



The Circle Compass

November 2008

Lead the way.

USE YOUR MID-YEAR MEETING TO PROMOTE THE SQUIRES

State squires chairmen should use their jurisdiction's mid-year meeting to promote the Columbian Squires. Whether giving a speech or presenting a display, keep the Squires program in the thoughts of all that attend so that, when the meeting is over, councils and assemblies from all parts of your jurisdiction will be inquiring about how to start a Squires circle! Order promotional Squires materials from the Supreme Council Supply Department for distribution at the meeting. Following the meeting, go to the Council Forms section at www.kofc.org and use Form #2935, or call the Squires office in the Department of Fraternal Services at 203-752-4402, to have a Squires "Inquiry Kit" sent to each interested council and assembly.

SQUIRES WEBSITE REDESIGNED

Additions to and changes in the Squires website should help you navigate the site more easily while offering you even more information and tools to use in your Squires circle. Go to www.kofc.org/squires to see the changes and the latest news.

DATES TO REMEMBER

November

- 11 Remembrance Day (Canada)
Veteran's Day (U.S.)
- 27 Thanksgiving (U.S.)

December

- 2 "Light Up For Christ"
- 8 Feast of the Immaculate
Conception
- 12 Feast of Our Lady of Gaudalupe
- 25 Christmas

January

- 1 New Year's Day
- 22 March for Life (Washington,
D.C.)

"SQUIRE ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM"

With a first Squire, Deriek Iglesias of Circle 5022 in Harker Heights, TX, having achieved recognition as a "Squire of the Body of Christ," the highest level in the Squire Advancement Program, other Squires are probably not far behind. A Squire needs to complete a total of at least 96 achievements throughout his time in the Squires to advance through all five levels. One of those achievements must be a major, significant, service project initiated, organized and conducted by the Squire for the benefit of the Squire's parish or some other Church institution, such as a Catholic school, Catholic hospital, Catholic shrine, a diocesan office or program, etc. Only one Squire may be credited with leading a particular activity. Non-Church related projects, though commendable, and perhaps acceptable for fulfilling the requirements of some other activity of the "Squire Advancement Program," will not be accepted as meeting the requirements for this required "Church" activity. To receive recognition for achieving the "Squire of the Body of Christ" level, the chief counselor should submit to the Supreme Council office a copy of the Squire's "Squire Advancement Record" (#4622) and the "Squire of the Body of Christ" certification/order form (see copy enclosed). Before scheduling an award ceremony, allow at least four weeks to receive the "Squire of the Body of Christ" engraved name badge and certificate with the supreme knight's signature.

FORM A CEREMONIAL TEAM

If your circle does not already have a Squires ceremonial team, the officers should organize one so they can schedule and hold regular investiture ceremonies throughout the year as new candidates are recruited. The circle's membership committee should conduct recruitment campaigns at church, in school, and in religious education classes. Squires should recruit altar boys, classmates, teammates, friends and neighbors. At fraternal year-end, June 30, 2009, the names of 18-year-old Squires will be removed from the circle's roster. Plan now to replace these members with new, younger Squires.

HOW STRONG IS YOUR CIRCLE'S COUNSELOR TEAM?

Are you the circle's only counselor? What would happen if you resign, move, become ill, or die, or, for whatever reason, cannot continue in your role? Assure your circle will continue in experienced hands by always having one or more counselors in training to take over as chief counselor if the need arises. Can't recruit other Knights as counselors? Hold joint circle/council activities. Involve Squire's fathers in circle activities. When other Knights or fathers of Squires see the circle in action, they will be more likely to step forward to become counselors (after the fathers become Knights!). Also, invite graduating Squires to join the Knights and return as counselors! You'll not only be assuring the circle will continue, you'll be building up the Knights of Columbus as well!

COUNSELOR TRAINING

New counselors, from new and existing circles, usually want, and need, training. If you are a new counselor, you can begin educating yourself by reading the *Counselor Handbook* (#472) cover to cover.

Other essential reading materials, which each counselor should have, or can order from the Supply Department, should include the local circle (#445) and state circle (#448) bylaws, the Squires ceremonial book (#481), the *"How to Succeed at Membership Recruitment Reference Guide"* (#4038), the *"Youth Protection Program"* booklet (#4670), the *Squire Advancement Program Counselor Guide* (#4660), and the *"Circle Report Forms Booklet"* (#401).

For more advanced training, perhaps the state squires chairman, a state squires committeeman, or an experienced counselor could organize periodic counselor training sessions for counselors from neighboring circles, or in conjunction with state circle activities, such as the state circle convention.

Another outstanding training opportunity is the National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry (NCCYM), held biannually in even numbered years. This year's NCCYM will be held Dec. 4-7 in Cleveland, OH. Go to www.nfcym.org or call 202-636-3825 for more information.

MARCH FOR LIFE – WASHINGTON, D.C., SAN FRANCISCO, OTTAWA

Plan to join tens of thousands of other pro-life advocates on Thursday, Jan. 22, 2009, in Washington, D.C. at the annual March for Life. If you live in the western United States, join the 5th annual Walk for Life in San Francisco on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2009.

Live in Canada? Join the national March for Life on Thursday, May 14, 2009, on Parliament Hill, Ottawa, Ontario or check with your state council office for the date of marches in several provincial capitals.

Squires and Knights should politely but firmly demand an end to abortion and for protection of the lives of persons yet unborn! Tell the world that abortion not only kills the unborn baby, but abortion hurts the whole family - women, men, and children, too! Squires - "Defend Life"!

EXCITING PROGRAM ACTIVITIES!!!

What's exciting for you may not excite a 13 year-old boy. Ideas for circle program activities should not come from the counselors, but, rather, from the Squires themselves. If your Squires never seem to have any programming ideas, or the circle is losing members despite activities, before the next meeting, give each Squire a piece of paper, and ask them to write their ideas down. What would they like to do that would be fun, that would recruit new members, or that would be of service to others? After five minutes, have them gather in small groups of three or four Squires each to brainstorm additional ideas to write down. Collect the papers and, during the meeting, have the various ideas referred to the circle's spiritual, service, circle or membership committees for discussion and future action.

NEW CIRCLE DEVELOPMENT

As new circles are developed, each new circle needs to select a circle name. If the circle is to be named after a person, the person must be deceased, and the date of death must be included in the person's biography submitted to the Supreme Council office. If the circle is to be named after a priest, the circle must also submit a letter from the bishop approving of use of the priest's name. Only one circle in a jurisdiction may use the same person's name.