

Evaluate Your Circle to Make Improvements

The beginning of a new fraternal year is the perfect opportunity to reflect on the year that's ended and offers a chance for a fresh start in the coming year. Take the time now to examine the strengths and weaknesses of your circle. This will help you build on your successes and improve the areas that need a boost.

Set aside some time to take an honest and objective look at your circle's performance. Evaluate all circle programs for the Church, for the community and for membership recruitment. Here are some questions to ask:

- ❑ What were the program's goals? Were those goals met?
- ❑ If some goals were not met, what were the reasons? What parts of the program worked? What parts didn't work?
- ❑ How much time was spent planning the program? How well were the plans executed? What did you learn from this process?
- ❑ How many members participated? Are all of the circle's members joining in? If not, are there ways to encourage them to get involved?
- ❑ What role did publicity play in spreading the word about the event? Were local newspapers and television stations notified?
- ❑ Was the program successful enough to run again, with some changes, to help increase participation and improve results? If not, consider a suitable



replacement program to implement.

Take a hard look at the recruiting efforts for the year.

- ❑ Did the circle meet its goal for new members? If not, were enough initiatives put in place? If so, which efforts were successful and why? How can this success be translated to other efforts that were less effective?

- ❑ Were all of the Squires proactive in asking prospective members to join? Who is your most productive recruiter and what is his strategy?

Besides looking at programs, focus on the way the circle operates. Consider these questions:

- ❑ Was the circle paperwork filed on time? If not, why not?
- ❑ Are Squires attending meetings? What can be done to improve attendance?

Remember this assessment is to make improvements, not to assign blame for mistakes.

Compare the circle's achievements with the Corps d'Elite Award requirements listed on the back of the application in the *Circle Report Forms Booklet* (#401) and on the Order's Web site (www.kofc.org/squires). This will show the circle's standing in regards to Supreme Council programs and requirements. When planning, keep these requirements in mind.

A New Circle With an Honorable Name

When the members of newly instituted Deacon Pete Martinez Circle 5279 in Wylie, Texas, picked a name for their circle, they decided to honor a man who provided years of service not only to his parish, but also to his country and family.

Escorted by Fourth Degree Knights from their sponsor St. Anthony Council 12300, the Squires processed into the church to receive their charter. In addition, the circle's officers were installed and received their jewels from Father Andrew Semler. The members were charged with their duties as Squires and urged to engage in community service, fraternal, and spiritual activities.

Then the Squires had the opportunity to learn firsthand about their circle's namesake, Deacon Pete Martinez, who served St. Anthony Parish as a deacon from 1978 to his death in 2001.



The members of Circle 5279 and their charter

Deacon Martinez was the first child of Aurelio A. and Josefina Alanis Martinez, who brought their family to Texas from the Mexican state of Coahuila in 1913. The family spent several years clearing land and sharecropping

Tips for Planning an Effective Program Schedule for '09-10

Some circles plan 16 events for the year, four in each activity category (spiritual, service, circle, and membership) to qualify for the Corps d'Elite Award. Many other circles are even more active, with 20, 30, 40 or more activities sponsored yearly. The activity level is up to you, but remember, an active circle is a happy and growing circle.

Your circle officers, and programming and membership chairmen should keep local needs, resources and capabilities in mind when developing programs. Specific goals for raising charitable donations and volunteer hours should also be set. Here are some suggestions:

- August 4 is the anniversary of the founding of the Squires. Use this opportunity to spread the word about the Squires and accomplishments of your circle.
- August 8-16 is Knights of Columbus Family Week, which is a great time to bring Squires, Knights and members of the community together with activities the whole family can enjoy.
- Hold open houses early in the school year to attract those who are looking for new extracurricular activities.
- Consider a special recruitment event and investiture ceremony around Columbus Day to honor the Order's namesake.
- Serve at a local food pantry, soup kitchen or meal distribution program. Organize a canned food or clothing drive around Thanksgiving.
- Promote the true meaning of Christmas by sponsoring a "Keep Christ in Christmas" billboard or program. Hold a "Light Up for Christ" ceremony on the first Tuesday of December.
- Plan a Christmas or New Year's party for less fortunate youngsters. Remember to invite potential members so they can see what Squires do.

- Support a seminarian or postulant through the Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP).
- "Squires Month" is a great time to spread the word about what Squires do, so plan for April to be busy with joint activities with your council, recruitment programs, an investiture ceremony and more.

Working as a Team

One of the most important aspects for Squires to learn about being a good leader is becoming "team-minded." "Team-minded" means being able to work together with others and share ideas and responsibilities. Circle leaders need to promote among the circle members a sense of belonging. Point out to your leaders that to encourage members to work as a team a leader needs to show:

Friendliness: Showing interest in team members as people will encourage them to share their ideas and to contribute to the circle.

Understanding: Accept the fact that everyone makes mistakes and be constructive and patient when offering criticism.

Fairness: Enforce circle rules consistently and treat everyone on the team the same — the way they want to be treated themselves.

Good Will: Put the goals of the group above personal gain to encourage team members to take their jobs seriously.

Make sure team members keep the goals in mind and don't get side-tracked on minor details. It's also important to acknowledge the efforts of individuals and to show appreciation for their good work. On occasion, a leader needs to act as a mediator when there are disagreements between team members.

TOP JURISDICTION CIRCLES

Top jurisdiction recruiting circles are shown here by jurisdiction, number, location and number of new members from July 1, 2008 - May 31, 2009. 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 | 2442 | Cuyapo Nueva | 43 | 2259 | Ronkonkoma | 16 | | |
| AL | 4481 | Adamsville | 8 | 3039 | Benguet | 43 | NC | 4466 | Charlotte | 5 | |
| AZ | 5000 | Phoenix | 5 | 4358 | Paranaque | 39 | OH | 5033 | West Chester | 11 | |
| BC | 2937 | Port Coquitlam | 8 | 4617 | Natividad | 39 | ON | 5217 | Toronto | 18 | |
| CA | 931 | Lancaster | 19 | MB | 5263 | Winnipeg | 4 | 5038 | Toronto | 13 | |
| | 4332 | Valley Center | 14 | MD | 4423 | Eldersburg | 7(tie) | PA | 5102 | Mechanicsburg | 7 |
| CO | 1042 | Brighton | 10 | 4914 | Bryantown | 7(tie) | QC | 4921 | Ste Rose De Lima | 3 | |
| CT | 1512 | East Bridgeport | 6 | MI | 758 | Dearborn Heights | 6 | RI | 5211 | Coventry | 3 |
| FL | 3877 | Miami | 20 | MN | 4100 | Pine City | 5 | TN | 2655 | Knoxville | 13(tie) |
| GA | 4976 | Roswell | 11 | MS | 81 | Vicksburg | 1 | 5075 | Jackson | 13(tie) | |
| GU | 4856 | Mangilao | 8 | MO | 4893 | Chesterfield | 4 | TX | 2040 | Keller | 24 |
| IL | 4284 | Lisle | 33 | MXSO | 4852 | Ciudad del Carmen | 2 | | 3611 | San Antonio | 21 |
| IN | 5205 | Lebanon | 5 | MZ | 1875 | Tacurong | 22 | | 5107 | Zapata | 15 |
| IA | 4930 | Sioux City | 7 | 4896 | Talakag Bukidnon | 18 | VT | 4590 | Milton | 5 | |
| KS | 4217 | Conway Springs | 10 | 4144 | Zamboanga City | 16 | VA | 5188 | Virginia Beach | 11(tie) | |
| KY | 4884 | Hawesville | 6 | 3055 | Pigcawayan | 15 | | 5207 | Fredericksburg | 11(tie) | |
| LA | 4114 | Simmesport | 11 | 3946 | Mu Panabo Davao | 14 | VP | 4734 | Jagna Bohol | 75 | |
| LP | 5230 | Longos Pulilan | 329 | NE | 4667 | Grand Island | 9 | | 705 | Bacolod | 41 |
| | 3408 | Sariaya | 100 | NV | 4992 | Henderson | 2 | | 4662 | Tacloban | 24 |
| | 2190 | Isabela | 62 | NH | 3847 | Epping | 3(tie) | | 4322 | Loay Bohol | 15(tie) |
| | 3767 | Meycauayan | 58 | | 4273 | Plaistow | 3(tie) | | 4838 | Bacolod Neg | 15(tie) |
| | 4613 | Calapan Oriental | 57 | | 4897 | Londonderry | 3(tie) | WA | 2353 | Everett | 10 |
| | 2504 | Baguio | 57 | NJ | 5070 | Arlington | 12 | WV | 535 | Clarksburg | 4 |
| | 3655 | Valenzuela | 49 | NL | 1803 | St Johns | 5 | | | | |
| | 4863 | Calumpit | 44 | NY | 2541 | Wantagh | 18 | | | | |

SQUIRES IN ACTION



Knights of Our Lady of Penafrancia Council 11031 together with Squires of **Our Lady of Penafrancia Circle 4111 in Zamboanga City, Philippines**, attended mass celebrated by Archbishop Romulo Valles of Zamboanga City for the Columbian Squires last August (*see story below*).



Father Crisostomo Columbian Squires Circle 2047 in **Cabantan City, Luzon**, and members of Father Crisostomo Council 6000 are pictured during an educational tour at Baguio City.

The Squires of **St. Timothy's Circle 5001 in Laguna Niguel, Calif.**, have taken on the responsibility of both the Soccer Challenge and the Free Throw Championship on behalf of their sponsoring council. The Squires coordinate the Free Throw Contest directly with the local National Junior Basketball League. The Squires took the competition directly to two local All-Net Teams, who had 100 percent participation.

Twenty-one active Squires of **Leandro Esperat Circle 3509 of Zamboanga, Mindanao**, with Squires of another local circle attended a special Mass for the Squires, celebrated by Archbishop Romulo Valles of Zamboanga City. The Archbishop welcomed the Squires and asked the Knights to support and make the group of young men grow healthy and strong physically, mentally and spiritually, while developing them as good leaders. Knights from Council 8330 were present for the ceremony.



Bishop David R. Choby of Nashville, Tenn., meets with **Tennessee State Squires** during their mid-year meeting held in January in Nashville. Bishop Choby thanked the Squires for their service and chatted with the State Squires officers. Pictured from left to right are Joseph Talusan, of St. Michael Circle 5075 in Jackson, Tenn, Shane Fonte and Nick Comm, both of Deacon Edwin Rodgers Circle 5080 in Antioch, Tenn.



Squires from **Vatican Circle 5092 in Flowery Branch, Ga.**, worked with Knights from Prince of Peace Council 13457 and the Respect Life Committee at Prince of Peace Church to make more than 500 crosses for a Memorial for the Unborn. The Squires made the crosses during their Christmas break, and set them up in January at Prince of Peace. Each cross represents 100,000 of the 50 million children killed by abortion since the *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1973. The memorial was displayed on the roadside near the church for a few weeks.

Send Us Your Squires News

Use the "Squires Newsletter/Major Activity Report" (#363) in the *Circle Report Forms Booklet* (#401), or use the on-line form at www.kofc.org/squires to submit your news.



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for other farmers until settling in Wylie in 1942.

Martinez was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1942 (where he got the nickname "Pete") and served in a combat group in Europe during World War II where he earned several commendations including the European Allied Military Expedition Medal prior to his discharge in 1945.

In 1947, Martinez, his wife Maria and their young family purchased land in nearby Sachse, Texas where they grew cotton and corn. Despite limited finances, they were able to send many of their six children to Good Shepherd Catholic School in Garland, Texas, and three children later received college degrees. For many years, the Martinezs worked with St. Anthony's Hispanic parishioners, assisting pastors in preparing them for the Sacraments. Starting in the late 1950's, they

were asked to help with the special summer missions to bring Hispanic families to the Church. Pete was

encouraged by the priests who witnessed his work to pursue the studies for the Diaconate, and he was ordained a Deacon on December 11, 1978.

Deacon Martinez served St. Anthony Parish alongside several pastors where he was given permission to speak the liturgy in Spanish to St. Anthony's Hispanic



Members of the Martinez family

Parishioners during mass. He served actively as deacon until he suffered a stroke on November 2, 1988. He passed away on December 17, 2001.

Many immediate and extended family members of Deacon Martinez were present for the Squires charter ceremony, at which a framed memorial describing the life story of Deacon Martinez was presented to the parish for permanent display at St. Anthony Parish.

After the ceremony, Chief Squire Robert Finley commented, "It was nice to see so many of the Martinez Family members come to our charter presentation, especially those who are Knights of Columbus who will be helping us."

The charter members of Deacon Pete Martinez Circle 5279 are C. J. Aroche, Wyatt Aroche, Robert Finley, Jacob Hess, Daniel Kirkman, Chase McManus, Godfrey Okoye, Ross Pousson, Paul Savage, Matthew Savage, Matt Shuster, and Thomas Shuster.

National Catholic Youth Conference

The 2009 National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) will be held Nov. 19-21 in Kansas City. Squires are encouraged to attend this faith-filled event with thousands of other Catholic youths from throughout the United States. The conference is a great opportunity to better connect with your faith, hear outstanding speakers and musicians, and meet other youths with similar devotion to our faith and the desire to serve others. If your circle is interested in attending this event start planning your fundraising efforts now and contact your designated diocesan NCYC group leader for more details on how to register. For more information on the conference, to view a NCYC video, and to see a listing of diocesan contacts go to www.nfcym.org.

**DATES TO
REMEMBER**

Tues., June 30
Brother Barnabas Award (#279)

Application due Corps d'Elite Award (#278)

Application due
RSVP Application (#2863)
due

Sat. Aug. 1
Circle Officers, Chairmen
and Counselors Report
(#468) due

Tues., Aug. 4,
84th anniversary of the
Columbian Squires pro-
gram

Aug. 8-16
Knights of Columbus
Family Week

Tues., Sept. 1
Circle Status and Audit
Report (#247) due