

Faith in Action

New Programs

Nine new Faith in Action programs have been released as part of our efforts to welcome more men into the Order and better serve the spiritual and cultural needs of their families. These programs fall under the Order's existing categories of Faith, Family, Community and Life, and give councils new opportunities to engage their parishes and wider communities. By using these programs, councils can better appeal to the men and families in their local communities and create an environment where men will want to join the Order.

Resources for all programs can be ordered on Supplies Online. For more information and digital resources, visit kofc.org/fiaresources.

NEW PROGRAMS

FAITH	COMMUNITY
¡Viva Cristo Rey! Imitating Saint Juan Diego	Celebrating Our Catholic Heritage Bright Futures
FAMILY	LIFE
Build-a-Bed Remembering our Faithful Departed Quinceañera Support	Gospel of Life Holy Hour for Life with Our Lady of Guadalupe





FAITH

¡VIVA CRISTO REY!

The *¡Viva Cristo Rey!* program celebrates 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. During the persecution, 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 the novena leading up to their feast day, and spreading devotion to these Saints and Blesseds throughout their community.

Suggested Program Dates: The feast day of the Saint Mexican Martyrs (May 21), the feast day of the Blessed Mexican Martyrs (Nov. 20) or leading up to the Solemnity of Christ the King.

IMITATING SAINT JUAN DIEGO

The *Imitating St. Juan Diego* program encourages councils to 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 statue or image of Our Lady of Guadalupe (available on Supplies Online), promoting acts of popular piety and sharing the richness and blessings of Our Lady of Guadalupe with members, their families and their parishes.

Suggested Program Dates: The feast day of St. Juan Diego (Dec. 9) or Our Lady of Guadalupe (Dec. 12).



LIFE

GOSPEL OF LIFE

The *Gospel of Life* program calls upon councils to educate their members and wider parish communities on the sanctity of life from conception to natural death. To do so, councils can study the teachings of the Church, promote other informational resources and organize events featuring pro-life speakers. 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.

Suggested Program Dates: Consider the weeks preceding national, state or local marches for life, during 40 Days for Life and Life Chain campaigns, and during Respect Life Month (October, United States), National Family and Life Week (varies in May, Canada) and the International Day for the Unborn Child (March 25).

HOLY HOUR FOR LIFE WITH OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

The [*Holy Hour for Life with Our Lady of Guadalupe*](#) calls upon councils to 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 choose a variety of intentions for which to seek Our Lady's assistance, such as healing from infertility, defense of the unborn, care for mothers and families, and an end to the evil of abortion.

Suggested Program Dates: The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12), leading up to National or State Marches for Life, The International Day for the Unborn Child (March 25), Respect Life Month (October).



FAMILY

REMEMBERING OUR FAITHFUL DEPARTED

The [*Remembering Our Faithful Departed*](#) program calls upon councils to honor and pray for the deceased members of their 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, and promote the unique cultural and religious traditions of their parishes. Councils can implement this program by creating "ofrendas" and altars in their churches or homes that serve as a call to prayer for the deceased. Other means of commemoration include praying at cemeteries or offering a Mass for the deceased. Councils can also work with their parishes to organize a youth costume party honoring the saints or clean and decorate gravestones and cemetery plots.

Suggested Program Dates: October 31 (All Hallow's Eve), All Saints' Day (November 1), All Souls' Day (November 2), and the entire month of November.

BUILD-A-BED

Through the [*Build-a-Bed*](#) program, 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. Visit shpbeds.org or shpbeds.ca to organize a build event with a local chapter.

Suggested Program Dates: This program can be run any time of the year but warmer months provide the opportunity for outdoor builds at your parish or another council location.

QUINCEAÑERA SUPPORT

The [*Quinceañera Support*](#) program encourages councils to support the quinceañera celebrations of the families in their 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 thanksgiving Mass.

Suggested Program Dates: In coordination with the pastor and families, determine the most appropriate time to celebrate a thanksgiving Mass or prayer service. Some dioceses and parishes may offer group celebrations.



COMMUNITY

BRIGHT FUTURES

The [*Bright Futures*](#) program invites councils to support the students and schools in their 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 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.

Suggested Program Dates: Back-to-School Week, Black Friday, Boxing Day, 3 King's Day (Jan. 6), and Catholic Schools Week (last week of January).

CELEBRATING OUR CATHOLIC HERITAGE

The [*Celebrating Our Catholic Heritage*](#) program encourages councils to celebrate the cultures and traditions of their parish communities. Feast days provide a perfect opportunity to celebrate some of the most important days of both the liturgical and calendar year. Parish festivals and other events can feature 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.

Suggested Program Dates: Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15 – Nov. 15) or on the feast day of an important saint or blessed for the parish or community.