Faith in Action

2026-27 Updates

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Faith in Action

Higher Purpose

Today, a man's work follows him home through his smartphone. At the same time, he is picking up a larger share of household responsibilities and striving to meet the intense demands of fatherhood as kids' activities accelerate. Despite this, many men want to express their faith by working alongside peers in service to others. They want to spend precious free time with their families while also building bonds of fraternity that last a lifetime.

As leaders and brother Knights, we are excited about men's desire to serve. We relish the opportunity to continuously adapt to the demands of a changing world and the needs of future members. We know that demonstrating our faith through service is as powerful as it is rewarding. This calling is a fundamental part of the Order's history and our Faith in Action programs.

> "Faith and courage compel us to be men of charity. We feed hungry families, give coats to kids, protect the vulnerable from catastrophe and defend the unborn. But we are not merely volunteers. We are servants of Christ who see his face in those we serve. Ours is a charity that evangelizes and brings others to faith, even as it springs from our own."
> – *Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly*

The Faith in Action model recognizes the changing needs of men in the twenty-first century. It seeks to balance all of their key priorities for Faith, Family, Community and Life. Our goal is for men to lead their family in service — not leave their family for service.

Through the Faith in Action program model, every day, Knights all over the world are given opportunities to make a difference – whether through community service, raising money, or prayer. We celebrate each and every Knight for his strength, his compassion, and his dedication to building a better world.

Faith in Action

This Faith in Action guide book provides information for your council to implement programs that help men to live out their commitment to the Catholic faith and their desire to serve their family, parish, and community.

Built into our four program categories is the opportunity for all generations and cultures to share faith, celebrate fraternity, and stand shoulder to shoulder in service to our community and in defense of life from conception to natural death.

This guide book fully explains the Faith in Action program model, its four categories, and recommended programs for each. Additional program resources and recommendations can be found at kofc.org/faithinaction.

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 parish and community. By conducting well-run programs, your council continues the vision of our founder by assisting people in need and strengthening the bonds that unite our members.

Program Personnel and Requirements

APPOINT DIRECTORS

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

The appointed program director works with the grand knight to name directors or 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 in the Officers Online section of kofc.org — no later than June 30.

Submitting this report allows the directors and chairmen to receive important information from the Supreme and state councils.

If there are changes to committee chairs during the fraternal year, use the Member Management application to make updates or submit the changes on a new Service Program Personnel Report (#365) to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT — OFFICE OF YOUTH PROTECTION

Certain state and council officers/chairmen are required to take safe environment training and may also be required to provide authorization for background checks.

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

ROLES	TRAINING	BACKGROUND CHECK	ARMATUS ADMINISTRATION
State Council			
State Deputy	✓		✓
State Advocate	✓		✓
State Program Director	✓		✓
State Youth Director	✓	✓	✓
State Family Director	✓	✓	✓
State Community Director	✓	✓	✓
Subordinate Council			
Grand Knight	✓		✓
Faithful Navigator	✓		
Program Director	✓		✓
Family Director	✓	✓	
Community Director	✓	✓	

Safe Environment Program Training and Background Check Requirements

or spam folder. The emails will assign usernames and passwords necessary to complete the required training. They also provide the links to authorize background checks. The Knights of Columbus pays all costs associated with these requirements.

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

For more information, please visit kofc.org/safe or the Officer Desk Reference in Officers Online.

Program Planning

PARISH PASTOR, COUNCIL CHAPLAIN

It is vitally important to discuss your tentative program plans with your pastor and his staff. Developing and aligning your goals with the pastor is an important and fundamental aspect of parish and community relations.

OFFICERS' PLANNING MEETING

Council officers, the membership director, all program directors, committee chairmen, and your council chaplain, if available, should attend your planning meetings. Use these meetings to set the program calendar, establish recruiting goals, update the budget, and prepare motions for the upcoming council meetings. Use the Fraternal Planner to keep ahead of all required reports and program deadlines.

BEFORE THE OFFICERS' PLANNING MEETING

Review the programs that were conducted in the past year and examine the reasons for success or failure of each project. Copies of the Fraternal Programs Report Forms (#10784) submitted by council members in the past, and collected by the grand knight, will be helpful for your review. Develop a brief summary of each program and be prepared to discuss the analysis during the program portion of the Officers' Planning Meeting.

PROGRAM PORTION OF THE OFFICERS' PLANNING MEETING

During the programming portion of the Officers' Planning Meeting, your council officers should:

- Review the programs that were conducted in the past year
- 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.
  - ☐ Consider the parish calendar and review your plans with the pastor and his staff
  - ☐ Set a budget for each program
  - ☐ Prepare a list of proposed programs to present to your council for approval
  - ☐ Direct the public relations chair to communicate upcoming programs to the parish and community in a timely fashion. Use the sample announcements available for many of the programs

AFTER THE OFFICERS' PLANNING MEETING

If the pastor or chaplain was not in attendance, the grand knight should arrange to brief the pastor shortly thereafter and obtain approval for the planned programs. Arrangements should also be made for the required facilities.

Program Resources

ONLINE FAITH IN ACTION MATERIALS

Branded materials are available to help your council promote and conduct Supreme-recommended programs. Resources include guide sheets with step-by-step instructions for running programs, promotional posters, brochures, prayer cards, booklets, certificates, sample news releases, and more. These can be found online at kofc.org/fiaresources.

ORDERING SUPPLIES

Programming and print supplies can be ordered through Supplies Online, the supply-ordering portal available on Officers Online. All Knights of Columbus gifts, apparel accessories, books, religious supplies, Coats (Coats for Kids) 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 can be ordered through your council's grand knight or financial secretary. Once logged into Officers Online, they may access the link to Supplies Online and 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.

FRATERNAL TRAINING RESOURCES

A variety of fraternal training resources are available online at kofc.org/training. These resources include training webinars, short videos, and other leadership materials. Additionally, there's information on Regional Training Directors who offer various training courses in person and online. This training page is frequently updated with new content.

WEBINARS

Fraternal webinars provide current, valuable information on topics for effective council operation, membership recruitment, charitable initiatives, and program enhancements that engage members and build stronger councils. All Knights of Columbus members are welcome to attend these informative webinars.

Offered approximately monthly, these interactive webinars allow participants to learn about exciting new developments, ask questions, and receive answers in real time. Each webinar is recorded and archived, so fraternal leaders can participate when convenient.

To sign-up and see an upcoming webinar, or to view the archived webinars, visit kofc.org/training.

Program After Action

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 council's works in the parish and community media forums. 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.
- 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.
- Accept responsibility for your mistakes. This shows your team that you are human and fallible.

SUBMIT FRATERNAL PROGRAMS REPORT FORM #10784

It is a best practice to keep good records of all programmatic activity. Do this by submitting the

Faith in Action

Fraternal Program Report Form (#10784). This form can only be submitted online.

The Department of Fraternal Mission collates all of the data received and provides monthly and quarterly reports to the state program teams. This is a great mechanism for councils to help track their progress toward achieving the *Columbian Award* (#SP-7).

In addition to the #10784, continue to use the following applications for these programs:
RSVP Refund Application (#2863)
Food for Families Refund (#10057)
Ultrasound Diocesan Evaluation (#10715)
Ultrasound Application (#10716)
ASAP Grant Application (Online)

For an overview of forms, their due dates and how to submit them, review the Program Forms Reference Guide available at kofc.org/fiaresources.

Program Awards

COLUMBIAN AWARD

The Columbian Award recognizes council excellence in programs and activities aligned with the vision of our Founder, Blessed Michael McGivney, and the mission of the Knights of Columbus. To earn the award, councils must complete all the following requirements and submit a *Columbian Award Application* by June 30.

Requirement 1

Councils in the United States and Canada:

Donate at least $500 as part of one of the following Faith in Action programs: ASAP (dollars or item value), Food for Families (dollars or 1,000 lbs of food), RSVP, or Coats for Kids.

Councils outside of the United States and Canada are not required to complete this requirement.

Requirement 2

Councils in the United States and Canada:

Complete 4 Faith in Action programs, one in each of the following categories: Faith, Family, Community, Life.

You cannot claim programs already submitted for requirement 1.

- To qualify as Faith in Action programs, the council must run programs similar to those described in the Faith in Action Program Guidebook.

Councils outside of the United States and Canada must complete 8 Faith in Action programs, two in each category.

Requirement 3

All councils must complete this requirement.

Complete 3 programs/activities: one to bring men closer to Christ, one to build fraternity and one to support your parish or community.

These programs/activities can be unique to the council and do not need to be Faith in Action programs.

- You cannot claim programs already submitted for requirements 1 and 2.
- Conducting *Cor* satisfies all three of the program/activity criteria for this requirement.
- To qualify, councils must offer *Cor* gatherings that feature prayer, formation, and fraternity at least once per month to all men of the parish.
- For additional information on *Cor* and its structure, visit kofc.org/cor and/or view the *Cor* Startup Videos, *Cor* Startup Guide and the *Cor* Reference Guide.
- If you choose *Cor* for this option you must include the name and email address of your council Evangelization and Faith Formation Director.

Faith in Action

STATE COUNCIL SERVICE PROGRAM AWARDS

Each year during a jurisdiction's convention, state councils should recognize the best program conducted by 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. Councils should submit these forms to their state council by the appropriate deadline in their particular state, which is in the months preceding their annual state convention.

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.

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. Entries are due by April 30. Please note: there is only one entry per category. The entry must include:

- *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. A film crew is sent to the winning council's location to create a highlight video for use at the Supreme Convention's Award Session. Any council that is in good standing is eligible and encouraged to compete for this distinguished honor.

FAMILY OF THE YEAR

The Family of the Year Award honors families with a history of service to their parish and community. Councils should submit a *Family of the Year Form* (#10680) to their state council according to its

particular state deadline. State Councils will send the winner to the Supreme Office for international consideration by April 30. The winning family also receives a free trip to the Supreme Convention.

STATE BLESSED MICHAEL McGIVNEY AWARD AND BLESSED MICHAEL McGIVNEY MEDAL

At the 139th Supreme Convention a resolution instituted both the State Blessed Michael McGivney Award and Blessed Michael McGivney Medal. Each council, should they choose to participate, can nominate an exemplary KofC chaplain to be awarded the State Blessed Michael McGivney Award at their jurisdiction's convention. Councils nominate a chaplain by using the *State Blessed McGivney Award Form* (#SBMMA) and submitting it before their state council's deadline. The State Council will choose a winner and submit the council's entry form, along with the *Blessed Michael McGivney Medal Form* (#BMMA) to the Supreme Office by April 30. The winner will be considered by Supreme to be awarded the Blessed Michael McGivney Medal at the Supreme Convention.

Program Categories

The programs highlighted here are meant to inspire your council to put their faith into action. The goal is for the council to conduct programs that draw men closer to their faith, families, and communities. A well-rounded council will have activities in each of the following categories: Faith, Family, Community and Life. 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.

This manual highlights recommended programs. Your council is encouraged to implement any program(s) that will make a difference in your parish and community.

For more information on each program, visit kofc.org/faithinaction. Program-specific resources can also be found at kofc.org/fiaresources.

Supreme-Recommended Program Category Matrix

FAITH	COMMUNITY
RSVP	Coats for Kids
Into the Breach	Global Wheelchair Mission
¡Viva Cristo Rey!	Bright Futures
Imitating Saint Juan Diego	Celebrating Our Catholic Heritage
Pilgrim Icon Program	Disaster Preparedness
Rosary Program	Free Throw Championship
Spiritual Reflection	Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest
Holy Hour	Soccer/Hockey Challenge
Sacramental Gifts	Helping Hands
FAMILY	**LIFE**
Build-a-Bed	ASAP (Aid and Support After Pregnancy)
Food for Families	March for Life
Family of the Month/Year	Special Olympics
Remembering Our Faithful Departed	Ultrasound Initiative
Quinceañera Support	Gospel of Life
Keep Christ in Christmas	Holy Hour for Life with Our Lady of Guadalupe
Building the Domestic Church Kiosk	Christian Refugee Relief
Consecration to the Holy Family	Silver Rose
Family Prayer Night	Mass for People with Special Needs

Faith

Our goal is to strengthen men and their families in the faith. When we entered the Order, we were reminded to constantly form 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. These programs arm us for the spiritual battle that men and families face daily.

REFUND SUPPORT VOCATION PROGRAM (RSVP)

Keep the faith alive by supporting seminarians and postulants.

Through this program, council and parish families raise funds to support seminarians or religious in formation in their areas. For every $500 given to an individual, the Supreme Council refunds the council or assembly $100. The maximum refund a council or assembly can receive is $400 per individual supported. 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

Form men in the Catholic vision for masculinity, marriage and family life, and the role of work in a man's life with the highly-acclaimed Into the Breach series and discussion.

Three video series and accompanying study guides equip men with the wisdom they need to better lead themselves and their families in living out the Faith:

The original **Into the Breach** video series, inspired by the apostolic exhortation of Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted, outlines the challenges faced by men of faith in the world today.

The **Into the Breach: The Mission of the Family** video series presents the Catholic vision of family life and inspires viewers to incorporate it into daily life. This series can also be viewed by couples.

Into the Breach: The Dignity of Work describes the Catholic vision of man's mission in the world and the role of work in his life and sanctification.

Councils host sessions with members of the council and parish, such as *Cor* gatherings, to view videos and discuss the content. Resources for the series are available at kofc.org/intothebreach.

¡VIVA CRISTO REY!

Celebrate the sanctity of the Mexican Martyrs, including members of the Knights of Columbus, who were killed for their faith.

During the religious persecution of Catholics by the Mexican government in the early 20th century, which led to "La Cristiada," or the "Cristero War," priests, missionaries and members of religious orders were expelled from the country, more than a million Mexicans migrated to the United States seeking refuge, and others spontaneously organized to defend themselves against government oppression, some peacefully and others taking up arms under the banner of "Cristo Rey y Santa María de Guadalupe"

or “Christ the King and Holy Mary of Guadalupe.” Councils are encouraged to ask for the intercession of the Mexican Martyrs by going to Mass on their feast day, praying a novena leading up to their feast day, and spreading devotion to these Saints and Blesseds throughout their community.

IMITATING SAINT JUAN DIEGO

Promote devotion to St. Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe.

As Knights of Columbus, whose patroness is Our Lady of Guadalupe, we are called to be her messengers, just as St. Juan Diego was throughout his life. Councils can teach others about the lives of these two great saints and about their status as powerful intercessors by organizing a traveling image or statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe, promoting acts of popular piety and sharing the richness and blessings of Our Lady of Guadalupe with members, their families and their parishes. High-quality statues and images are available for order on Supplies Online.

PILGRIM ICON PROGRAM

Unite your community in a special act of prayer and devotion to the saints by hosting the pilgrim icon.

The Knights of Columbus regularly adopt a special icon of a saint whose patronage is inspiring to Knights and their communities. These icons travel between councils and inspire communal acts of prayer and devotion. Each Knights of Columbus jurisdiction receives several traveling pilgrim icons, which serve as the centerpieces for prayer services conducted in churches and council meeting places throughout the Order for the duration of the initiative. The current Pilgrim Icon features the Sacred Heart of Jesus. For more information on the Sacred Heart Holy Hour and Home Enthronements, visit kofc.org/sacredheart.

ROSARY PROGRAM

Build faithful families and communities by praying the rosary.

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 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). Kits with rosary rings, rosary prayer guides, and leader books are available for councils to order on Supplies Online.

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

Create annual opportunities for prayer and reflection as a fraternity.

Under the guidance of their chaplain, councils can attend a retreat or day of reflection together or organize their own event for the parish. 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 attend an existing retreat as a group.

HOLY HOUR

Encourage deep personal encounters with Christ.

Faith

As Catholics, we believe in the Real Presence: that Jesus Christ is truly present – body, blood, soul, and divinity – in the Eucharist. As such, we are compelled to grow in our devotion to Jesus in the Eucharist and to share His presence with the world.

Holy Hours feature the exposition and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and can also include a reflection, communal rosary, prayers for the intercession of Blessed Michael McGivney or St. Joseph, and other devotions as decided by the council and pastor. Eucharistic Processions provide an opportunity to walk with the Blessed Sacrament through your community, bringing Jesus to everyone along the route. For more information visit kofc.org/eucharist.

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 are 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. Councils can show their support by providing gifts to members of their community when they are baptized, confirmed, married, ordained, profess religious vows or receive their first Holy Communion.

Family

The programs in this category are developed for families by families. Blessed Michael 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 a challenge to continue to ground ourselves and raise our children in the faith.

Our family programs are a response to a society that seeks to weaken the bonds of family. Blessed Michael 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.

BUILD-A-BED

Build beds for children who would otherwise sleep on the floor or in other sub-optimal conditions.

The Knights of Columbus and Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) are working together to ensure every kid has a bed of their own.

Councils provide the funding, manpower, and build site (although some SHP chapters have their own build site), and SHP provides the tools, training, and materials. SHP will also identify the children in need of beds and coordinate the bed delivery.

Volunteers show up, sign in, receive safety gear and are given a short training by SHP team members. They then volunteer at various stations. There are stations for sawing, sanding, drilling, assembling, staining and branding the wood. What starts as a pile of raw lumber from the hardware store becomes ready-to-deliver bunks for kids in need.

Visit shpbeds.org or shpbeds.ca to organize a build event with a local chapter.

FOOD FOR FAMILIES

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

Council and parish families 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 refunds $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. 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.

Family

REMEMBERING OUR FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Honor and pray for the deceased members of your council, families and parish community.

By commemorating the dearly departed, and calling upon the intercession of the saints, Knights can help others overcome the grief that accompanies the death of a loved one, strengthen family bonds, promote the unique cultural and religious traditions of their parishes and help the suffering souls in purgatory. Councils can implement this program by creating "ofrendas" or altars in their churches or homes that serve as a call to prayer for the deceased. Other means of commemoration include praying at cemeteries, offering a Mass for the deceased or praying a memorial rosary. Councils can also work with their parishes to organize a youth costume party honoring the saints or clean and decorate gravestones and cemetery plots.

QUINCEAÑERA SUPPORT

Support the quinceañera celebrations of the families in your parish.

A quinceañera, common in Hispanic cultures, celebrates a 15-year-old young woman's passage from childhood to adulthood, thanks God for the blessing of her life and asks for His blessing going forward. Councils can serve as a part of this important milestone by providing resources, manpower and general support for the celebration and related prayer services or thanksgiving Mass. Knights can carry out their duties to form families and support their parishes by providing assistance with this formative aspect of young women's spiritual lives, especially by offering Our Lady as a role model.

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

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

The Keep Christ in Christmas (KCIC) program 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.

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 Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest is open to all youth between the grade groups of Kindergarten through 8th grade. Each local, district, regional or jurisdictional competition may have up to 3 winning entries – a first, second, and third place winner in each grade category. State winners compete for cash prizes at the international level.

BUILDING THE DOMESTIC CHURCH KIOSK

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

By making the Building the Domestic Church Kiosk (#BDC-K) available in your parish and organizing activities based on its content, councils will educate and evangelize using the rich, faith-based literature found in the Catholic Information Service (CIS) Building the Domestic Church series of booklets. 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.

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 can come together to consecrate themselves under the protection of the

Family

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 guide their parishes and communities 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.

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. 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.

Multiple groups can be formed and families are encouraged to rotate between these groups. Families can also use the *Family Fully Alive Booklet* (#10162) as a devotional guide, which provides monthly themes, reflections, meditations, and group projects.

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 and 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.

Councils across North America can purchase new winter coats for children in need at a discount and distribute them in their local communities. For additional information visit kofc.org/coats.

GLOBAL WHEELCHAIR MISSION

Change the lives of people with disabilities worldwide.

The Knights of Columbus has partnered with the American Wheelchair Mission and Canadian Wheelchair Foundation, which falls under the umbrella of the Global Wheelchair Mission, to obtain wheelchairs at a deeply discounted price. These wheelchairs help provide aid to those who lack the freedom of mobility in our communities. The Global Wheelchair Mission is a perfect opportunity to put your Faith in Action and involve the entire community through rewarding charitable work done by councils. One of the most effective ways councils can run this program is by organizing a Wheelchair Sunday event in their parish.

BRIGHT FUTURES

Support the students and schools in your parish communities.

Too often, youth face significant barriers to their educational success. Councils can help by providing funding and resources to those most in need. Popular

Community

ways to provide support include establishing parish libraries relevant to your local community, running supply drives and fundraisers, participating in school beautification projects and supporting other volunteer programs offered by schools. Catholic schools are in particular need of council support.

CELEBRATING OUR CATHOLIC HERITAGE

Celebrate the cultures and traditions of your parish communities.

Feast days provide a perfect opportunity to celebrate some of the most important days of both the liturgical and calendar year. Councils can host parish festivals and other events featuring the food, music, art, and Catholic devotions of the countries or cultures represented in their areas. This program aims to educate, inspire, and unite the community while celebrating the deep-rooted faith and cultural heritage of its members.

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 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 for times of crisis, assessing response capabilities, and learning how to properly respond well ahead of a disaster. Councils engage their parish and community in disaster preparedness exercises by organizing training, fundraisers and various awareness activities.

FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP

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. Councils can sponsor a competition by ordering a Free Throw Championship Kit or volunteering to host and/or support the district, regional and state/province championships. The highest scoring entries for each age and gender among all the Order's state-level winners are awarded international trophies. Supplies, including basketballs, trophies and other promotional items, are available on Supplies Online.

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. State winners are entered into the international competition for cash prizes. For additional information and to find this year's Essay Contest topic visit kofc.org/essay.

Community

SOCCER/HOCKEY CHALLENGE

The Soccer/Hockey 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 and hockey — shooting accuracy on goal — and compete to reach the international level of competition. Councils are free to choose between either the Soccer or Hockey Challenge, whichever makes the most sense for the youth of your community. Councils can sponsor a competition by ordering a Soccer Challenge Kit or Hockey Challenge Kit, or volunteer to host and/or support the district, regional and state/province championships. The highest scoring entries for each age and gender among all the Order's state-level winners are awarded international trophies. Supplies, including soccer balls, pucks, trophies and other promotional items, are available on Supplies Online.

HELPING HANDS

In the model of our founder, Blessed Michael McGivney, councils 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. The requirements for this program are very broad in order to allow councils to serve their community in whatever way is most needed. One idea is to partner with Cross Catholic Outreach to see how you can serve your local community.

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.

ASAP (AID AND SUPPORT AFTER PREGNANCY)

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

Thousands of pro-life pregnancy centers and maternity homes operate in jurisdictions throughout the Order. With our aid, they can offer greater support to help women choose life. Councils can provide material, financial, and other support to these organizations that help pregnant women during pregnancy and following the birth of their newborn children.

For every $500 a council donates to a qualifying pregnancy resource center or maternity home, the Supreme Council will donate an additional $100 (up to a maximum of $400 for $2,000 donated). Visit kofc.org/asap for resources and to apply online.

MARCH 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 sponsor, promote, and participate in existing local, state, provincial and national marches. They can also organize bus trips. Councils in areas without existing events can organize new rallies, walks and marches on their own or by coordinating with other pro-life organizations.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

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

The Knights of Columbus has a unique relationship 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 Special Olympics events 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. Councils should submit their participation in Special Olympics events and fundraising through the online *Fraternal Programs Report Form* (#10784). The more councils participating in a jurisdiction, the larger the donation the Supreme Council will make each year to the

respective state or provincial Special Olympics organization in the jurisdiction.

ULTRASOUND INITIATIVE

Save lives and help women choose life by giving them the opportunity to view their unborn children on ultrasound machines at pro-life pregnancy centers.

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 donates funds 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. This program has specific guidelines. Be sure to consult your State Life Director or the Department of Fraternal Mission before beginning this program.

GOSPEL OF LIFE

Educate your council and wider parish community on the sanctity of life from conception to natural death.

Knights of Columbus promote the teachings of the Church, share pro-life informational resources and organize events featuring pro-life speakers as part of their efforts to defend life. Councils can use the Knights of Columbus *Evangelium Vitae Study Guide* (#614) to study St. John Paul II's historical encyclical and lead discussion groups. They can also participate in prayer campaigns like the 9 Days for Life Novena, 40 Days for Life or Life Chain. By learning important truths about human life and sharing them with others, councils can help spread awareness of pro-life issues, save lives and strengthen families.

HOLY HOUR FOR LIFE WITH OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Organize adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and ask for Our Lady of Guadalupe's intercession for the cause of Life.

As patroness of the unborn and as a pregnant woman herself, Our Lady of Guadalupe is a powerful advocate for those at-risk of abortion and all those involved in the pro-life movement. Councils can host a Holy Hour and choose a variety of intentions for which to seek Our Lady's intercession, such as healing from infertility, defense of the unborn, care for mothers and families and an end to the evil of abortion.

CHRISTIAN REFUGEE RELIEF

Help save persecuted and at-risk Christians facing genocide all over the world.

Knights of Columbus are called to bring awareness and support to those who have suffered for their faith. The Knights of Columbus Persecuted Christians Fund provides humanitarian assistance, primarily in Iraq, Syria, and the surrounding region, as well as Nigeria. 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.

Life

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 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 for people with special needs. Celebrating a Mass for People with Special Needs can be the first of many steps toward integration 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.

Faith in Action

SUPREME CHAPLAIN'S FAITH IN ACTION MONTHLY CHALLENGE

Few if any organizations can unify over 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:

- Social media
- *Knightline*
- *Columbia Magazine*
- kofc.org/domesticchurch

FAITH IN ACTION MONTHLY CHALLENGE INSTRUCTIONS

1. Begin with a prayer of your choosing or use the following:
   - **Prayer:** Come Holy Spirit. We thank you for guiding our lives and pray that we may have the courage exemplified by Blessed Michael 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.

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