDC-K) set and additional booklets, as needed (#BDC-R).
- Spearhead communication efforts to promote the booklets and their distribution.
- In collaboration with your parish faith formation minister, plan and assist in leading activities that utilize and distribute the CIS materials.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

## Action Steps

### Ordering:

1. Working with your pastor, obtain his permission and recommendations on placing a *Building the Domestic Church Kiosk* (#BDC-K) in a prominent location in your parish hall or the vestibule / narthex of the Church.
2. Order the *Building the Domestic Church Kiosk* (#BDC-K) through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online. The *Building the Domestic Church Kiosk* (#BDC-K) is available to councils in the U.S. and Canada for \$150.00 USD (including shipping) and comes with 225 booklets and the kiosk.
3. Assign a council member to be responsible for receiving and setting up the kiosk. Replenish the booklets when supplies are low by order *Building the Domestic Church Kiosk Refill* (#BDC-R) through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online. (You may want to speak to your pastor about collaborating with the parish for future booklets orders, since councils can purchase booklets in bulk at a reduced rate.)



Programming:

1. In collaboration with your parish faith formation leader, plan activities to promote the materials in the *Building the Domestic Church Kiosk* (#BDC-K). Have council members assist in the teaching events associated with the booklets and/or lead one or more of the faith-based groups/activities. Potential programs where the booklets can be used include:
  - Adults studying to enter the Catholic faith
  - Continuing education
  - Men's groups
  - Family ministries
  - Parish retreats
  - Evenings of reflection
  - Youth Ministry programs
  - Council membership formation
  - Active booklet distributions after Mass
2. Build public interest for the program! Promote the *Building the Domestic Church Kiosk* (#BDC-K) and activities associated with it in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
  - Prominently display promotional posters (which can be ordered through Supplies Online)
  - Bulletin announcements
  - Pulpit announcements
  - Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages
3. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.

# HOLY HOUR

## A Higher Purpose

Encourage deep personal encounter with God. Councils work with their pastors to organize a regular Holy Hour of eucharistic adoration. A Knights of Columbus Holy Hour, prepared for the men of the parish, could include a reflection, communal rosary, prayers for intercession by Venerable Michael J. McGivney or St. Joseph, and various other aspects as decided by the council.

## Overview

The chivalric character of the Knights of Columbus and the Church's long tradition of spiritual combat resonate with men today – especially as threats from the world and the devil are so keenly felt. Eucharistic adoration in the form of a regularly scheduled Holy Hour is a simple, direct, and meaningful way to address these needs. It is familiar to many, easy to organize, and something everyone can participate in together regardless of age, vocation, stage of life, or membership status. Councils can organize their Holy Hours in a variety of ways and incorporate aspects such as: perpetual adoration, the sacrament of reconciliation, prayer for particular intentions and more.

## Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Working with your pastor, obtain his permission and recommendations on conducting a regular Knights of Columbus Holy Hour.
- Plan the dates and structure for your regular Holy Hour.
- Promote the Holy Hour in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

## Action Steps

1. Working with your pastor, obtain his permission and recommendations on conducting a regular Knights of Columbus Holy Hour.
2. In conjunction with your pastor, select the dates for your upcoming Holy Hours well in advance. To satisfy program requirements, Holy Hours should be organized at least four times per fraternal year (quarterly). However, councils are strongly encouraged to hold Holy Hours on an even more regular basis.
3. Prior to the upcoming Holy Hour, use the sample press release as a model to create and distribute a tailored release to local media.
4. Build public interest! Promote each Holy Hour in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
  - Prominently display promotional posters (which can be ordered through Supplies Online)
  - Bulletin announcements
  - Pulpit announcements
  - Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages



5. Conduct your Holy Hour. The structure for a Holy Hour is broad and left to the discretion of your council. The primary objective is that all in attendance grow closer in faith with their brothers through a prayerful interaction with the Eucharist and with each other. Please note: this is not a Mass, it is a totally separate service.

Aspects of a Holy Hour could include:

- Rosary
- Litanies
- Reflections
- Particular intentions
- Scripture (particularly the daily readings)
- Liturgy of the Hours
- Hymns
- Prayers for intercession by our founder or saints (i.e., Father McGivney, St. Joseph, etc.)
- Sacrament of reconciliation
- Participation in perpetual adoration

Potential resources with further ideas for planning a Holy Hour include:

- #309 - *Prayer Time: A Collection of Catholic Prayers*
  - #364 - *Armed with the Faith*
  - *Knights of Columbus Holy Hour Potential Format* [This document serves as a reference and potential format but is by no means a mandatory structure that councils must follow when carrying out their Holy Hour.]
6. On the day of the Holy Hour, consider wearing Knights of Columbus apparel and have the council membership director bring brochures and membership documents (including *Prospect Cards #921A*). Do not forget that this event is a recruiting opportunity!
  7. Consider hosting a brief fraternal gathering following the conclusion of your Holy Hour.
  8. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.

# INTO THE BREACH

## A Higher Purpose

Deepen member spirituality and formation to combat the crisis of religious faith in our world. Councils will institute men's study groups to read the Apostolic Exhortation *Into the Breach* and use copies of the *Into the Breach Booklet and Study Guide* as a resource.

## Overview

In his Apostolic Exhortation *Into the Breach*, Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted outlines the challenges faced by men of faith in the world today. *Into the Breach* is a call to battle for Catholic men which urges them to wholeheartedly embrace masculine virtues in a world at crisis. By reading and discussing Bishop Olmsted's inspirational words and the accompanying study guide with like-minded men of faith, councils will prayerfully examine the enormous breach in the battle line that lies before them. In doing so, they will begin to devise a personal plan of spiritual battle.

## Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Contact your pastor to gain his guidance and recommendations on starting an *Into the Breach* discussion group at your parish.
- Promote the program in your council and parish to ensure that a viable group of men are dedicated to participating in regular meetings.
- Lead meeting discussions or secure a designated leader for each meeting.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

## Action Steps

1. Working with your pastor, obtain his permission and recommendations on starting a men's discussion group to read *Into the Breach*.
2. Order the *Into the Breach Booklet and Study Guide* through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online.
3. Build public interest for the group! Promote your *Into the Breach* discussion group in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
  - Prominently display promotional posters (which can be ordered through Supplies Online)
  - Bulletin announcements
  - Pulpit announcements
  - Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages



4. Hold weekly meetings. Discuss readings as a group using the meeting structure provided in the *Into the Breach Booklet and Study Guide*:
  - Begin each discussion with a simple prayer: Our Father, Hail Mary, or Glory Be
  - Discuss progress on spiritual goals outlined in the previous meeting's "Call to Battle" section
  - Discuss the text using questions provided under "Understanding the Breach"
    - In this portion of your discussion, consider using quotes from "Bricks for the Breach"
  - Meditate upon the suggested scriptural passages under "Sword of the Spirit"
    - Consider having a member read this aloud using the *Lectio Divina* format
  - Announce the practical spiritual goals for the week based upon the "Call to Battle" section
    - Remind members that you will discuss progress on these goals at the next meeting
  - Conclude with the suggested prayer and encourage members to recite this prayer each day before the next meeting
5. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.

*Please Note: Conducting an Into the Breach study group does not satisfy the programming requirements for the Building the Domestic Church Kiosk Program. The two activities are separate and cannot be double-counted.*



# MARIAN ICON PRAYER

## OUR LADY HELP OF PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

### A Higher Purpose

Spread devotion to Our Lady and pray for our brothers and sisters of faith who are at risk around the world through the Marian Icon Prayer Program. As the new Marian Icon is brought on pilgrimage through the jurisdiction, councils will host the Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians Icon for a prayer service at their parish.

### Overview

The 2018-2019 Marian Icon Prayer Program presents the 18th Marian Icon sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Like its predecessors, the program features a Marian image, this time of Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians. Each Knights of Columbus jurisdiction receives several Marian images, which serve as the centerpieces for prayer services conducted in churches and council meeting places throughout the Order for the duration of the initiative. This year, the prayer service is intended to raise awareness of the plight of Christians persecuted for their faith and to stand in prayerful solidarity with them.

### Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Work with your pastor and the jurisdiction Marian Icon Prayer Program chairman to obtain their recommendations and to plan for the event.
- Identify council and parish members to fulfill the various roles required in the service.
- Order supplies through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online.
- Promote the event!
- Ensure that the Icon is successfully received by your council and handed to the next council.
- In partnership with your council Christian Refugee Relief chairman, consider planning an event in conjunction with your prayer service.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

### Action Steps

#### Planning:

1. Working with your pastor, obtain his permission and recommendations on conducting a Marian Icon Prayer Service with the Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians Icon.
2. Working with your jurisdiction Marian Icon Prayer Program chairman, coordinate when your council is scheduled to receive the Icon.
3. Identify council and parish members to fulfill the various roles required in the service.
4. If not enough booklets remain from previous services, order additional copies of the *Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians Prayer Program Booklet* (#5050) and *Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians Prayer Card* (#10683) through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online.
5. Prior to the Marian Icon Prayer Service, use the Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians sample press release as a model to create and distribute a tailored release to local media.



6. Build public interest for the event! Promote the Marian Icon Prayer Service with the Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians Icon in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
  - Prominently display promotional posters (which can be ordered through Supplies Online)
  - Bulletin announcements
  - Pulpit announcements
  - Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages

Action:

1. Representatives of your council should attend the prayer service at the council from which you will receive the Icon and bring it to your council or parish.
2. Hold your Marian Icon Prayer Service with the following guidelines in mind:
  - If possible, the choir leader should review the hymns with the congregation before the service
  - Advise the readers and congregation to recite the prayers at a moderate pace to ensure the service is truly reverent
  - Throughout the evening, be ever mindful of Christians who are persecuted for their faith throughout the world, past and present
  - No money should be collected at the service itself
3. At the close of the prayer service, formally present the Icon to the next host council. Also collect all *Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians Prayer Program Booklets* (#5050), to be sent along with the Icon in the *Marian Icon Kit* (#10684) to the next council.
4. After the service, the grand knight or council Marian Icon chairman should record information about the council's *Marian Icon Prayer Service in the Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians Log Book* (#10685) that accompanies the Icon.
5. Strongly consider hosting a dinner or other social event in conjunction with the prayer service. This is a perfect opportunity for your council to participate in the Christian Refugee Relief Program and raise awareness and much-needed financial support for Christians at risk. Although the Marian Icon Prayer Program cannot be double-counted for the Christian Refugee Relief Program, a fundraiser after the service could help satisfy the Christian Refugee Relief Program. Visit [www.kofc.org/christianrelief](http://www.kofc.org/christianrelief) for more information and ideas.
6. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.



# ROSARY PROGRAM

## A Higher Purpose

Build faithful families and communities through rosary prayer. The Knights of Columbus Rosary Program encourages councils to promote devotion to the rosary in our families and parishes by scheduling regular rosary prayer services. Kits with rosary rings, rosary prayer guides, and leader books are available for councils to order.

## Overview

This program encourages devotion to Mary, the patroness of our Order, and emphasizes the importance of prayer in community and as a family. The Rosary Program encourages councils to schedule regular rosary prayer services on any day of the week, at any time of the year, with the guidance of their pastor. Councils should personally invite each family of the parish and offer attending families a copy of the Knights of Columbus Catholic Information Service's *A Scriptural Rosary for the Family* (#319). Encourage families to read this booklet and learn how their faith can be strengthened through a devotion to Our Lady, while praying the rosary at home together regularly.

## Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Consult with your pastor about hosting regular rosary prayer services.
- Order the *Rosary Program Kit* (#SR-Kit).
- Carry out promotional activities before each rosary prayer service.
- Promote the services to local media.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

## Action Steps

1. Working with your pastor, obtain his permission and recommendations on conducting a rosary prayer service.
2. Order the *Rosary Program Kit* (#SR-Kit) through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online.
3. Prior to the rosary prayer service, use the sample press release as a model to create and distribute a tailored release to local media.
4. Build public interest for the event! Promote the Rosary Program in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
  - Prominently display promotional posters (found in the *Rosary Program Kit* (#SR-Kit))
  - Post a signup sheet in the parish hall to gauge interest
  - Bulletin announcements
  - Pulpit announcements
  - Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages



5. On the day of the event, wear Knights of Columbus-branded apparel and have the council membership director set up a table with brochures and membership documents (including *Prospect Cards* #921). Do not forget that this event is a recruiting opportunity!
6. Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph each service.
7. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.

*Note: This program evolved from the Fifth Sunday Rosary Program and, as such, was originally envisioned to be held at least five times a year. While the Fifth Sunday aspect of the program is no longer necessary, councils should hold rosary prayer services at least four times a year (quarterly) to successfully meet program requirements and are encouraged to host prayer series monthly.*

# REFUND SUPPORT VOCATIONS PROGRAM (RSVP)

## A Higher Purpose

Keep the faith alive by supporting our seminarians and postulants. As the strong right arm of the church, Knights of Columbus are committed to providing moral, financial and spiritual support to our future priests and religious at all stages of their formation. A featured program, RSVP counts for two credits toward the Columbian Award.

## Overview

Knights of Columbus stand in solidarity with our priests and religious. Through this program, council and parish families will raise funds to support seminarians in their area. For every \$500 donated to an individual seminarian or religious aspirant, the Supreme Council will refund \$100 back to the council, up to a maximum of \$400 (four individuals) per council per fraternal year. Though financial support is vitally important, it is not the only aspect of the RSVP. Councils are also called to provide their “adopted” seminarian or religious aspirant with moral support and prayers for their success.

## Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Set an annual goal for your RSVP.
- Conduct various events in your parish and community in order to reach your goal!
- Promote each event in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts.
- Ensure that the proper procedures are followed in order to receive the refund for your council.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

## Action Steps

1. Set an annual goal for your RSVP.
2. Identify individuals that the council will sponsor. You can obtain these names by contacting a variety of sources including the jurisdiction RSVP chairman, diocesan vocation director, your council chaplain or parish pastor.
3. Conduct various events in your parish and community in order to reach your goal! Potential activities include:
  - On the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, ask the pastor to allow a second collection earmarked to support seminarians and your council’s RSVP efforts
  - Conduct a Seminarian Breakfast after Masses on a given Sunday. Invite the seminarians supported by your council to attend the event, meet the parish, participate in the celebration, and pray together.
  - Conduct a Seminarian Dinner following the breakfast blueprint outlined above
  - As a council, make a resolution to allocate a specific amount collected at various fundraisers for RSVP
4. Prior to each event, use the sample press release as a model to create and distribute a tailored release to local media.



5. Build public interest for your program! Promote each event in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
  - Prominently display promotional posters (which can be ordered through Supplies Online)
  - Bulletin announcements
  - Pulpit announcements
  - Post on your council and parish website / social media pages
6. On the day of each event, wear Knights of Columbus-branded apparel and have the council membership director set up a table with brochures and membership documents (including *Prospect Cards* #921A). Do not forget that this event is a recruiting opportunity!
7. Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph the event.
8. In addition to financial support, councils are called to aid their “adopted” seminarian or postulant with moral and emotional support, and prayers for their vocation and vocations throughout the church. This is a central aspect of RSVP and must be fulfilled in order to satisfy the program requirements. Providing such support is easy and can be accomplished through a variety of efforts:
  - At the end of each council meeting or event, take a moment to remember the seminarian you support and together recite the *Prayer for the Canonization of Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney* (#1015) for his vocation and for vocations throughout the church
  - Invite the seminarian you support to attend all council events, particularly fraternal activities.
  - Send cards to your seminarian on major holidays (i.e., Easter, Christmas), holy days and his birthday.
  - Ask the seminarian or postulate how your council can best assist him throughout the year
9. Once your goal is reached, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission to obtain credit for your program. Remember to retain copies for your council records.
10. Proudly display your RSVP participation plaque in your parish or council hall and continue to add to it by participating every year!

# SACRAMENTAL GIFTS

## A Higher Purpose

Support families during the most important events in the life of the domestic church: the sacraments. Councils will play an integral role in these momentous faith events and the lives of our families and parish community through prayer and the presentation of symbolic gifts.

## Overview

The sacraments stand as the most significant events in the life of the domestic church. The Knights of Columbus will be there to support and embrace our parish families at these essential moments of encounter with Christ. As children and adult members become more integrated into the life of the church and their parish, they should know that members of the Knights of Columbus will always be present in a tangible and meaningful way, regardless of who else is there for them.

## Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Working with your pastor, obtain his permission and recommendations on conducting the Sacramental Gifts Program.
- Learn how many people will be receiving the sacrament from your pastor or other parish representative.
- Order enough *Sacramental Gifts Kits*, with backups to spare, through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online.
- Before the sacramental Mass, inform the parents or recipients of the council's intent to present gifts at the Mass.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

## Action Steps

1. Working with your pastor, obtain his permission and recommendations on conducting the Sacramental Gifts Program. Under his direction, plan the best way for an offering of gifts to be made at the sacramental service.
2. Well in advance of the sacramental Mass, determine the approximate number of recipients from your pastor and order *Sacramental Gifts Kits* for the specific sacrament being received. Orders can be placed through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online. It is always best to order more gifts than expected and have them ready for next time. The Supreme Council-created Gifts are: Baptism Gifts, First Communion Gifts, RCIA Gifts, Marriage Gifts. (These are the recommended sacraments for councils to consider providing gifts.) Although the Supreme Council offers preselected gifts, they are by no means the only resource that should be used for the Sacramental Gifts Program. Councils are encouraged to create and distribute *their own gifts* for this program! The best gift possible is one that is relevant to your parish and has a lasting impact on the recipient. That said, please be as mindful as possible of any existing cultural traditions in your community and of potential unintended perceptions of the gifts your council chooses to present.



3. Prior to the service, determine exactly how many people will be receiving the sacrament from your pastor or other parish representative. Ensure that you have enough gifts ready. Inform the parents or recipients of the council's intent to present gifts at the Mass or ceremony to ensure that recipients are not caught unaware. This can be done by a council member or by representative from the parish.
4. On the day of the sacrament, prepare the gifts in the church prior to the service and have them easily accessible. Check with the presiding priest to ensure that they are ready for the presentation. Ideally, the gifts are presented at the conclusion of the service and prior to the family taking pictures. If allowed by your pastor, a script can be read at the presentation to mark the significance of this event and how the gift contributes.
5. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.



# SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

## A Higher Purpose

Create annual opportunities for prayer and reflection together as a fraternity. Under the guidance of their chaplain, councils can attend a retreat or day of reflection together or perhaps organize their own event for the men of their parish. Council participation in Spiritual Reflection is required to qualify for Columbian Award.

## Overview

Many Catholic young people can attest that religious retreats are radically rejuvenating spiritual events that often leave a lasting impact on participants' relationship to their faith. Yet, so often, retreats seem only to be open to students and youth. In conjunction with pastors, councils and jurisdictions can hold low-cost retreats of their own. These events might be open only to council members or men of the parish – or may be open to entire families. If councils are unable to organize these events themselves, they could go as a group and attend a retreat in their area to satisfy the requirement.

## Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Plan a day of reflection or weekend retreat. This can be an event run by council members or for council members and men of the parish.
- Build public interest for the event!
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

## Action Steps

1. If you are planning a day of reflection or weekend retreat of your own with your pastor, obtain his permission and recommendations on conducting the Spiritual Reflection Program.
2. Prior to the Spiritual Reflection, use the sample press release as a model to create and distribute a tailored release to local media.
3. Build public interest for the event! Promote the Spiritual Reflection in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
  - Prominently display promotional posters (which can be ordered through Supplies Online)
  - Bulletin announcements
  - Pulpit announcements
  - Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages
4. On the day of the event, wear Knights of Columbus-branded apparel and have the council membership director set up a table with brochures and membership documents (including *Prospect Cards* #921A). Do not forget that this event is a recruiting opportunity!
5. Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph the event.
6. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.



### **Guidelines for the Spiritual Reflection Program**

- The definition of a “reflection” is broad but should be a day-long event at minimum and could possibly encompass an entire weekend.
- Councils can attend religious retreats and days of reflection organized by other groups. However, if they are attending a reflection and not planning it themselves, council attendance should be significant with at least 10 percent of the council or a minimum of 10 members participating.
- Reflections and retreats can be held at the council level but councils could also collaborate with other councils in the area to host a Spiritual Reflection.
- If planning a retreat for the council, consider holding it on church property and have volunteers pack lunch or provide their own meals to defer costs.
- Be creative! Make a pilgrimage to a nearby basilica, monastery or convent. Celebrate Mass with the religious or your chaplain/pastor.
- It is strongly encouraged that councils incorporate Mass within their program, celebrating the liturgy with your chaplain/pastor. Also, incorporate opportunities for other sacramental and liturgical activities such as confession, Eucharistic adoration, a rosary or all of these.

# KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

## A Higher Purpose

Promote the true spirit of Christmas in our homes, schools, parishes and communities. Councils will evangelize society through their faithful acts, celebrations and a variety of activities.

## Overview

The Knights of Columbus offers multiple activities that promote Christmas and the season of Advent in their proper context: Journey to the Inn, Light Up for Christ, Crèche or Advent Wreath Blessing, and the Christmas Poster Contest. These programs are centered on the example of the Holy Family and the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The new Keep Christ in Christmas (KCIC) Program brings all KCIC activities together under one umbrella. It encourages councils to prompt their neighbors to shift from a preoccupation with materialism to the light of Christ and the spirit of giving. KCIC activities include whatever efforts best suit the parish and community of a particular council and do not need to originate from the Supreme Council.

## Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Conduct activities promoting the true spirit of Christmas and the importance of Christ's birth and message.
- Promote all activities in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

## Action Steps

1. Conduct activities promoting the true spirit of Christmas and the importance of Christ's birth and message.
2. If needed, order KCIC Program resources through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online.
3. Prior to each event you conduct, consider crafting and distributing a tailored release to local media.
4. Build public interest for your KCIC Program! Promote all activities in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
  - Prominently display promotional posters (which can be made specifically by your council or ordered through Supplies Online)
  - Bulletin announcements
  - Pulpit announcements
  - Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages
5. Wear Knights of Columbus-branded apparel to all your KCIC activities and have the council membership director bring brochures and membership documents (including *Prospect Cards* #921A). Do not forget that this event is a recruiting opportunity!



6. Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph the event.
7. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms at the end of the Christmas season and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.

# CONSECRATION TO THE HOLY FAMILY

## A Higher Purpose

Invite each family in your parish to consecrate themselves to the Holy Family. Revitalize our parishes by urging our parish families to devote themselves to the ideal model of familial love set by Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

## Overview

To help families live out the joy of Christ, Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori has composed a prayer through which families will come together to consecrate themselves under the protection of the Holy Family. In this prayer, we ask for the aid or intercession of the perfect son Jesus Christ, Mary the perfect mother, and Joseph who is a model for every father. Councils will guide their parishes and community to understand and offer this important and impactful, which also gains a plenary indulgence for all who participate. Preparing for the Consecration to the Holy Family is not a single event. It is choosing a way of life for your family. Through this consecration, each participant is consciously choosing to be a beacon of God's love through His Church.

## Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Work with your pastor on conducting a Consecration to the Holy Family.
- Ensure that all parish families are properly prepared for the consecration.
- Promote the consecration in your parish and community.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

## Action Steps

1. Working with your pastor, obtain his permission and recommendations on conducting a Consecration to the Holy Family in your parish.
2. Order a good quantity of Consecration to the *Holy Family Prayer Cards* (#10371) through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online.
3. Set a date for the consecration and announce it to your parish a month before the official day.
4. Distribute *Consecration to the Holy Family Prayer Cards* (#10371) at Masses the week before the consecration. Also place a good supply of prayer cards in your church and council hall.
5. Although the formal consecration will occur at all Masses on a chosen Sunday, serious and mindful preparation for at least a week prior is a major aspect of this program. To ensure that all members of your parish are fully participating and readying themselves for the consecration, your council should consider:
  - Asking your pastor to make an announcement at all Sunday Masses the week before the consecration. Ask him to explain what a consecration is, why it is being undertaken, and how to properly prepare.
  - Suggesting that each family pray together each day for the week before the consecration. Ideally, this will lead them to continue the practice, at least on a weekly basis, after the consecration has occurred.



- Encouraging each family to intentionally fast from something ahead of the consecration. This fast should last at least a week leading up to the consecration. It is strongly encouraged to fast from something that would normally be consumed or an activity that is regularly done. Fasting helps to discipline our minds and hearts and moves us to be more focused on God.
  - Strongly encouraging each member of all parish families to go to confession before the consecration. (Parishioners will not gain a plenary indulgence unless they ensure to received the sacrament of reconciliation as part of their preparation.)
  - Hosting an event in the middle of the week prior to the Sunday consecration. One idea for this event is to invite a guest speaker to discuss the importance of consecrating oneself to the Holy Family, the model of the Holy Family, the meaning and impact of consecrations, or related themes. Be sure to set aside time at your event for prayer in community. Consider praying the rosary together and be sure to recite the consecration prayer together in preparation.
6. Build public interest! Promote the Consecration to the Holy Family in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
    - Prominently display promotional posters (which can be ordered through Supplies Online)
    - Bulletin announcements
    - Pulpit announcements
    - Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages
  7. On the chosen day, distribute Consecration to the *Holy Family Prayer Cards* (#10371) once again. Under the direction of your pastor, recite the *Consecration to the Holy Family Prayer* together as a parish family at all Sunday Masses. If he is willing, ask your pastor to also incorporate themes relating to the consecration and the Holy Family in his homily.
  8. Following the consecration, host an event in the parish or council hall for all parish families to celebrate the consecration together! Have family-friendly games ready for everyone to enjoy. Remind all present that this consecration holds lasting impacts. Although the time of preparation has ended and the consecration has occurred, devotion to the Holy Family continues, and we should always strive to resemble their ideal model of a loving family.
  9. At the celebration event, be sure to wear Knights of Columbus-branded apparel and have the council membership director set up a table with brochures and membership documents (including *Prospect Cards* #921A). Do not forget that this event is a recruiting opportunity!
  10. Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph the event.
  11. Following the consecration and celebration, update the community on the success of your program by distributing an announcement to local media, along with energizing photographs from the event.
  12. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.

*Please Note: Although this consecration is traditionally celebrated around the Feast of the Holy Family, councils are encouraged to hold this program at any time during the year.*



# FAMILY FULLY ALIVE

## A Higher Purpose

Help families place God and the Catholic faith at the center of their lives, year-round. Using the Family Fully Alive Booklet as a devotional guide, this program provides monthly themes, reflections, meditations, and group projects.

## Overview

During his visit to the Philippines, Pope Francis cited the need for “holy and loving families to protect the beauty and truth of the family in God’s plan and to be an example for other families” (Pope Francis, Address to Families at the Mall of Asia Arena, 2015). The Family Fully Alive monthly devotions are concrete ways that Knights of Columbus, in solidarity with Pope Francis, can support the growth of holy and loving families in the Church.

The Family Fully Alive Program asks families to invite God into their homes and cultivates each family as a miniature domestic church. To this end, the program provides monthly themes, scripture verses and activities. Through prayer and reflection, each family has the opportunity to grow in holiness together. This is a flexible program that can be started at any time of the year and continues year-round. Councils will order physical booklets to distribute or direct parish families to program resources on [kofc.org](http://kofc.org), all available at no cost.

## Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Working with your pastor, obtain his permission and recommendations on promoting Family Fully Alive in your parish and community.
- Plan and carry out an awareness campaign for the Family Fully Alive Program in your parish and community.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

## Action Steps

1. Working with your pastor, obtain his permission and recommendations on promoting Family Fully Alive in your parish and community.
2. Order a good quantity of *Family Fully Alive Booklets* (#10162) through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online.
3. With your pastor’s approval, place a portion of *Family Fully Alive Booklets* (#10162) in a prominent location in your parish hall or the vestibule / narthex of the Church.
4. Design an awareness campaign to promote the use of *Family Fully Alive Booklets* (#10162). Potential activities include:
  - Distribute *Family Fully Alive Booklets* (#10162) directly after Mass or catechism classes
  - Distribute *Family Fully Alive Booklets* (#10162) in conjunction with your council’s Family Week Program
  - Host a quarterly Family Fully Alive Night, inviting all parish families participating in the program to come together in fellowship and community – be sure to plan fun family games for everyone to participate in and include a prayer and meditation portion of each evening



- If possible, encourage your pastor to touch upon aspects of the Family Fully Alive theme and meditations into one of his homilies each month
  - Submit a post in your parish bulletin showcasing the Family Fully Alive project or theme for each month
5. Build public interest for the activities in your promotional campaign and the program overall! Promote Family Fully Alive in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
    - Prominently display promotional posters
    - Bulletin announcements
    - Pulpit announcements
    - Posting on your council and parish website/ social media pages
  6. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.

# FAMILY OF THE MONTH/YEAR

## A Higher Purpose

Promote and support the development of strong and vibrant families. Each council establishes a committee to recognize a deserving Family of the Month and Family of the Year with potential for recognition on the international level.

## Overview

Each month, the council Family of the Month committee selects one parish family that models Christian family values and visibly lives them every day. Once a year, each participating council also selects one of the previous twelve Family of the Month winners to represent the council/parish as the potential international Family of the Year. The Knights of Columbus Family of the Year is chosen by the Supreme Council and recognized each year at the annual Supreme Convention.

## Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Working with your pastor, assemble a committee of council and parish leaders to serve as that year's Family of the Month Committee.
- Each month, ensure that the winning family is selected and formally recognized in the parish and local media.
- At the end of the fraternal year, prior to your state convention, select one of the previous twelve monthly winning families to represent your council and parish as Family of the Year.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

## Action Steps

1. Working with your pastor, put together a committee of council and parish leaders to serve as that year's Family of the Month Committee.
2. Order the *Family of the Month Kit* through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online.
3. Each month, hold a committee meeting to select the Family of the Month. To be selected as Family of the Month, each family should stand out as an exemplary model to others in the parish. They should meet the following criteria:
  - Is the family tight-knit? Does the family spend quality time together?
  - Does the family attend weekly Mass together? Does the family pray together outside of Mass?
  - Has the family made significant contributions to the parish and church community?
  - Does the family serve as a model of Catholic family values?
4. Once the Family of the Month has been selected, formally present the *Family of the Month Certificate* (#1843) to them. Make sure that they are duly recognized! This could be after a Mass, at a Knights of Columbus event, or at another parish event. Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph the event.



5. Use the Family of the Month sample press release as a model to create and distribute a tailored release to local media.
6. Recognize the Family of the Month in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
  - Bulletin announcements
  - Pulpit announcements
  - Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages
7. At the end of the fraternal year, prior to your state convention, select one of the previous twelve monthly winning families to represent your council and parish as Family of the Year. Make sure to contact your state family chairman to stay informed of deadlines and where to send entries.
8. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.



# FAMILY PRAYER NIGHT

## A Higher Purpose

Strengthen the bonds within our parishes and build faith-filled families. This is an opportunity for council members, their families, and the whole parish community to come together once a month for an evening of prayer, dinner, and fellowship.

## Overview

Catholics often struggle with the reality that they do not have the opportunity to socialize and/or pray with other faith-filled Catholic families. It can be quite a challenge to raise our children in the faith when their only exposure comes from Mom and Dad. Put plainly, the majority of our time can easily be spent in secular circles unless we intentionally create ways to live out the domestic church.

Family Prayer Night is an opportunity for children to be exposed to regular people living their faith in a casual setting. Families of council members, as well as other Catholic families within the parish and community, will gather for prayer, dinner and fellowship. Multiple groups can be formed and families are encouraged to rotate between these groups.

## Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Promote attendance at Family Prayer Nights in the parish, council, and community.
- Coordinate which families are willing to host and/or participate in the event.
- Work with participating families to set dates for Family Prayer Nights, well in advance.
- Ensure a welcoming, joyous, and reverent atmosphere at all Family Prayer Nights.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

## Action Steps

1. Before preparations begin for your Family Prayer Night Program, assess interest among your council, parish, and larger community to see which families would participate. Ask your pastor for his input and suggestions on potential host families.
2. Build public interest before each Family Prayer Night! Promote the event in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
  - Prominently display promotional posters (which can be ordered through Supplies Online)
  - Bulletin announcements
  - Pulpit announcements
  - Posting on your council and parish website/social media pages
3. The Family Prayer Night chairman should strongly consider hosting the first Prayer Night to model the proper format and launch the program.
4. Coordinate a schedule for upcoming Prayer Nights. The same day every month does not necessarily need to be used. That said, families who regularly attend may prefer a certain day of the week. Make sure that Family Prayer Nights are scheduled *three to four months in advance* so that they can be properly advertised and families can plan ahead.



5. Before each event, remind attending families that the meal at Family Prayer Night is potluck-style. Suggest that families bring a side or main dish to share, as their means allow. The Family Prayer Night chairman should work with that month's host family to coordinate the potluck, to the best of his ability.
6. A typical Family Prayer Night should ideally last between two and three hours, with guests leaving as needed. The schedule should include, but not be limited to:
  - Introductory period to meet the other families
  - Prayer in community
  - A fun activity such as a game
  - Meal and social time
  - Concluding prayer
7. On the day of the event, consider wearing Knights of Columbus-branded apparel and bring Knights of Columbus brochures and membership documents (including *Prospect Cards #921A*). Do not forget that this event is a recruiting opportunity!
8. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.

### Guidelines

- **Purpose:** The purpose of Family Prayer Night is to embody the domestic church by having a fun gathering of regular people, living their faith in a casual setting. The goal is not to discuss high-level theology, but to simply enjoy family and faith.
- **Prayers:** The prayers said should be Catholic and chosen by Family Prayer Night participants. Allow prayers to be generated organically and relate to the events in the lives of those present, as opposed to following a rigid prescription for the night. If you need help getting started, consider using the resources available in the Knights of Columbus Catholic Information Service *Building the Domestic Church Series*, particularly:
  - #309 - *Prayer Time*
  - #319 - *A Scriptural Rosary for the Family*
  - #304 - *Lord, Teach Us to Pray*
- **Intentions:** There are many life-changing events taking place every day in the lives of our council members and parish families. This group is the perfect place to discuss and to pray for guidance on milestone events such as an upcoming wedding, anniversary or birth. It is also an opportunity to offer support in cases of illness, death or other concern.
- **Family Inclusion:** Since this is a Family Prayer Night, one of the few rules is that every family member should be able to participate, in some form. For example, praying the rosary may be a bit mature for a toddler, but he/she can drop a marble in a cup to count the prayers or place a flower in a vase for every decade. There are simple but meaningful ways to incorporate all into the prayer and joy of the night!
- **Pastor Involvement:** Invite your parish priest, but do not pressure him to preside over the evening. Allow him the opportunity to enjoy the evening as a guest, in the relaxed family atmosphere.
- **Frequency:** Family Prayer Nights are intended to be conducted regularly. In order to fulfill the requirements of the program, Family Prayer Nights should occur at least quarterly, four times during the fraternal year. Hosting more prayer nights is better and monthly Family Prayer Nights are ideal!
- **Speakers:** Consider inviting someone from the parish or council to explain their vocation/job and what brought them to that position – or a more formal Catholic presenter.



# FAMILY WEEK

## A Higher Purpose

Dedicate a week to celebrate our families. Councils plan a special week for their parish celebrating family life. Activities presented in this program will strengthen the parish community and affirm the central importance of Catholic family life.

## Overview

Knights of Columbus councils will dedicate a special week of the year to recognize the vital importance of families as the foundation of our domestic church and to promote Catholic family values. When choosing a week, councils should consider factors that might affect parishioner schedules such as school vacations, holidays and other local events. Though traditionally celebrated in the summer to commemorate the birth and death of our founder, Venerable Michael J. McGivney, this program can take place anytime during the year.

## Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Plan a schedule of fun events that affirm faith and strengthen family ties.
- Order the *Family Week Program Kit* through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online.
- Build public interest for the week's events!
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

## Action Steps

1. Working with your pastor, obtain his recommendations on organizing a Family Week.
2. Designate a specific week for your family celebrations. Choose a time that allows as many people as possible to participate. Be mindful of schedules of both area youth and adults and other events such as school vacations, holidays and local activities.
3. Plan a schedule of fun events that affirm faith and strengthen family ties. Ideally, the week of activities should begin with Mass on Sunday and conclude the following Sunday.
4. Order the *Family Week Program Kit* through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online.
5. Prior to the start of your Family Week, use the sample press release as a model to create and distribute a tailored release to local media.
6. Build public interest for the week's events! Promote the Family Week activities in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
  - Prominently display promotional posters (found in the *Family Week Program Kit*)
  - Bulletin announcements
  - Pulpit announcements
  - Posting on your council and parish website/ social media pages



7. Celebrate your Family Week! Remember that family prayer should play an important role in all of the activities that your council conducts during the week.
8. At each event, wear Knights of Columbus-branded apparel and have the council membership director set up a table with brochures and membership documents (including *Prospect Cards #921A*). Do not forget that this event is a recruiting opportunity!
9. Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph each event.
10. Following your Family Week, update the community on the success of all of your activities by amending the Family Week sample announcement and distributing it to the local media, along with energizing photographs from the events.
11. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.



# FOOD FOR FAMILIES

## A Higher Purpose

Help end hunger in communities across North America. Many in our communities are struggling through hardship and unable to provide food to their families. The goal of Food for Families is to ensure that as few as possible go to bed hungry each night. A featured program, Food for Families counts for two credits toward the Columbian Award.

## Overview

Knights of Columbus are committed to helping end hunger through the Food for Families Program which has donated millions of dollars and millions of pounds of food toward this end. Council and parish families will raise funds to support their local food pantries, food banks and soup kitchens. For every \$500 or 1,000 pounds of food donated, the Supreme Council will refund \$100 back to the council – up to a maximum of \$500 per council per fraternal year. Though in-kind donation of food is valuable, leaders of hunger-relief organizations often comment that financial contributions can be stretched even further and allow nonprofits to procure the exact items needed by the organization and its clients.

## Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Set an annual goal for your Food for Families Program.
- Conduct various events in your parish and community in order to reach your goal!
- Promote each event in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts.
- Ensure that the proper procedures are followed in order to receive the refund for your council.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

## Action Steps

1. Set an annual goal for your Food for Families Program.
2. Contact a local food bank, food pantry or soup kitchen to inform them of your intentions and to initiate a partnership.
3. Conduct various events in your parish and community in order to reach your goal!
4. Prior to each event, use the sample press release as a model to create and distribute a tailored release to local media.
5. Build public interest for your program! Promote each event in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
  - Prominently display promotional posters (which can be ordered through Supplies Online)
  - Bulletin announcements
  - Pulpit announcements
  - Posting on your council and parish website/social media pages



6. On the day of each event, wear Knights of Columbus-branded apparel and have the council membership director set up a table with brochures and membership documents (including *Prospect Cards #921A*). Do not forget that this event is a recruiting opportunity!
7. Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph the event.
8. Once your goal is reached, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission to obtain credit for your program. Remember to retain copies for your council records.
9. Proudly display your Food for Families participation plaque in your parish or council hall and continue to add to it by participating every year!

*Please note: Participating in Food for Families Program does not satisfy the programming requirements for the Helping Hands Program. The two activities are separate and cannot be double-counted.*

# GOOD FRIDAY FAMILY PROMOTION

CNS photo/Paul Haring

## A Higher Purpose

Bring families into more robust practice and better understanding of our Catholic faith and the triduum. In an effort to increase parish attendance and involvement, councils will conduct a promotional campaign to educate their parishes on the vital importance of Good Friday.

## Overview

Despite Good Friday's central role in the heart of Christianity, attendance at services remains low. In an effort to change this, councils will encourage participation in Good Friday services through a promotional campaign. Setting an example for their community, Knights will attend Good Friday services with their families and work with their pastors to encourage increased parishioner involvement at these liturgies. In conjunction with these efforts, councils will also work to educate their parishes about the plight of Christians in the Holy Land.

## Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Working with your pastor, obtain his recommendations on conducting the Good Friday Family Promotion Program.
- Plan and implement a thoughtful promotional campaign to encourage greater attendance at church services at your parish on Good Friday.
- Organize council members and their families to celebrate the Good Friday services together.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

## Action Steps

1. Working with your pastor, obtain his recommendations on conducting the Good Friday Family Promotion Program.
2. Plan a thoughtful promotional campaign to encourage parishioners and the greater community to attend church services at your parish on Good Friday. Incorporate a call to action to support Christians struggling in the Middle East today.

### Promote Good Friday in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:

- Beginning on Ash Wednesday, promote Good Friday services at Friday Fish Fries and other parish and council meetings and events throughout the Lenten season. Be sure to give plenty of reminders in the weeks leading up to Good Friday.
- Ask council members to take direct action and encourage their family and friends to attend.
- Provide council members and the parish community a copy of *Christ: Lord and Savior* (#358) to help them contemplate who Jesus is and the sacrifices he made.
- Have the *Christian Refugee Relief Prayer Cards* (#10340) available in the parish and council hall to raise visibility of the issues affecting the Middle East.



- Request the contact information for elderly, sick or non-driving parishioners from your pastor and assist them in attending Good Friday services.
  - Prior to Good Friday, use the sample press release as a model to create and distribute a tailored release to local media.
  - Prominently display the promotional poster *By Your Holy Cross* (#10573) in your parish and council hall. This resource can be ordered through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online.
  - Develop bulletin announcements explaining the central nature of Good Friday.
  - Make pulpit announcements on the central nature of Good Friday.
  - Post on your council and parish website / social media pages.
3. Set the example in your parish! Organize council members and their families to celebrate the Good Friday services together.
  4. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.

*Please note: Conducting Good Friday Family Promotion Program does not satisfy the programming requirements for the Christian Refugee Relief Program. The two activities are separate and cannot be double-counted.*

# COATS FOR KIDS

## A Higher Purpose

Councils across North America can purchase new winter coats for children in need at a discount and distribute them in their local communities. A featured program, Coats for Kids counts for two credits toward the Columbian Award.

## Overview

Provide warmth for deserving children during cold winter months. Families struggling to make ends meet use their scarce resources to meet the most basic needs and cannot always afford the vital essential of a new winter coat. The goal of the Coats for Kids program is to ensure that no child in North America goes without a coat during the winter season. Through the dedication of councils across the United States and Canada, hundreds of thousands of new winter coats have been distributed to children since program inception.

## Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Contact the state council to inquire about assisting in a Coats for Kids event or coordinating one in your community.
- Organize a Coats for Kids distribution. Set a date, location and time.
- Buy cases of coats for distribution.
- Promote the Coats for Kids drive in the community and to local media.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

## Action Steps

1. Contact the state council to inquire about assisting in a Coats for Kids event or coordinating one in your community.
2. Using Knights Gear (or another outside vendor) order coats for the event. Coats can be bought on [www.knightsgear.com](http://www.knightsgear.com) in the United States and [www.knightsgear.ca](http://www.knightsgear.ca) in Canada.
3. Prior to the Coats for Kids event, use the sample press release as a model to create and distribute a tailored release to local media.
4. Build public interest! Promote the Coats for Kids event in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
  - Prominently display promotional posters
  - Bulletin announcements
  - Pulpit announcements
  - Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages
5. Invite the media to attend. (For publicity reasons, councils might also consider inviting local athletes, TV personnel, and the parish priest to the distribution, as well.)



6. On the day of the event, wear Knights of Columbus-branded apparel and have the council membership director set up a table with brochures and membership documents (including *Prospect Cards* #921A). Do not forget that this event is a recruiting opportunity!
7. Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph the event.
8. Following the Coats for Kids event, update the community on the success of your program by amending the sample press release and distributing it to local media, along with energizing photographs from the event.
9. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.

### Distribution Requirements

To satisfy program requirements and receive credit for their program, councils must distribute a specific number of coats. The requirements for each coat type are different and outlined in the table below. Shipping cost are **not** included in these numbers. Councils must distribute **one** of the following:

Type of Coat	Coats in One Case	Cases Required to Satisfy Program	Total Coats (Coats Per Case * Cases Req.)
Youth Coat	12	6	72
Canadian Youth Coat	12	4	48
Teen Coat	12	4	48
Light Coat	24	4	96



# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

## A Higher Purpose

Prepare your community before disaster strikes. Councils will engage their parish and community in disaster preparedness exercises by organizing trainings, fundraisers and various awareness activities.

## Overview

Communities can be brought to a halt when disaster occurs – from large natural disasters to local crises. As community leaders, Knights of Columbus will ensure that their members, families and parish communities are prepared through a campaign that promotes planning and education.

This program motivates councils to take a holistic approach to emergency situations by promoting readiness in times of crisis, assessing response capabilities, and learning how to properly respond well ahead of a disaster. Councils will also fundraise and teach (where able) in anticipation of larger efforts to assist brothers in need.

## Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Work with the pastor and local community leaders to understand parish and community needs in case of an emergency and determine what the council is prepared to do.
- Working with the state disaster coordinator, contact your jurisdiction to notify them of the preparation and awareness your council is taking in the event of a disaster.
- Coordinate fundraisers or collections of goods that may be donated to affected areas.
- Ensure council is ready to assist neighboring communities if needed.
- Submit disaster relief questionnaire to jurisdictional leadership.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

## Action Steps

1. Contact your jurisdiction disaster coordinator to inquire about the procedures in place in your jurisdiction in a disaster situation.
2. Preparation – start each fraternal year with disaster preparation activities.
  - Meet with your parish priest on an annual basis to identify specific needs of the parish and discuss how the Knights can help
  - Communicate with the jurisdiction leadership. Discuss things the council can do to be prepared in the case of a disaster from hosting a fundraiser to raising awareness for relief efforts, making facilities available, and preparedness education.
  - Institute and maintain a disaster communication phone tree to ensure council leadership can reach all council members by phone. Update information regularly.
  - Maintain contact lists of the parish's vulnerable community members (the elderly, disabled and widow(er)s) to ensure that they are safe prior to a disaster or after a disaster has struck



3. Working with local law enforcement, fire departments and/or the Red Cross, conduct an event to educate the community on disaster preparedness and what to do before, during and after a disaster situation.
4. Prior to the event, use the sample press release as a model to create and distribute a tailored release to local media.
5. Build public interest for the event! Promote the event in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
  - Prominently display promotional posters (which can be ordered through Supplies Online)
  - Bulletin announcements
  - Pulpit announcements
  - Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages
6. On the day of the event, wear Knights of Columbus-branded apparel and have the council membership director set up a table with brochures and membership documents (including *Prospect Cards* #921A). Do not forget that this event is a recruiting opportunity!
7. Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph the event.
8. Following the event, update the community on the success of your program by amending the sample announcement and distributing it to local media, along with energizing photographs from the event.
9. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.

### Council Disaster Preparation

Organizing and maintaining a council-level action plan is extremely important to the success of any disaster response efforts within the local community and at the jurisdiction level. There are many steps that a council should take to be prepared in the case of a disaster, including:

1. Prepare a communication plan:
    - Meet with your parish priest on an annual basis to identify specific needs of the parish and determine how the Knights can assist
    - Create a phone tree with contact information for all council members. Practice using this phone tree at least twice a year.
    - Know the disaster chain of command within your jurisdiction and the council's role and responsibilities, including individual roles and responsibilities
    - Maintain contact lists of the parish's vulnerable community members (the elderly, disabled, and widow(er)s) to ensure that they are safe prior to a disaster or after a disaster has struck
  2. Provide disaster safety and awareness training to council members and parish community. These trainings should include information on:
    - Fire safety
    - Disease control
    - Natural disaster awareness
  3. Allocate at least \$500 dollars in the council's general funding account in case of a disaster
-

## Responding to a Disaster

When a disaster occurs, the following steps should be taken to ensure that all council members and their families are safe before and after the event. These steps include:

1. Immediately put your phone tree into action to ensure the safety of council members and their families
2. Notify your jurisdiction leadership and disaster coordinator of the status of your members and their families, highlighting any needs that they may have
3. Maintain contact lists of the parish's vulnerable community members (the elderly, disabled, and widow(er)s) to ensure that they have access to food and water
4. After the danger has passed, hold fundraisers and collection drives to benefit those affected by the disaster
5. To the extent possible, communicate with the jurisdiction disaster coordinator and jurisdiction leadership regarding available and safe facilities for a council to use as a point of distribution (i.e., schools, parish or council halls)
6. Volunteer – encourage members to volunteer for opportunities suitable to their abilities and the council's ability to respond
  - After major disasters, those affected often need help cleaning up debris, repairing fences, spreading traps on roof, rebuilding damaged wheelchair ramps, or a myriad of other activities

***Important Note:** During and in the immediate aftermath of a disaster, never act in the context of a council beyond ensuring members of the council and parish community are safe unless assistance has been requested by emergency professionals, your parish, community disaster coordinator or through your state council leadership.*

# CATHOLIC CITIZENSHIP ESSAY CONTEST

## A Higher Purpose

Encourage youth to become citizens grounded in their faith through creative writing. Open to all Catholic students (public, private, home, or parochial schools) in grades 8 to 12 during the current school year.

## Overview

This contest encourages today's youth to be more connected to their community and their faith. The goal of this program is to involve young Catholics in 8th through 12th grade (public, private, parochial or home schools) in civic discourse and instill in them religious and life-affirming values. The essay should be approximately 500-750 words on a specific subject, changing every other year. Entrants will be judged on grammar, style, and how clearly they present the theme – which should showcase creativity, imagination and overall development of the topic.

## Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Set a date to collect all essays.
- Ensure that relevant Catholic organizations are aware, promoting, and participating in the contest (Catholic Youth Organizations, religious education groups, Catholic Schools, etc.).
- Assemble a team of three or more judges.
- Submit *Citizenship Essay Participant Forms* (#4216) to the next level of competition.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

## Action Steps

1. Order the *Catholic Citizenship Essay Kit* (#EA-KIT) through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online.
2. Use the sample press release as a model to create and distribute a tailored release to local media.
3. Build public interest for the event! Promote the Catholic Citizenship Essay in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
  - Advertise at Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) meetings, in parish halls, and especially in local Catholic schools. Prominently display promotional posters (found in the *Catholic Citizenship Essay Kit* (#EA-KIT)).
  - Reach out and encourage Catholic School English teachers to use this as a class assignment.
  - Bulletin announcements
  - Pulpit announcements
  - Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages
4. Ensure that all essays are collected by the pre-determined date.
5. Assemble a team of three or more judges (consisting of clergy, teachers, and other respected members of the Catholic community) to select winning submissions.



6. Make a formal presentation of winners and invite the media to attend! On the day of the presentation, be sure to wear Knights of Columbus-branded apparel and enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph the event.
7. Send winning essays to the next highest level for judging. Contact your district deputy to learn where the winning essays should be mailed. If there are no higher levels in your area or jurisdiction, send the essays to the Supreme Office Department of Fraternal Mission for the final round of judging.
8. Following the Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest, update the community on the success of your program by amending the Catholic Citizenship Essay sample announcement and distributing it to local media, along with energizing photographs from the event.
9. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.

# FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP

## A Higher Purpose

Offer an athletic outlet for youth ages 9 to 14 through fun free throw competition. Councils can sponsor a competition by ordering a Free Throw Championship Kit, or volunteer to host and/or support the district, regional and state/province championships.

## Overview

Since 1972, councils have sponsored the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship for boys and girls from the ages of 9 to 14 to provide an athletic outlet and encourage the values of sportsmanship and healthy competition. Kids compete within their own gender and age and progress from local level to district, regional and state/province competitions. This program is a great way to introduce the Order to your community and recruit faithful family men of service.

## Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Set a date, location and time for the Free Throw Championship.
- Ensure that the event is properly staffed and safely run, according to rules and regulations.
- Train volunteers in the Safe Environment protocols ([www.kofc.org/safe](http://www.kofc.org/safe)). A minimum of two volunteers must be Safe Trained.
- Promote the event to local media.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

## Action Steps

1. Order the *Free Throw Kit* (#FT-KIT) through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online.
2. Set a date, location and time for the Free Throw Championship. If required by venue, acquire insurance.
3. Contact schools and youth centers to explain and promote the program. Suggest that the schools or youth centers consider using this activity as part of their physical education classes.
4. Prior to the Free Throw Championship, use the sample press release as a model to create and distribute a tailored release to local media.
5. Build public interest for the event! Promote the Free Throw Championship in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
  - Prominently display promotional posters (found in the *Free Throw Kit* (#FT-KIT))
  - Bulletin announcements
  - Pulpit announcements
  - Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages



6. Coordinate with the district and state/province leadership regarding date, time, and location of the next level of competition. On the day of the event, provide this information to the council-level winners.
7. Preregistration is recommended, but sometimes difficult to execute.
8. Hold the Free Throw Championship! Review the *Free Throw Playbook* (#1928) for guidelines, volunteer requirements, and other information.
9. On the day of the event, wear Knights of Columbus-branded apparel and have the council membership director set up a table with brochures and membership documents (including *Prospect Cards* #921A). Do not forget that this event is a recruiting opportunity!
10. Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph the event.
11. Following the Free Throw Championship, update the community on the success of your program by amending the Free Throw Championship sample announcement and distributing it to local media, along with energizing photographs from the event.
12. Send winning *Free Throw Score Sheets* (#1598) to the next level of competition.
13. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.



# HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

## A Higher Purpose

Build homes for families in need. Councils are asked to donate a minimum of \$1,000 or 200 service hours to Habitat for Humanity projects in their community. A featured program, Habitat for Humanity counts for two credits toward the Columbian Award.

## Overview

Knights of Columbus councils work closely with Habitat for Humanity, a nonprofit Christian organization, to build homes for families in need at substantially reduced costs. Each year, councils throughout the Order donate a considerable number of volunteer hours and dollars to this worthy cause. In order to satisfy program requirements, councils are asked to donate a minimum of \$1,000 or 200 service hours to Habitat for Humanity projects in their community.

## Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Develop a calendar of Habitat for Humanity project dates and provide information to council members and parishioners well in advance of each upcoming project.
- Promote your council's Habitat for Humanity initiatives in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

## Action Steps

1. Contact the local Habitat for Humanity affiliate in your area for information on upcoming projects. (Contact information can be found at [www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org) or by e-mailing [volunteer@habitat.org](mailto:volunteer@habitat.org).)
2. Develop a calendar of Habitat for Humanity project dates.
3. Provide information to council members and parishioners well in advance of an upcoming project so that they can participate and prepare.
4. Build public interest for each event! Promote your council's Habitat for Humanity in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
  - Prominently display promotional posters (which can be ordered through Supplies Online)
  - Bulletin announcements
  - Pulpit announcements
  - Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages
5. On the day of the event, wear Knights of Columbus-branded apparel and have the council membership director bring brochures and membership documents (including *Prospect Cards* #921). Do not forget that this event is a recruiting opportunity!



6. Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph the event.
7. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Please note: councils must donate a minimum of \$1,000 or 200 service hours to Habitat for Humanity projects in their community to satisfy program requirements. Retain copies of all reports for your council records.

# HELPING HANDS

## A Higher Purpose

Put your faith into action and help those less fortunate in your community. In the spirit of our founder, Venerable Michael J. McGivney, councils will lead efforts to assist those most in need. Guidelines for this program are broad and can include forming partnerships with local aid organizations or independently planning unique activities. Council participation in Helping Hands is required to qualify for the Columbian Award.

## Overview

The Helping Hands Program is designed to recognize the important work many councils already do to care for the most disadvantaged members of our communities – the homeless, the addicted, the elderly who may feel isolated and abandoned, and many others. Through this program, councils will aid the needy through the activities they feel best suit their community, such as serving at or running a soup kitchen, repairing the facilities of a local service organization or something entirely unique. The requirements for this program are very broad in order to allow councils to serve their community in whatever way is most needed.

## Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Contact leaders from local nonprofit organizations to discuss how the council and parish can best assist them in their work.
- Conduct your Helping Hands Program.
- Build public interest for the program.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

## Action Steps

1. Contact leaders from local nonprofit organizations to discuss how the council and parish can best assist them in their work.
2. As a council, generate program ideas that would benefit those less fortunate in the community. Efforts could include:
  - As a parish, cook and/or serve food at no charge at a local soup kitchen or parish hall. (This could be a good family activity.)
  - As a council, assist in cleaning and repairing the facilities of a local nonprofit organization (i.e., fixing broken tables, painting walls).
  - Hold classes to teach trade skills (electrical, plumbing, carpentry, etc.).
  - Organize collection drives for specific supplies such as blankets, backpacks, toiletries, and clothing.
  - Raise money for a local soup kitchen, homeless shelter or other nonprofit organization through various events. Money could go toward the purchase of specific supplies and appliances, such as a new large freezer or dishwasher, or it could be donated in bulk.



3. Build public interest for the program! Promote your Helping Hands activities in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
  - Prominently display promotional posters (which can be ordered through Supplies Online)
  - Bulletin announcements
  - Pulpit announcements
  - Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages
4. Conduct your Helping Hands Program.
5. On the day of the event, wear Knights of Columbus-branded apparel and have the council membership director set up a table with brochures and membership documents (including *Prospect Cards #921A*). Do not forget that this event is a recruiting opportunity!
6. Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph the event.
7. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.

*Please note:*

- *Participating in the Helping Hands Program does not satisfy the programming requirements for the Food for Families Program. The two activities are separate and cannot be double-counted.*
- *This program is intended to be broad reaching within your community and not specific to certain individuals. It should address the needs of whole groups.*

# SOCCER CHALLENGE

## A Higher Purpose

Provide an athletic outlet for youth ages 9 to 14 through penalty kick competition. Designed for players to demonstrate their skills in the penalty kick. Councils can sponsor a competition by ordering a Soccer Challenge Kit, or volunteer to host and/or support the district, regional and state/province championships.

## Overview

The Soccer Challenge is a great way for councils to engage in their communities with an athletic event for youth that encourages the values of sportsmanship and healthy competition. Children demonstrate the most important skill in soccer – shooting accuracy on the penalty kick – and compete to reach the international level of competition. The program is a great way to introduce the Order to your community and recruit faithful family men of service.

## Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Set a date, location and time for the Soccer Challenge.
- Ensure that the event is properly staffed and safely run, according to rules and regulations.
- Train volunteers in the Safe Environment protocols ([www.kofc.org/safe](http://www.kofc.org/safe)). A minimum of two volunteers must be Safe Trained.
- Coordinate with the district and state/province level regarding date, time, and location of the next level of the competition and provide this information to the winners at the council level.
- Promote the event to local media.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

## Action Steps

1. Order the *Soccer Challenge Kit* (#SC-KIT) through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online.
2. Set a date, location and time for the Soccer Challenge. If required by venue, acquire insurance.
3. Contact schools and youth centers to explain and promote the program. Suggest that the schools or youth centers consider using this activity as part of their physical education classes.
4. Prior to the Soccer Challenge, use the sample press release as a model to create and distribute a tailored release to local media.
5. Build public interest for the event! Promote the Soccer Challenge in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
  - Prominently display promotional posters (found in the *Soccer Challenge Kit* (#SC-KIT))
  - Bulletin announcements
  - Pulpit announcements
  - Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages



6. Coordinate with the district and state/province leadership regarding date, time, and location of the next level of competition. On the day of the event, provide this information to the council-level winners.
7. Preregistration is recommended, but sometimes difficult to execute.
8. Hold the Soccer Challenge! Review the *Soccer Challenge Playbook* (#4576) for guidelines, volunteer requirements, and other information.
9. On the day of the event, wear Knights of Columbus-branded apparel and have the council membership director set up a table with brochures and membership documents (including *Prospect Cards* #921A). Do not forget that this event is a recruiting opportunity!
10. Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph the event.
11. Following the Soccer Challenge, update the community on the success of your program by amending the Soccer Challenge sample announcement and distributing it to local media, along with energizing photographs from the event.
12. Send winning *Soccer Challenge Score Sheets* (#4578) to the next level of competition.
13. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.

# GLOBAL WHEELCHAIR MISSION

## **A Higher Purpose**

Change the lives of people with disabilities worldwide. Councils are encouraged to donate at least \$150 for a wheelchair. Through partnerships, councils can also purchase a large container of 110 to 280 wheelchairs for their own donation sites. A featured program, Global Wheelchair Mission counts for two credits toward the Columbian Award.

## **Overview**

The Knights of Columbus has partnered with the Global Wheelchair Mission since 2003 with the goal of providing wheelchairs to all those who lack the freedom of mobility. Fourth Degree Knight Chris Lewis, son of legendary entertainer and philanthropist Jerry Lewis, helped to create the humanitarian mission that has delivered close to a million wheelchairs to people around the globe. Today, the initiative started between Lewis and his fellow Knights in the United States has expanded into Canada through partnership with the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation.

Obtained at deeply discounted prices, these wheelchairs change the lives of their recipients. Working with the Global Wheelchair Mission is a perfect opportunity to put your faith into action and involve the entire parish in the rewarding charitable work done by your council.

## **Chairman Role and Responsibilities**

- Contact the Knights of Columbus jurisdiction to determine how the council can assist with their Global Wheelchair Mission activities.
- Plan and lead council fundraising efforts.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

## **Action Steps**

1. Contact the Knights of Columbus jurisdiction and coordinate with the state wheelchair chairman to determine how the council can assist with their Global Wheelchair Mission activities.
2. Set an annual goal for the council to contribute to Global Wheelchair Mission (i.e. specific dollar amount or specific number of wheelchairs).
3. Build public interest for the program! Promote the work of your council on behalf of the Global Wheelchair Mission in the parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
  - Prominently display promotional posters
  - Bulletin announcements
  - Pulpit announcements
  - Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages



4. Schedule events to raise funds and promote progress toward your council goal. If you plan to conduct a Wheelchair Sunday, work with your pastor to obtain his permission and recommendations. Do not forget to encourage individual contributions!
5. Once your goal is met, submit the associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission to gain credit for your program. Remember to retain copies for your council records.



# MARCHES FOR LIFE

## A Higher Purpose

Show public support for the right to life. Councils are encouraged to participate in or sponsor local, state/province, regional or national Marches for Life. Councils that coordinate at least 50 participants or who organize a local March for Life will receive credit for this program. A featured program, Marches for Life counts for two credits toward the Columbian Award.

## Overview

The Knights of Columbus encourages others to choose life through public support of the pro-life cause. Knights can organize and participate in local/state/province/regional Marches for Life and/or organize participation of Knights/parishioners/students/etc., in bus trips to the national Marches in Washington, D.C., Ottawa, Mexico City, throughout the Philippines, or in other countries.

## Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Publicize a national, state/province, or regional march.
- Recruit participants to attend or join with other local pro-life organizations to organize, publicize and carry out a local March for Life or rally in your city, town, or nearby regional center.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

## Action Steps

### National or Other Out-of-Town March for Life

- Check the websites for March for Life (US) ([www.marchforlife.org](http://www.marchforlife.org)), Campaign Life Coalition (Canada) ([www.campaignlifecoalition.com](http://www.campaignlifecoalition.com)), or Philippine jurisdictions for trip planning information, including: headquarters hotels, associated events, bus drop-off/pick-up/parking locations, etc.
- Determine the dates, times and departure points for your trip to and return from Washington, D.C., Ottawa, or other March for Life destination.
- Determine per person bus/lodging/meal costs to be covered by council/marchers.
- Contact bus companies for price quotes and reserve buses. If lodging is needed, negotiate with hotels for room rates and space for meetings, Mass, meals, etc.
- Order *Choose Life signs* (#9341) through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online. There is no charge for the signs when ordered in reasonable quantities, according to the size of your group.
- Build public interest for the event! Promote the March for Life in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
  - Bulletin announcements
  - Pulpit announcements
  - Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages
  - Diocesan newspapers and other media
- Invite schools, seminaries and other religious organizations to send delegates at reduced rates or at council expense; take reservations and collect funds.
- Plan meal stops, provide refreshments for the trip and contact information/maps for marchers.
- Bring pro-life videos to show on bus monitors and council banner to carry in the march.



- On the day of the event, wear Knights of Columbus-branded apparel and have the council membership director provide brochures and membership documents (including *Prospect Cards* #921). Do not forget that this event is a recruiting opportunity!
- Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph the march.
- To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.

#### Organizing a Local Rally/March

- Contact other local councils, churches, and pro-life organizations to form a coordinating committee.
- Determine a date, time, rally location, and/or parade route.
- Build public interest for the event! Promote in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
  - Bulletin Announcements
  - Pulpit Announcements
  - Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages
  - Press releases
- Order *Choose Life Signs* (#9341) through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online. There is no charge for the signs when ordered in reasonable quantities, according to the size of your group.
- Coordinate with local authorities for a permit for a parade in the street, sound systems to be used for the rally, and general security guidelines.
- Appoint Knights of Columbus members as marshals to organize the marchers at the rally and to assure safety as they march in the street or cross intersections from sidewalks.
- Appoint Knights of Columbus members to distribute signs before the march or rally and to clean up the grounds after the event.
- Obtain radios for communications or share cell phone numbers among marshals to help with coordination of the event.
- On the day of the event, wear Knights of Columbus-branded apparel.
- **Rally:** If a rally is involved, invite and schedule rally speakers, such as religious/church leaders, pro-life organization leaders, and pro-life government officials (*Refer to Officers Online for “Guidelines for Political Activity” and “Catholic Citizenship and Public Policy”*)
- **Rally:** If a rally is to be held, order necessary sound system equipment.
- **Rally:** Set up a Knights of Columbus membership table and vendor booths for pro-life organizations around the rally site. Have the council membership director provide brochures and membership documents (including *Prospect Cards* #921). Do not forget that this event is a recruiting opportunity!
- Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph the event.
- Schedule a special pro-life themed Mass before or after the march/rally at a nearby church.
- If organizations (such as Fourth Degree Knights) wish to march as units with their banners, create a list of units in the order they will be called to line up for the march.
- After the march, invite participants back to the church, council hall or rally site for refreshments.
- To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.

#### Definitions

*Rally:* Held in one location, indoors or outdoors, usually with speakers, music, cheers, and prayers. It is a separate event, before or after a march.

*March:* A public demonstration with signs and banners, in the form of a parade, in the street or along sidewalks.

# MASS FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



## A Higher Purpose

Welcome individuals or families who might not normally feel comfortable participating in a regularly scheduled Mass. Councils will sponsor a distinct Mass, conducted annually, for people with special needs.

## Overview

People with special needs resulting from physical, emotional, mental or cognitive conditions are all around us in society, at school, at work, and in our families. It can be challenging for these important members of our society to participate in liturgies due to physical and social barriers – or even family member anxiety. Celebrating a Mass for People with Special Needs can be the first of many steps toward integrating them into regular weekly or even daily Mass – and more deeply into all of the sacraments and other aspects of parish life. Holding this Mass sends the message that all of God’s children are welcome under the parish roof and that every person is an integral part of the parish family.

## Chairman Role and Responsibilities

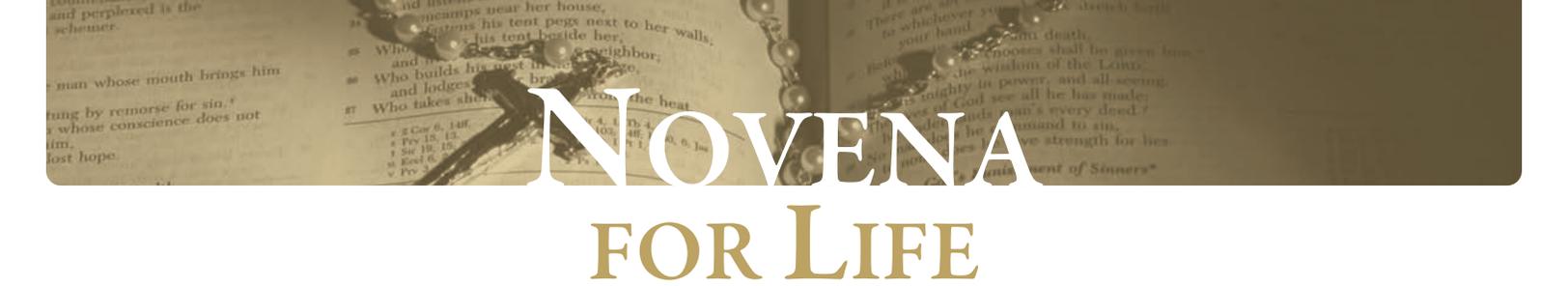
- Working with your pastor, obtain his permission and recommendations on conducting a Mass for People with Special Needs. In coordination with him, set a time and date.
- Recruit others to assist in planning, preparation, and publicity for the event.
- Determine who to invite, what their special needs may be, and how to meet the needs of those who accept the invitation to attend.
- Discuss any necessary physical accommodations or mental, dietary, or other limitations concerning reception of Communion.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

## Action Steps

1. Working with your pastor, obtain his permission and recommendations on conducting a Mass for People with Special Needs. Determine when this Mass would be most appropriate and schedule it for a certain date and time.
2. Determine who to invite by identifying people with special needs in the parish. Individuals and organizations who can help identify or invite attendees include:
  - Pastor, faith formation minister, other parish and civic leaders
  - Local Special Olympics, The Arc, special education teachers
  - Meals on Wheels, assisted-living facilities, group homes, senior citizen groups, disabled veterans organizations
  - Health advocacy groups for Down syndrome, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson’s disease, Lou Gehrig’s disease, blindness or deafness



3. Build interest for the event and invite people with special needs to attend/RSVP. Promote the Mass for People with Special Needs in your parish through a variety of efforts:
  - Prominently display promotional posters (which can be ordered through Supplies Online)
  - Bulletin announcements
  - Pulpit announcements
  - Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages
4. Determine if the parking areas/doors/church/restrooms/parish hall are accessible. If not, schedule the Mass at an alternative facility that is accessible.
5. Plan accordingly by assessing the need for hearing aids, a sign language interpreter, and signage in Braille, presence of guide dogs, etc.
6. Determine if some invitees may need transportation to/from Mass.
7. Consider how to accommodate people who may have opposite needs, such louder or softer sound/music/lighting, etc.
8. Plan each part of the Mass and invite the choir, readers, ushers, altar servers, Eucharistic ministers to assist in the Mass. In as many roles as possible, invite people with special needs to perform these functions at the Mass.
9. If possible, consider offering the sacrament of reconciliation before Mass. Also strongly consider offering the sacraments of initiation (baptism, first Communion, and confirmation) as part of the Mass if there are candidates who are eligible and prepared.
10. Celebrate the Mass together! At this Mass, be sure to make clear that those in attendance are not just welcome but wholeheartedly encouraged to attend Mass at the parish every Sunday.
11. Following Mass, provide refreshments that meet a variety of dietary needs.
12. Have the council membership director set up a table with brochures and membership documents (including *Prospect Cards #921*). Do not forget that this is a recruiting opportunity!
13. Techniques learned should be incorporated year-round into Masses, the sacraments and other parish activities, so people with special needs will always feel welcome and able to participate.
14. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.



# NOVENA FOR LIFE

## A Higher Purpose

Lead your community in the spiritual fight to establish a culture of life in our nations. Knights and their families will come together in both public and private acts of prayer to promote the protection of life. Council participation in Novena for Life is required to qualify for the Columbian Award.

## Overview

The protection of life is a sustained prayer intention of the Church, and in particular of the Knights of Columbus. Knights remain firmly committed to defending the right to life of every human being – from the moment of conception to natural death. To commemorate and bolster this important cause, councils will promote a novena, nine days of sustained prayer, to build up a culture of life in our parishes, homes and wider community.

## Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Plan the schedule, events, and activities for your Novena for Life.
- Order relevant supplies for your program.
- Promote the novena in your parish and community.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

## Action Steps

1. Working with your pastor, obtain his recommendations on conducting a Novena for Life.
2. Set a date for the novena. Consider incorporating it as part of the council's participation in a 40 Days for Life campaign or schedule it to precede a major feast day or pro-life event.
3. Plan the schedule, events, and activities for the novena. Visit [www.kofc.org/novena](http://www.kofc.org/novena) to explore resources for potential intentions, reflections, events and more. Requirements for the nine days are broad and should be molded to suit your parish and community.

**Keep the following recommendations in mind when planning your Novena for Life:**

- Anchor the beginning and end of the nine days with public church services like a Mass or rosary
  - Consider organizing a social activity during the novena for the parish to come together and celebrate life
  - Involve members of many parish organizations, especially the parish school and religious education leaders, in promoting and participating in the novena and services
  - Invite members of local culture of life groups to join in your novena and services
4. Order *Prayer for Life Prayer Cards* (#4665) through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online, and distribute them to members of the parish. Have these prayer cards available the week prior to the start of the novena, at the opening church service and at all associated activities. Also place a good supply of prayer cards in your church and council hall.

5. Prior the start of the novena, use the sample press release as a model to create and distribute a tailored release to local media.
6. Build public interest for the event! Promote the Novena for Life in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
  - Prominently display promotional posters (which can be ordered through Supplies Online)
  - Bulletin announcements
  - Pulpit announcements
  - Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages
7. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.

# PREGNANCY CENTER SUPPORT

## A Higher Purpose

Change public hearts about abortion by showing love for both mother and child before and after birth. Councils can provide material, financial, labor and other support to pro-life pregnancy centers that help women during pregnancy and following the birth of their newborn children.

## Overview

More than three thousand pro-life pregnancy centers now operate in jurisdictions throughout the Order. By the very nature of our founding, Knights of Columbus are called to care for the widow and orphan. Abortion-vulnerable unborn children and mothers experiencing unexpected pregnancies certainly fall within our mandate. With our aid, pregnancy centers can offer support to help them choose life. Councils can “adopt” a pregnancy center and provide material, labor, and spiritual support throughout the year.

## Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Locate pregnancy centers in or near your community – see links provided.
- Confer with the director of the local pregnancy center to determine needs.
- Discuss speaker series or educational programs to educate community.
- Communicate with the pastor, parish or community organizations regarding their roles in the program.
- Set goals, schedule, costs, budget, fundraising needs, manpower and material needs.
- Organize, conduct and publicize the activity or event.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

## Action Steps

1. Working with your pastor, obtain his permission and recommendations on conducting Pregnancy Center Support.
2. Ask the director of a local pregnancy center about its needs and then organize programs to help meet those needs.

### *Potential programs could include:*

- Pray for nine months for an unborn child through a spiritual “adoption”
- Present roses to mothers and appropriate gifts to families upon the birth or baptism of their children
- Each March 25th, hold a Mass for Life on the Knights of Columbus Day of the Unborn Child
- Refer employment opportunities, affordable rental apartments, and opportunities for free or low-cost health care to the pregnancy center for client use
- Provide centers with funds for general expenses, purchase of a building, rental of an office, materials and labor for renovation, or for hiring or training of staff



- Provide general labor around the pregnancy care center such as lawn maintenance, cleaning, painting or other useful activities the council and members may be able to perform

*Potential fundraising activities could include:*

- Baby Bottle Boomerang
  - Funding a Knights of Columbus table at the pregnancy center's annual fundraising dinner
  - Assisting and participating in a pregnancy center sponsored 5K or other fundraising event
  - A "baby shower" to collect maternity clothes and baby items (diapers, etc.) for the pregnancy center
3. Meet council/parish needs by asking the pregnancy center to provide speakers on topics such as:
    - Chastity for religious education students
    - Natural Procreative Technology (NaProTechnology) regarding fertility issues, natural family planning, pregnancy or parenting for parish couples in childbearing years
    - Post-abortion counseling
    - Other pro-life issues for council members, the parish or the general community
  4. Plan the fundraising, educational or other programming event or activity, delegate responsibilities to council members, and carry out the program.
  5. Build public interest for the program! Promote Pregnancy Center Support in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
    - Bulletin announcements
    - Pulpit announcements
    - Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages
  6. On the day of any Pregnancy Center Support events, wear Knights of Columbus-branded apparel.
  7. Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph any events.
  8. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.

***Please note:** Participating in Ultrasound Program does not satisfy the programming requirements for the Pregnancy Center Support Program. The two activities are separate and cannot be double-counted.*



# CHRISTIAN REFUGEE RELIEF

## A Higher Purpose

Help save persecuted and at-risk Christians facing genocide all over the world, particularly in the Middle East. Knights of Columbus are called to bring awareness and support to those who have suffered for their faith through various parish-based programs and fundraisers.

## Overview

Christians are at risk in areas all around the globe. The Knights of Columbus responded with the Christian Refugee Relief Fund, which has provided humanitarian assistance, primarily in Iraq, Syria, and the surrounding region. Councils will aid this cause by collaborating with their parishes to spread awareness and raise funds to help these Christians and those in their care. In particular, councils are encouraged to utilize Solidarity Crosses as a fundraiser and prayer campaign in their parishes.

## Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Work with your pastor and council to plan and carry out a fundraising and awareness campaign to benefit Christians at risk.
- Ensure that all funds are submitted to the Christian Refugee Relief Fund.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

## Action Steps

1. Working with your pastor, obtain his recommendations on conducting fundraising and awareness efforts to benefit Christian refugees.
2. Set an annual goal for the council to raise for the Christian Refugee Relief Fund.
3. Order the *Christian Refugee Relief Kit* through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online.
4. Prior to each event, use the sample press release as a model to create and distribute a tailored release to local media.
5. Build public interest for your program! Promote each event in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
  - Prominently display promotional posters (found in the *Christian Refugee Relief Kit*)
  - Bulletin announcements
  - Pulpit announcements
  - Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages

6. On the day of each event, wear Knights of Columbus-branded apparel and have the council membership director set up a table with brochures and membership documents (including *Prospect Cards* #921A). Do not forget that this event is a recruiting opportunity!
7. Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph your events.
8. Once you have reached your goal, submit the funds to the Christian Refugee Relief Fund here: [www.christiansatrisk.org](http://www.christiansatrisk.org)
9. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.

# SILVER ROSE

## A Higher Purpose

Share the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe and promote respect for life through this meaningful pilgrimage. The Silver Rose Program demonstrates the unity between Knights of Columbus in Canada, the United States, and Mexico, through a series of prayer services promoting the dignity of all human life and honoring Our Lady.

## Overview

Each year, from early March through mid-December, Silver Roses are stewarded by councils along routes from Canada to Mexico. Every stop the Silver Rose makes throughout the pilgrimage is a rosary-centered occasion for Knights, parishioners, and community members to pray for respect for life, for the spiritual renewal of each nation, and for the advancement of the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

## Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Work with your pastor and the jurisdiction Silver Rose chairman to obtain their recommendations for the prayer service.
- Identify council and parish members to fulfill the various roles required in the service.
- Order supplies through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online.
- Promote your Silver Rose prayer service!
- Ensure that the Silver Rose is successfully received by your council and handed to the next council.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

## Action Steps

1. Working with your pastor, obtain his permission and recommendations on conducting a Silver Rose prayer service.
2. Working with your jurisdiction Silver Rose chairman, coordinate when your council is scheduled to receive the Silver Rose. (Information on route schedules for the Silver Roses can also be accessed at [www.kofc.org/silverrose](http://www.kofc.org/silverrose).)
3. Order a good quantity of the *Silver Rose Prayer Service Booklets* (#4841) and *Silver Rose Guidebooks* through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online.
4. Identify council and parish members to fulfill the various roles required in the service.
5. Prior to the Silver Rose prayer service, use the sample press release as a model to create and distribute a tailored release to local media.



6. Build public interest for the event! Promote the Silver Rose in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
  - Prominently display promotional posters (which can be ordered through Supplies Online)
  - Bulletin announcements
  - Pulpit announcements
  - Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages
7. On the day of the event, consider wearing Knights of Columbus-branded apparel and have the council membership director bring brochures and membership documents (including *Prospect Cards* #921A). Do not forget that this event is a recruiting opportunity!
8. Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph the event (i.e., the passing of the Silver Rose or the Silver Rose inside the church).
9. In keeping with the fraternal nature of our Order, strongly consider hosting a reception or other social event in conjunction with the prayer service celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe and a culture of life in our world.
10. After the service, the grand knight or council Silver Rose chairman should record information about the council's Silver Rose prayer service in the *Silver Rose Log Book* that accompanies the Icon.
11. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.



# SPECIAL OLYMPICS

## A Higher Purpose

Celebrate the intrinsic worth and dignity of every single human being through. Work with Special Olympics affiliates to determine how best to fund, sponsor or volunteer for events in the local community. Featured program credit is awarded to councils providing at least \$2,000 in donations or 200 service hours in a fraternal year. A featured program, Special Olympics counts for two credits in the toward the Columbian Award.

## Overview

The Knights of Columbus has a unique partnership with Special Olympics and has helped disabled athletes train for and compete in games around the world. Knights of Columbus councils have assisted with all aspects of the program from fundraising to feeding the athletes, organizing and judging events, and providing equipment and awards. Without the support of the Knights, participants would not be able to train for the events that they love.

## Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Contact your state council's Special Olympics chairman for information and coordinate your council activities with him and local Special Olympics officials.
- Provide manpower in support of Special Olympic activities.
- Consider potential fundraising activities such as a polar plunge, 5K, drive for people with intellectual disabilities (i.e., "Tootsie Roll" drive), etc.
- Publicize and promote awareness of Special Olympics events in the local community.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

## Action Steps

1. Contact the state Special Olympics chairman and local Special Olympics branch to see how the council might be of assistance.
2. Set council goals for man hours and funds to be donated to Special Olympics.
3. Build public interest of Special Olympics events! Promote in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
  - Bulletin announcements
  - Pulpit announcements
  - Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages
4. Plan and conduct the event.
5. Encourage participation of council members.
6. On the day of the event, wear Knights of Columbus-branded apparel and have the council membership director set up a table with brochures and membership documents (including *Prospect Cards* #921A). Do not forget that this event is a recruiting opportunity!



7. Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph the event.
8. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.



# ULTRASOUND

## A Higher Purpose

Help abortion-minded women to choose life by viewing their unborn children on ultrasound machines. This initiative is funded by state and local councils and matching grants from the Supreme Council's Culture of Life Fund. A featured program, the Ultrasound Program counts for two credits toward the Columbian Award.

## Overview

The Knights of Columbus works together to purchase ultrasound machines for qualifying pregnancy centers. After the state and/or local council raises 50% of the cost, the Supreme Council will provide the other 50% to complete funding for purchase of an ultrasound. Or, if the council raises 100% of the cost of a vehicle outfitted to serve as a mobile medical unit for a pregnancy center, the Supreme Council will provide 100% of the funds for an ultrasound machine to be used in that vehicle.

## Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Identify and partner with a qualifying pregnancy center in need of funds to purchase an ultrasound machine or funds to purchase a vehicle and ultrasound machine.
- Obtain diocesan approval of the pregnancy center and state and local council approval for the fundraising campaign.
- Set up a separate council bank account to receive funds.
- Conduct a fundraising drive or activities.
- The pregnancy center must meet other requirements listed on the application for matching funds.
- Submit application, price quote, and other required materials to the Supreme Council office.
- Arrange a check presentation with appropriate publicity.

## Action Steps

1. Get council approval to raise the council's portion of the cost of the machine or cost of the vehicle.
2. Contact your state council's life director for guidance. When necessary, with state deputy's approval, create a fundraising partnership with the state council, chapter, district or other local councils.
3. Identify and partner with a pregnancy center that meets Knights of Columbus guidelines and is in need of funds to purchase an ultrasound machine or funds to purchase a vehicle and ultrasound machine.
4. Ask the pregnancy center to obtain a manufacturer's price quote for a desired ultrasound machine or ultrasound machine and vehicle.
5. Ask diocesan pro-life director for approval of the pregnancy center to be included in the Ultrasound Program. Complete the Diocesan Evaluation and submit it to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.
6. Supreme Council Life office sends letter to advise state/local council that fundraising may begin.
7. Establish a special council charity account to receive donated funds.
8. Lead the fundraising campaign for the council's portion of the cost of the machine with fundraising activities,

such as:

- Second collection at Mass
  - Laps for Life
  - Baby Bottle Boomerang
  - Solicit council members at a meeting and/or by mail/email
  - Raffle/silent auction
  - Pancake breakfasts, spaghetti dinner, etc.
9. Build public interest for the Ultrasound Program! Promote in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
    - Bulletin announcements
    - Pulpit announcements
    - Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages
  10. When the council's portion of the funds are collected, submit application for matching funds to state deputy for approval/signature and forwarding to the Supreme Council office.
  11. Expect three to six weeks for application processing/check approval.
  12. Upon check receipt, make check presentation to pregnancy center with Catholic/local press invited (refer to *Public Relations and Publicity Guidelines #2235*).
  13. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.

***Please note:** Participating in Ultrasound Program does not satisfy the programming requirements for the Pregnancy Center Support Program. The two activities are separate and cannot be double-counted.*



# YOUTH & FAITH IN ACTION

## A place for youth in Faith in Action

The Knights of Columbus Faith in Action program model is designed around Faith, Family, Community and Life. Each of these four categories include opportunities for youth involvement. The vision for this program model is for our brother Knights to serve in an inclusive way, to strengthen the bonds between faith and family, to grow deeper in parish life and to be a beacon for our community. Youth are an essential part of our mission.

To serve the youth of our community, we must move beyond the Columbian Squire Circle and instead offer your council's leadership and skills to an existing parish-based youth group. If a parish-based youth group does not exist, consider working with your pastor to start a new group sponsored by the parish and supported by the Knights of Columbus.

- Working with your pastor, obtain his permission and recommendations on working with a youth group in concert with parish life.
- Check with your pastor about safe environment training such as VIRTUS® training. It's vital that all adults, Knights or otherwise, be aware of best practices when working with youth.
- Knights are welcome to serve as a volunteer in support of the parish youth group under guidance of the parish and other Knights.

The Faith in Action program model has many programs that can be adapted for youth moving through parish life. Below are several examples of how Faith in Action can work within the context of church-based youth groups.

- **Food for Families** – Kids can help gather canned goods for your Food for Families program.
- **Special Olympics** – Children in the youth group can volunteer for Special Olympics event(s) in your area.
- **Habitat for Humanity** – Volunteering for Habitat for Humanity is both an opportunity to help your community directly and also a chance for youth to learn practical skills for home ownership.
- **Rosary Program** – This program provides an opportunity for youth to serve directly as leaders in the parish.

Please visit [kofc.org/faithinaction](http://kofc.org/faithinaction) for a more comprehensive look at Faith in Action and to see other programs that might work in your parish-based youth group.

