

# ¡Viva Cristo Rey!

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## Overview

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, praying the novena leading up to their feast days, and spreading devotion to these saints and blessed throughout their community.

## Featured Program Requirements

*For two program credits toward the Columbian Award* – Organize a novena and/or Mass in honor of the Mexican Martyrs.

## Action Steps

1. Working with your pastor, develop a plan to increase devotion to the Mexican Martyrs.
  - Celebrate Mass and pray the Mexican Martyrs Novena leading up to the May 21 feast of the Mexican Martyrs (Optional Memorial of Saint Christopher Magallanes, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs).
    - This Mass commemorates saints including the following Knights of Columbus: St. Luis Batis Sáinz, St. José María Robles Hurtado, St. Mateo Correa Magallanes, St. Miguel de la Mora de la Mora, St. Rodrigo Aguilar Alemán, St. Pedro de Jesús Maldonado Lucero.
  - Councils can also pray the Mexican Martyrs Novena leading up to the Solemnity of Christ the King or the Mexican Martyrs’ Nov. 20 feast day (in certain dioceses) which commemorates the following Knights of Columbus: Bl. José Trinidad Rangel Montaña, Bl. Andrés Solá y Molist, Bl. Leonardo Pérez Larios.
2. Build public interest for the program! Promote the ¡Viva, Cristo Rey! program in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
  - Prominently display promotional posters at the high-traffic areas of the parish.
  - Bulletin and pulpit announcements.
  - Email the novena directly to parishioners.
  - Post on your council and parish website / social media pages.
3. Distribute copies of the *Novena to the Mexican Martyrs* (#11909) at the church and encourage council members and parishioners to pray. A digital version of the novena can also be emailed to parishioners and posted to social media.



4. Other ways to offer this program include:
  - Distribute *Mexican Martyr Prayer Cards* (#4229) and the *Blesseds and Saints of the Knights of Columbus* (#11853) to parishioners.
  - Host a dinner or social following the Mass at the parish.
  - Host a watch party of the movie *For Greater Glory* as part of your promotions.
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](http://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. #4229 - *Mexican Martyrs Prayer Card*
2. #11909 - *Mexican Martyrs Novena Booklet*
3. #11853 - *Blesseds and Saints of the Knights of Columbus*
4. #11910 - *Vertical Poster*