

Remembering Our Faithful Departed

Overview

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 asking for 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 the Remembering Our Faithful Departed program by creating “ofrendas” and altars in their churches or homes which serve as a call to prayer for the deceased. Other means of commemoration can include praying a *Memorial Rosary* (#11844) at cemeteries, offering a Mass for the deceased, or praying the *One Hundred Requiem* prayer (#11852). Councils can also work with their parishes to organize a youth costume party honoring the Saints or clean and decorate gravestones and cemetery plots.

Featured Program Requirements

For two program credits toward the Columbian Award – Organize an event to remember the faithful departed of your parish and council.

Action Steps

1. Working with your pastor, develop a plan to pray for and honor the faithful departed of the parish and council. You can share the *Remembering Our Faithful Departed Brochure* (#11851) with your pastor and council to give them an idea of what the program might entail.
2. Consider the following activities:
 - Set up an “ofrenda” and altar to remember, honor and pray for the parish and council members that have passed, as well as for the deceased family members of parishioners and council members. If the altar cannot be set up in the parish, encourage families to build their own ofrendas at home. Ideas for setting up the ofrenda can be found in the *Remembering Our Faithful Departed Brochure* (#11851).
 - Organize a visit to a cemetery and recite the *Memorial Rosary* (#11844), *One Hundred Requiem* (#11852), or the *Prayer for the Holy Souls in Purgatory* (#11787) for the faithful departed and/or clean and decorate graves.
 - Organize an All Saints Day party for children to dress up as their favorite Catholic saints.
3. Choose a date to organize your event. The suggested time for this program is Oct. 31 through the end of November, especially Nov. 1 (Solemnity of All Saints) and Nov. 2 (All Souls Day). Events can also take place at any time of the year following the death of a council member or another loved one.



4. Build public interest for the program! Promote the Remembering Our Faithful Departed program in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
 - Prominently display promotional posters at the high-traffic areas of the parish.
 - Post a signup sheet in the parish hall or create a QR code with registration.
 - Bulletin announcements.
 - Pulpit announcements.
 - Post on your council and parish website / social media pages.
5. Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph the event.
6. At the end of the fraternal year, report this program as part of your *Columbian Award Application* (#SP-7).

Resources

1. #11851 - *Remembering Our Faithful Departed Brochure*
2. #11787 - *Prayer for the Holy Souls in Purgatory*
3. #11844 - *Memorial Rosary*
4. #11852 - *One Hundred Requiem Prayer*
5. #11854 - *Vertical Poster*
6. #11855 - *Horizontal Poster*