

Heart of the Gospel FAQ



Q: What is the *Heart of the Gospel* retreat?

A: The *Heart of the Gospel* is a retreat for men developed by the Knights of Columbus together with Fr. John Riccardo and the ACTS XXIX: Mobilizing for Mission apostolate. It is a free, video-based retreat that *Cor* leaders can facilitate at a local parish with their pastor's permission.

Q: Why should I attend the *Heart of the Gospel* retreat?

A: You should attend because Fr. Riccardo presents the Gospel in a dynamic way that you are unlikely to have experienced before. In addition to excellent formation, you'll have times of prayer to encounter the Lord in Scripture and Sacramentally, and plenty of chances for fraternal discussion with your brothers in Christ.

Q: Why should I facilitate or volunteer at the *Heart of the Gospel* retreat?

A: The *Heart of the Gospel* retreat is meant to help men become more devoted disciples of Jesus Christ. That's a good cause to support! More specifically, facilitating the retreat is a unique leadership opportunity that will help you and your team draw closer in friendship and improve as leaders. Not only will you be helping men know and love Jesus, but you'll be honing your abilities as a leader, too.

Q: Who can attend?

A: The retreat is offered to any man (18 years or older) of your parish. If men from other parishes and councils want to attend, you should ask your pastor and grand knight if that is acceptable. You want to ensure that parishes and KofC councils in the same area maintain good relationships, so it is important to check with your pastor and grand knight and follow the lead of your pastor.

Q: What should retreatants bring to the retreat?

A: Typically, all necessary materials for the retreat will be provided to you. If you prefer praying with your personal rosary beads or Bible, you may wish to bring them, but you generally are not required to bring anything with you. In certain circumstances – if you volunteered to bring specific materials, for instance – you may need to bring something with you if it could not be delivered prior to the start of the retreat.

Q: What is the cost?

A: The retreat materials are available at no cost, and local councils are encouraged to defray materials and food costs associated with the retreat. The goal is for the retreat to be provided for free, but it is possible a cost will be associated with the retreat, though the cost should be minimal.

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Q: Will retreatants be asked to join the Knights of Columbus during the retreat?

A: The retreat script contains nothing related to KofC membership requests. Individual men on the retreat could in theory ask you to join the Order, but they would be doing so of their own initiative, not as a part of the retreat proper. You will be invited to participate in *Cor*, but you do not have to be a Knight to do so.

Q: Do retreatants need to attend *Cor* to attend the retreat?

A: No, but there are special *Cor* sessions before and after the retreat that will help you make the most of your retreat experience. It will be helpful to attend *Cor* before and after the retreat to benefit from these sessions, as well as to meet many of the men who likely will be attending and helping to facilitate the retreat.

Q: You posted the retreat videos online, so why should I come to the retreat in person?

A: While watching the videos by yourself could be beneficial, the experience of hearing Fr. Riccardo's presentations in the company of the men of your parish, praying with them, and having fraternal discussions with them is what makes the retreat. You would be missing out on so many of the most important aspects of the retreat if you simply watched the videos by yourself, and you would be depriving other men of your presence and the unique contributions you can make to their experience of the retreat.