

## Our Lady as a Role Model

The Quinceañera Support program is a great opportunity for Knights to support families and young women in their parish at an important time in their faith journeys.

Councils are encouraged to propose Our Lady as a role model for girls and young women in today's society. The Blessed Virgin's faith, charity, humility and trust in the Lord are worthy of perfect imitation.

The following resources can be distributed to families and young women as part of their initial and ongoing formation for the quinceañera.

- *Quinceañera Prayer of Thanksgiving* (#11918)
- *Young Woman's Prayer* (#11917)
- *Mary, The Mother of God* booklet (#324)
- *The Magnificat* (#4753)
- *A Guide to Praying the Rosary* (#4772)
- *Rosary to Our Lady of Guadalupe* (#11879)
- *God's Plan for Love and Marriage* (#333)
- *Lectio Divina Trifold* (#11652)
- *First Steps on the Little Way of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux* (#307)



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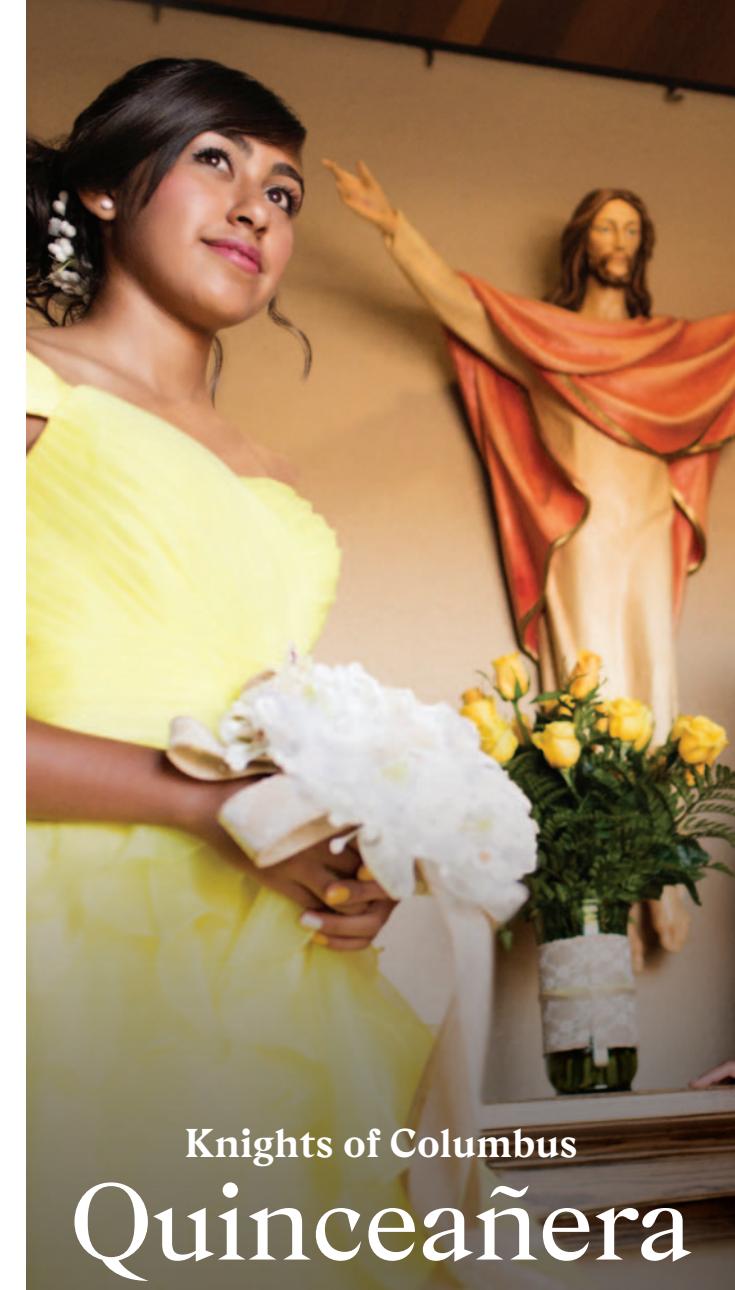
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Family

## What is a Quinceañera?

A quinceañera is a celebration, common in Hispanic cultures, that marks the passage of a 15-year-old young woman from childhood to adulthood. These celebrations can include Mass or prayer, music, dancing and other festivities. Ideally, the celebration should include the young woman and her family thanking God for the life she has lived and asking for His blessing going forward.

## What Role Should My Council Play?

Councils can help make quinceañera celebrations successful by providing resources, manpower and general support for the activities leading up to the event and for the event itself.

The goals of a council in supporting these events are to help the young woman grow in virtue and in her spiritual life, to lead her to imitate the Blessed Virgin Mary, and to help the family with the logistics of the celebration.



## Suggested Dates to Run Quinceañera Support

In coordination with the pastor and families, determine most appropriate time to celebrate a thanksgiving Mass or prayer service for the life of the young woman. Some dioceses and parishes may also offer group celebrations.

## Ways to Provide Support

- As a council, work with your parish to identify families that need your support for a quinceañera celebration.
- Some parishes offer a thanksgiving Mass or prayer service for the quinceañera. Ask your pastor if he would like to use the *Order for the Blessing on the Fifteenth Birthday*.
- Provide *Quinceañera Prayer of Thanksgiving (#11918)* and *Young Woman's Prayer (#11917)* prayer cards.
- Donate flowers, medals, rosaries or other religious objects.
- Help with the preparations for the celebration following the ceremony/Mass such as food preparation, decorations and run of show.
- Contact your diocese to learn about any relevant formation programs to share with the young woman's family.

