

Plan to Celebrate Squires Month

Each April, in celebration of "Squires Month," circles throughout the Order conduct open houses, membership drives, community service projects and social events that highlight the Squires as a leadership development program.

But celebrating the success of the Squires is not the only purpose of "Squires Month." Circles are reminded to sponsor newsworthy activities and events to increase public awareness. Charitable efforts and other worthwhile circle programs will help draw attention to your circle during "Squires Month" and through the entire year. Use whatever means are at your disposal to provide the people in your community with an opportunity to learn about the Squires so they'll have a better understanding of who the Squires are and what they do.

Possible activities for "Squires Month" include:

- Support a local cause in your



Squires from St. Polycarp Circle 5248 in Smyrna, Del., aided Knights from Brother Vincent Council 7517 and parishioners with fall clean-up work on the church grounds. A spring beautification project for your parish would be a great way to celebrate Squires Month.

community by volunteering or raising awareness and/or funds.

- Honor your father prior or parish priest by holding an investiture ceremony and dinner in his name. Be sure to recognize all they do for your Church community.

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Second Squire Attains Highest Level

The Supreme Council is pleased to announce and recognize the second Columbian Squire in the Order to reach the highest level in the Squire Advancement Program. Fernan O. Dealca of Gat. Blas F. Ople Circle 4863 in Calumpit, Luzon, Philippines, recently reached the top level, Squire of the Body of Christ.

Established in 2006, the Squire Advancement Program encourages a Squire to complete activities in four categories in each of five levels of advancement, called Page, Shield Bearer, Swordsman, Lancer and the highest, Squire of the Body of Christ. A Squire must complete at least 96 activities, including a major service activity on behalf of a Church institution.

Fernan's major activity was called "Ushering Service in Holy Mass" and consisted of nearly a year of service to his parish through the organization of his circle's Squires to provide ushers for Masses and to distribute rosaries to

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Circle Supports Troops, Receives Recognition for Efforts

As many Squires know, providing support to our troops on the front-lines is an important element of a Squire's duty to his country. Circles, including **Frank J. Parater Circle 5069 in Richmond, Va.**, often organize drives and collections to benefit our soldiers and their families. Not every circle, however, receives the recognition for their deeds that Circle 5069 was given.

Squires received an American flag that was "...flown in the face of the enemy at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait on 1 May 2008 and bears witness to the fight for freedom and democracy for all as a part of the Global War on Terrorism." The flag and framed certificate was presented by Lt. R. Bryan Alexander "in recognition and appreciation of their unwavering patriotism

Circle 5069



In the Spotlight

and support for those who serve."

Lt.

Alexander is a member of St. Benedict Catholic Church and a Knight in Fr.

William J. Nolte Council 11533, who was deployed to the Middle East for six months and has safely returned.

Squires collected supplies from their school and parish, gathering enough items to fill fourteen boxes.

"The Squire coordinating the parish effort built, with the help of his Knight father, a large box where the



Lt. R. Bryan Alexander presents a flag and certificate to Squires of Circle 5069 in recognition of their collection efforts.

items could be collected," said counselor Ruppert Beirne. "An announcement was regularly placed in the parish bulletin. The box had to be constantly emptied as it was regularly

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- Hold a living rosary for the innocent victims of abortion;
- Run a vocations awareness campaign for youth and young adults in your parish;
- Roll up your sleeves and organize a clean-up project for your church;
- Recognize altar servers with a special event;
- Visit a senior citizen center;
- Hold a concert, puppet show or similar event for children with disabilities;
- Sponsor a drug and alcohol abuse seminar and invite guest speakers;
- Run an open house for your members' friends, schoolmates, CCD class members and other qualified prospects;
- Organize and serve a communion breakfast for prospects, family members, counselors, Knights, clergy members and civic leaders;
- Honor the Knights who act as counselors to your circle with a special appreciation dinner or activity.

Tips on Becoming a Shield Bearer

To reach the level of Shield Bearer, the second level in the Squire Advancement Program, a Squire must regularly attend meetings and activities for at least six months. The Squire must also complete 24 achievements, with a minimum of four in each category (home and family, Squires and Knights, community and country, and Church).

To help all Squires advance through the levels, circle officers and counselors should put programming, events and activities that fulfill the required achievements on their calendars. Some suggestions for Shield Bearer level include:

- For circles in the U.S., have Squires take turns leading the Pledge of Allegiance at the start of a meeting. This will give each Squire who leads one achievement in the community/country category.
- Include attendance at a local parade in your circle's calendar. Better



yet, find out if your circle can march in the parade.

□ Be sure all Squires are encouraged to attend investiture ceremonies. Not only will this build unity and familiarity, it will fill one requirement in the Squires/Knights category.

□ As a circle, attend a local, county, state/provincial or national government meeting to see how it is run.

□ Ask your pastor to take your circle on a guided tour of the rectory/parish office *and* of the church itself, to learn about the functions and purpose of each area. This activity will fulfill two achievements in the Church category.

□ Attend Mass as a circle and sit together in the pews.

Planning these simple activities will get your fellow Squires seven steps closer to completing their goal of reaching the Shield Bearer level. For more information, visit www.kofc.org/squires.

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those who needed them. His sponsoring assembly, Sen. Blas F. Ople Assembly 3033, assisted with funding to purchase the rosaries and T-shirt uniforms for the Squires who were ushers.

Fernan was invested as a Squire in Circle 4154 in January 2003. He trans-

ferred membership to Circle 4863 in September 2004, where he has served as Chief Squire for three terms.

Fernan became a First Degree Knight in August, and became a Second Degree Knight in Council 10582 in September. He is now a counselor to the Squires in Circle 4863.

A special "Squire of the Body of Christ" name badge and certificate signed by Supreme Knight Carl Anderson has been created with Fernan's name on it, and these were presented by Chief Counselor SK Rodolfo Y. Manumbas at a special circle ceremony.

TOP JURISDICTION CIRCLES

Top jurisdiction recruiting circles are shown here by jurisdiction, number, location and number of new members from July 1, 2008 - Dec. 31, 2008. Jurisdictions with no membership gains or no circles are omitted. Large jurisdictions are represented in a ratio of one entry per every 40 circles.

AB	4759	St. Albert	1	3039	Benquet	43	NJ	5169	Paterson	7		
AL	4481	Adamsville	3	2442	Cuyapo	43	NL	1803	St. John's	4		
AZ	5000	Phoenix	5	4358	Paranaque	39	NY	2541	Wantagh	14		
BC	2937	Port Coquitlam	5	5230	Longos Pulilan	36		4714	Monroe	11		
CA	931	Lancaster	8	1030	Concepcion	32	NC	4466	Charlotte	2 (tie)		
	5001	Laguna	6	4617	Natividad	30		5194	Denver	2 (tie)		
CO	2798	Colorado Springs	6	4041	Santiago	26	OH	5033	West Chester	5		
CT	1545	Cheshire	2	MD	4914	Bryantown	7	ON	5217	Toronto	12	
FL	4847	Jacksonville	4 (tie)	MI	758	Dearborn Hts	2		4328	Alliston	11	
	5148	Spring Hill	4 (tie)	MO	4782	Ozark	1	PA	853	Greensburg	5	
GA	4976	Roswell	3	MS	81	Vicksburg	1	QC	4921	Ste Rose De Lima	3	
GU	4856	Mangilao	8	MXSO	4852	Ciudad del		RI	5211	Coventry	1	
IA	4930	Sioux City	7			Carmen	2	TN	2655	Knoxville	12	
IL	4284	Lisle	17	MZ	4896	Talakag		TX	3611	San Antonio	21	
IN	5205	Lebanon	4			Bukidnon	18		5107	Zapata	15	
KS	4217	Conway Spgs	10			3055	Pigcawayan	15		2040	Keller	12
KY	4884	Hawesville	6			3946	Mu Panabo	14	VT	4398	Richford	2 (tie)
LA	4114	Simmesport	6			3968	Notre Dame Vill.	11		4590	Milton	2 (tie)
LP	3408	Sariaya	100			2368	Kidapawan	9 (tie)	VA	5188	Virginia Beach	11
	2190	Isabela	62			3814	Laguindingan	9 (tie)	VP	4734	Jagna Bohol	75
	2504	Baguio	57	NE	4892	Bellevue	7			5160	Talisay	13
	4613	Calapan	57	NF	1803	St. Johns	4			4662	Tacloban City	11
	3767	Meycauayan	51	NH	3847	Epping	3			5238	Sagay Negros	6

SQUIRES IN ACTION

To help prevent spread of dengue, Squires from **Immaculate Conception Circle 1704 in Balayan, Luzon**, cleaned the grounds of their parish and other places known or suspected to be lairs of mosquitoes that carry the disease.

Squires from **J. Theodore Moses Circle 2411 in N. Tonawanda, N.Y.**, held an Easter egg hunt for community children ages 1 through 10. They held the event on Palm Sunday on the grounds of their sponsoring council, Madonna Council 2535. In addition to hosting the egg hunt, attended by more than 75 children, the Squires sponsored a coloring contest and food drive, collecting six boxes and five bags of donations for their local food bank. Squires spent 67 hours organizing and running the event, including soliciting candy donations and filling the plastic eggs. The event received some publicity in the local Tonawanda newspaper and in the parish bulletins, but the Squires were especially pleased to see the smiling faces of the egg-hunters.



Holy Trinity Circle 4655 of Cincinnati, Ohio, hosted a joint installation of officers with fellow Squires from St. Maximilian Kolbe Circle 5033 of West Chester, Ohio, at St. Lawrence Parish in Price Hill. Both circles attended Mass celebrated by former Ohio State Chaplain Fr. Mark Watkins. Following the installation, Squires enjoyed a chili dinner. Pictured are members of both circles and their chief counselors.

Fr. William Brooks Circle 2158 in Nederland, Texas, partnered with Boy Scout Troop 232 to participate in "Mid-County Kindness," which helped victims in nearby Bridge City, Texas, with cleanup after Hurricane Ike. The event took place in October, and was part of a big tri-community effort. People and organizations from Nederland, Port-Neches, and Groves helped make the event possible.

Work involved yard clean up, tearing out sheetrock from flooded homes, and hauling debris to the roadside for pickup. More than 100 hours of service were volunteered by the Squires, Scouts and their families.



Squires of **Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Circle 5222 in San Pedro, Luzon**, stand with some of the used clothing they collected for typhoon victims. The clothes were delivered to Caritas de Manila, a division of the Archdiocese of Manila that provides aid to the needy.

The Squires from **Circle 3767 in Meycauayan, Bulacan, Luzon, Philippines**, conducted a "Drug Awareness Seminar" for all Circle members, held at St. Francis of Assisi multipurpose hall in November. Sixty-three members participated in this project plus Knights from the sponsoring council, including Grand Knight Fernando Galsim, Rev. Fr. Nap Baltazar, and the chancellor, youth director, recorder, program director and all the circle's counselors and officers headed by Chief Squire Ryan Evangelista. A Bible study directed by their sponsoring Knights followed the seminar. Father Prior Rev. Fr. Nap Baltazar encouraged the Squires to read the Bible daily.

Circle 3767 regularly distributes Knights of Columbus rosaries and the Catholic Information Service (CIS) leaflet on how to pray the rosary to indigent children in their community.

Squires from **Vergin De La Paz Circle 5155 in Visayas, Philippines**, celebrated Squires Month with a "Leaders of Today, Leaders of Tomorrow" orientation and investiture ceremony. More than 25 Squires attended and learned about Fr. McGivney, the origins of the Squires program and its purpose, and about the Squires emblem. Additionally, speakers discussed the Ten Commandments, the Seven Sacraments and the moral values of being a good citizen. The four-hour program finished with nine new Squires welcomed into the circle.

iPod Incentive Winners

Congratulations to **Jacob Terlaje of St. Peter/St. Paul Circle 5006 in Mangilao, Guam**, and **Randy C. Canal of Christ the King Circle 4114 in Simmesport, La.** for winning the fourth quarter drawing for iPods. Each of the iPods has a 2.5 inch screen and an 80 gigabyte capacity that holds up to 20,000 songs/25,000 photos/100 hours of video. Squires were entered into the drawing when they recruited another Squire into their circle and they were listed as the proposer on that Squire's membership form.

Squires Month Publicity

To highlight Squires Month, issue a press release on the events planned by your circle. Print the release double-spaced and provide all the pertinent information. Supply the name, telephone number, and e-mail address of your circle's contact person in case the newspaper needs more information. Forward your release to local and diocesan newspapers, your school newspaper, the parish bulletin, local radio or television stations or any outlets you think may have an interest in printing or airing your story. See the *Knights of Columbus Getting Your Message Across booklet* (#2235) for more information on publicity or visit www.kofc.org/service and click on the "council" section and choose "public relations and publicity."

DATES TO REMEMBER

March
Vocations Month

Tues., March 17
St. Patrick's Day

Sat., March 21
Birth of Benito
Juarez (Mex.)

Wed., March 25
Annunciation of
the Lord;
Day of the
Unborn Child

Sun., March 29
Founder's Day

April
Squires Month

Sun., April 5
Palm Sunday

Thurs., April 9
Holy Thursday

Fri., April 10
Good Friday

Sun., April 12
Easter

Sun., April 19
Divine Mercy
Sunday

Corps d'Elite Award Requirements

Circles can attain recognition from the Supreme Council by earning the Corps d'Elite Award and/or the Brother Barnabas Award.

The Corps d'Elite Award recognizes circles that achieve a high level of all-around excellence. All circles can earn the award by following these steps:

1. Submit the "Officers, Chairmen and Counselor's Report" (#468)
2. Use the Corps d'Elite Award Application (#278) to report at least four (4) major involvement activities conducted in each of the following areas of the Squires program: spiritual, service, circle and membership.
3. Pay the July 1 per capita tax

on or before Oct. 10. Pay the Jan. 1 per capita tax on or before April 10.

4. Complete and return the "Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity" (#1728C) to the Supreme Council office by Jan. 31.

5. Achieve a net gain of at least two (2) members by June 30.

To obtain an application form, please visit the Circle forms section of kofc.org/squires. The form can be submitted electronically, or printed and mailed to Columbian Squires, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510-3326.

For information on the Brother Barnabas Award, go to www.kofc.org/squires.

Fraternal Survey Past Due

The deadline for returning the 2008 Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity (#1728C) was Jan. 31, 2009. Chief Squires who have not submitted this important document, should do so immediately. Form #1728C can be found online at www.kofc.org/squires, or in the *Circle Report Forms Booklet* (#401),

The chief Squire and bursar should complete and submit the survey form by fax to 203-752-4108, by mail to the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council Office, Department of Fraternal Services, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510-3326 or file on-line at www.kofc.org/un/officers/forms/circle/1728C.cfm.

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overflowing."

A similar effort using large plastic bins was used at the school. Notices were regularly placed in the school newspaper. Students, parents and faculty all contributed to the successful drive.

"We had to have several sessions at the end of the drive where Squires, counselors, and parents boxed the items and then shipped them to Lt. Alexander who was stationed overseas," said Beirne. "A wide variety of items were collected ranging from magazines and DVDs to toiletries and personal grooming items. Our Knight assured us the items were well received!"