



The Circle Compass

MARCH 2009

Lead the way.

SQUIRES/KNIGHTS JOIN NFCYM

The Columbian Squires/Knights of Columbus joined the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) as a “collaborating member” during the NFCYM’s Annual Meeting, held in Rhode Island, January 28-31.

The NFCYM, based in Washington, D.C., is composed of 179 affiliated dioceses – 96% of all of the Catholic dioceses in the United States – and 61 national youth serving organizations referred to as “collaborating members.”

The NFCYM’s mission is “To serve those who serve the young Catholic Church.” By becoming a collaborating member, the Columbian Squires/Knights of Columbus can better serve young people in the Catholic Church, including our own Columbian Squires.

As a professional organization of affiliated dioceses and collaborating members, the NFCYM

provides leadership, resources, services, and conferences for the education and formation of diocesan leaders, youth ministers and young people.

The NFCYM organizes two major conferences, the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) held in odd numbered years, for young people, and the National Conference for Catholic Youth Ministry (NCCYM), held in even numbered years, for adults who work with youth.

Thus, the next NCYC, under the theme, “Christ Reigns,” will be held November 19-21, 2009 in Kansas City, MO when about 20,000 Catholic young people from throughout the U.S. are expected to attend. Columbian Squires, as future leaders in the Church and in the Knights of Columbus, are encouraged to register through their local diocese to attend the NCYC this November. A video of what a young person can expect at the NCYC can be viewed at the NFCYM website at www.nfcym.org. Since many attending chaperones, including Squires counselors, are parents, there will be a special “Parent Track” on the agenda at this year’s conference.

The next NCCYM, for an expected 2,000 adult youth workers, will be held December 9-12, 2010 in New Orleans under the theme “March with the Saints.” The conference will feature speakers, workshops, an exhibit area, prayer and worship. Squires counselors who attend will gain much insight and new tools to use in their work with Catholic young men in the Columbian Squires.

Because the Columbian Squires/Knights of Columbus is now a collaborating member of the NFCYM, Squires and counselors attending the NCYC or the NCCYM will be eligible to register at affiliate rates.

Counselors, Squires, and other Knights are encouraged to acquaint themselves with other services offered by the NFCYM, including National

DATES TO REMEMBER

March

- 1 Pro Deo and Pro Patria Scholarship Applications Due
- 17 St. Patrick’s Day
- 25 K of C “Day of the Unborn Child”
- 29 Founder’s Day

April

- 1-30 “Squires Month”
- 12 Easter
- 22 80th Anniversary of Death of Brother Barnabas, Founder of the Squires

May

- 3 World Day of Prayer for Vocations
- 10 Mothers Day

CYO Sports (NCYOS), the National Association of Catholic Youth Ministry Leaders (NACYML), which is a professional association for individual Catholic youth ministers, online training courses, nationally recognized certification programs for youth ministers, and an online store. Visit the NFCYM website at www.nfcym.org for more information about NFCYM programs and services.

2008 “ANNUAL SURVEY OF FRATERNAL ACTIVITY” DUE

The **2008 Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity** (#1728C) was due at the Supreme Council office by **January 31**. Copies of Form #1728C can be found at www.kofc.org/squires and also on pages 7-8 of the “Circle Report Forms Booklet.” A copy is also enclosed for chief counselors. If your circle has not already done so, please have your chief squire and bursar work with the circle to submit the form as soon as possible. Help assure 100% circle reporting in your jurisdiction! *These figures are used to help justify the continued federal tax-exempt status of the Knights of Columbus! Submission of this report is also a requirement for your circle to qualify for the Corps d’Elite Award!*

K OF C “DAY OF THE UNBORN CHILD”

Wednesday, March 25 is the date for this year’s observance of the eighth annual Knights of Columbus “**Day of the Unborn Child.**” Circles are encouraged to hold pro-life events, such as a Rosary for Life, a special Mass on behalf of the unborn, or other spiritual and service programs on behalf of unborn children and their mothers on March 25th.

“SQUIRES MONTH” EVENTS PROMOTE CIRCLE AND 18 YEAR-OLD SQUIRES

During “Columbian Squires Month” in April circles should hold special joint council/circle activities such as an awards banquet or sporting event, or a Mass followed by breakfast for Knights, Squires and their families. Each circle should have a publicity committee to ensure that “Squires Month” activities get the publicity they deserve in the local and diocesan media and to make the Squires program known to young Catholic men who might be interested in joining. Also, encourage each sponsoring council to hold a First Degree for your circles’ 18-year-old Squires and their non-Squire friends during April!

STATE CIRCLE CONVENTIONS

Many jurisdictions will soon be holding their annual state circle conventions. All Squires should attend their respective jurisdiction’s convention to benefit from the leadership training and the opportunity to network and share ideas.

State squires chairmen should order any convention materials they might need. Refer to the *Supply Catalog* (#1264) for Squire program materials and to the *Promotional and Gift Catalog* (#1427) for Knights of Columbus gift and award ideas.

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

Encourage your circle’s membership committee to hold a Squires membership recruitment campaign at school, at church, or wherever it is most likely to attract new members for the circle. The chairmen and his committee should have all of the circle’s Squires submit names of prospective members and should assign a Squire to approach each prospect about joining. Invite prospects to a circle activity, or to an “open house,” to meet the other Squires and to see the Squires in action!

PER CAPITA TAX PAYMENTS DUE APRIL 10

January 1, 2009 per capita tax payments are payable by April 10. Circles overdue on their payments will be suspended from state circle activities until payment is made. Circles planning to participate in their jurisdiction’s state circle activities must be in good standing financially with the Supreme Council office in order to participate. Monthly “Status Reports” and circle Financial Statements identify which circles need to pay their dues in order to participate in state circle events.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS – MAY 3RD

Plan to observe the World Day of Prayer for Vocations on May 3 with a circle activity, such as a talk by the circle’s father prior or pastor, a retreat, or a vocations fair. Circles could also participate in the Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP). Encourage a seminarian or religious novice with moral support and a contribution of \$100 or more, for which the Supreme Council office will issue the circle a \$20 rebate. See details on the RSVP application (#2863) at www.kofc.org/squires or in the Circle Report Forms Booklet.