

The Gospel of Life

Overview

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 also use the *Knights of Columbus Evangelium Vitae Study Guide* (#614) to study St. John Paul II's historical encyclical and lead discussion groups. 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.

Featured Program Requirements

For two program credits toward the Columbian Award – Organize a study group using the *Gospel of Life Study Guide* (#614) or organize an event featuring a pro-life speaker.

Action Steps

1. Working with the pastor, develop a strategy to educate others on pro-life issues in the parish and community.
2. While the program can take place at any time of the year, 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).
3. Consider the following ways to educate those in your parish community:
 - Organize a study group to meet and discuss the encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* using the *Gospel of Life Study Guide* (#614) from the *Cor Ecclesiae* series.
 - Invite speakers to give a talk at the parish about a pro-life topic.
 - Setup a table or bulletin board with materials highlighting ways to support pro-life ministries as well as the Order's other pro-life programs. You can also hand out educational brochures or booklets including the booklet entitled *The Fifth Commandment: Moral Issues of Life and Death* (#127).
 - Partner with other organizations to host pro-life and pro-family conferences and other educational events.
4. Build public interest for the program! Promote the Gospel of Life program 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 and pulpit announcements.
 - Post on your council and parish website / social media pages.



5. Invite Catholic men attending the event to join the Order:
 - On the day of the event, wear Knights of Columbus-branded apparel and have the council membership director set up a table with brochures and membership documents (including *Prospect Cards #921A*).
 - Encourage men to join at the event using the kofc.org/join website on their phone.
 - A Knight should open or close the event and share information about the Order.
6. Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph the event.
7. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms.
 - Immediately after your event is finished, complete the Fraternal Programs Report Form (#10784)
 - At the end of the fraternal year, complete the Columbian Award Application (#SP-7)

Resources

1. #614 - *The Gospel of Life Study Guide*
2. #127 - *The Fifth Commandment: Moral Issues of Life and Death*
3. #4237 - *Gospel of Life Prayer Card*
4. #11915 - *Gospel of Life Brochure*