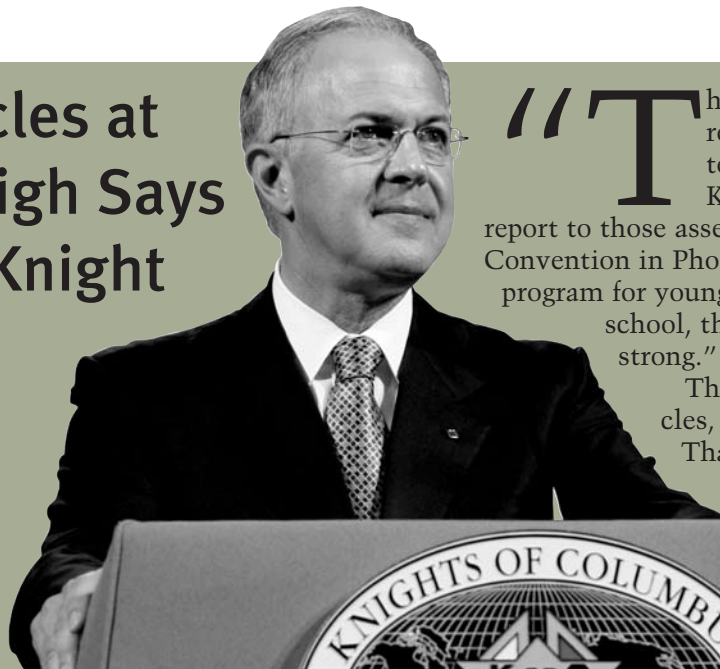


Active Circles at All-time High Says Supreme Knight

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson delivers his address at the 127th Annual Supreme Convention in Phoenix, Ariz., Aug. 4.



“The future of our Order depends upon the recruitment of young men in their teens, 20s and 30s,” said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson during his annual report to those assembled at the 127th Supreme Convention in Phoenix, Ariz., in August. “Our leadership program for young Catholics who are still in high school, the Columbian Squires, continues strong.”

There are now 1,460 active Squires circles, a net gain of 61 circles for the year. That’s a dramatic upswing in numbers from last year’s statistics, when you consider that in the 2007-2008 fraternal year, the Squires program

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Brother Barnabas Award winners

Twenty-five Columbian Squires circles from 13 jurisdictions earned the 2008-2009 Brother Barnabas Award, which recognizes the most outstanding circle activities conducted during the fraternal year. Award-winning circles and a description of their program activities are listed below. Questions or comments about the Brother Barnabas Award program should be directed to Bill O’Brien at 203-752-4403 or via e-mail: william.obrien@kofc.org.

► In **Miami**, the Squires from **Marcellin Champagnat Circle 3877** embarked on a multi-tier effort to help whom they deemed the neediest people and groups in their community. Their program, dubbed “Witnesses of the Lord Among the Neediest” ultimately led to the collection of \$3,700 and truckloads’ worth of food and bottled water. The Squires split the donated goods and money among Habitat for Humanity, and charities benefitting Cuba and Haiti, especially victims of Hurricane Ike. The Squires also helped build a Habitat for Humanity home. On a more personal



front, the Squires also came to the aid of Gerard St. Vil, a cafeteria worker who lost his home to a fire, raising more than \$1,000 for him.

Fountain Valley Circle 2798 in **Colorado Springs, Colo.**, instituted March 4 Life, its own local version of the national Pro-Life event, March for Life, held annually in Washington, D.C. Spearheaded by Squire Zackary Goodman, the Colorado Springs version was held Jan. 19, 2009, in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as a tie-



in for civil rights for the unborn. Alveda King, niece of the late Dr. King, delivered a video message to the gathering that stressed the importance of being heard on the Pro-Life issue.

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Over several months, the Squires from **St. Dominic Savio Circle 5078** in **Parrish, Fla.**, collected more than 150 worn American flags from their community. The flags were properly disposed of in a ceremonial fire set on the grounds of St. Francis Cabrini Church. In addition to singing the *Star Spangled Banner* and reciting the *Pledge of Allegiance*, the ceremony featured three empty seats, representing servicemen and women killed or injured in the line of duty.



▲ Squires from **The Vatican Circle 5092** in **Flowery Branch, Ga.**, helped create, paint and install more than 500 3-foot-tall wooden crosses for the Respect Life Group, a Pro-Life organization. The crosses, erected in time for Respect Life Day on Jan. 22, were set up a week before and removed a week after, with Squires making sure in between to stand back up any crosses that fell in inclement weather.

Blake Ryan Oubre Circle 4676 in **Vacherie, La.**, is responsible for the idea and design of a Veterans Memorial. The Squires not only came

up with the idea of erecting a tomb — the Hero's Tomb, for the symbolic burial of the fallen soldier — they also helped raise more than \$9,000 to build the memorial.

Squires from **Christ the King Circle 4114** in **Simmesport, La.**, spent a month during the Christmas season collecting food, clothing and toys for the Avoyelles Parish Battered Women's Shelter. The Squires also raised more than \$500 and staged a Christmas play, where the price of admission was a can of food or gift-wrapped toy that was then also donated. In all, more than 300 needy children received Christmas gifts, 25 families received food and 40 children received clothing.

In honor of a Squire alum who had been killed by a teen drunk driver in May 2008, the Squires from **St. Francis de Sales Circle 758** in **Dearborn Heights, Mich.**, created a Sports-A-Thon to raise money for the deceased man's two sons. The wrestling, boxing, ping-pong and touch football event, titled "I am my Brother's Keeper," netted \$250 and was donated to the sons' trust fund.

When the Squires from **Father Daniel A. Lord Circle 801** in **Detroit, Mich.**, received word that the friend of their sponsoring council's grand knight had been diagnosed with terminal brain cancer, they gladly helped move the ailing knight's belongings to his brother's residence so that he could be better taken care of — and on the same day they were scheduled to help set up for the council's annual "Kiddies' Christmas Party" event.



▲ The Squires of **Immaculate Conception Circle 4411** in **Astoria, N.Y.**, performed a Stations of the Cross devotion every Wednesday during Lent, starting with a meditation, and then a procession where the Squires carried the cross and candles during the service. On Good Friday, the Squires performed a public Stations of the Cross, carrying the cross for approximately a mile throughout the community. About 400 others participated in the journey.

The Squires from **St. Padre Pio Circle 4992** in **Henderson, Nev.**, held a two-week-long clothing and goods drive in early December. In all, they collected 135 bags of clothing and goods, 277 blankets and 540 jackets and coats, all of which they turned over to Catholic Charities.

The weekend before Thanksgiving, Squires from **St. Frances de Chantal Circle 2541** in **Wantagh, N.Y.**, held food drives at local grocery stores. The circle collected more than 29 shopping carts' worth of items and divided the goods into two groups — one designated for St. Frances Parish Outreach program and

TOP JURISDICTION CIRCLES

Top jurisdiction recruiting circles are shown here by jurisdiction, number, location and number of new members from July 1, 2009 to Aug. 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.

AZ	4859	Phoenix	3	3740	Bulacan	4	ON	5130	Deep River	7	
CA	494	Napa	5	5231	Binan Laguna	3		418	Belleville	1 (tie)	
	4332	Valley Center	5	4012	Hermosa	3		4742	Oshawa	1 (tie)	
CO	5210	Arvada	6	3566	Isabella	2	PA	5176	York	5	
FL	2797	Lehigh Acres	1	MD	4648	Germantown	4	TN	5075	Jackson	2
GA	4695	Kennesaw	4	MXSO	4852	Ciudad del Carmen	5	TX	5196	Houston	9
GU	5006	Mangilao	2	MI	1558	Warren	1		4752	Orange	6
IL	2637	Riverton	4	MZ	2492	Davao City	26		2530	Schertz	3 (tie)
KS	4743	Paola	2 (tie)		3127	Isulan Suitan	18		5149	Laredo	3 (tie)
	5265	Wichita	2 (tie)	NE	4892	Bellevue	7	VT	4398	Richford	1
LA	4114	Simmesport	2	NH	4273	Plaistow	2	VP	3470	Tolosa Leyte	22
LP	4000	Maypayo,		NJ	5177	Sparta	5		4733	Tagbilaran Bohol	10
		Kalookan City	41	NY	546	Bayshore	3		2953	Cabatuan	6
	3777	Bataan	15		4411	Astoria	2		3498	Miagao	6
	4888	Sta Ana Cagayan	12	NC	4713	Mocksville	3				
	1704	Batangas	6	OH	4655	Cincinnati	2				

the other for The Inn, a local organization that prepares meals and food packages for the homeless and needy families. The circle also raised enough money to purchase 20 turkeys, and still give several hundred dollars to each organization.



▲ Squires from **Messenger Robert M. Nolan Circle 2040** in **Keller, Texas**, learned what it was like to be homeless for a weekend. They set up a mock homeless camp, lived in boxes, pretended to eat from trash cans and slept on the ground — and all for a good cause. The boys brought about awareness while raising almost \$1,300, which they donated — along with 176 cans of food — to the local community storehouse and homeless shelter.

One-hundred impoverished elderly and disabled citizens of Cumberland County, N.C., were delivered Christmas food boxes by the Squires from **Seton Sons Circle 4426** in **Fayetteville**, on the morning of Dec. 23. The Squires helped raise the \$2,000 it cost to execute the project and were also responsible for picking up the food from local grocery stores and reorganizing it into the boxes.

Squires from **St. Patrick's Circle 2041** in **Brampton, Ontario**, assisted local charity group ACCESS (Allowing Children a Chance at Education with School Supplies) with a \$300 donation. The Squires additionally helped pack up and deliver more than 300 pounds' worth of school supplies collected by ACCESS, to be delivered to needy children in Guatemala.

Two days before Christmas, six needy families from the Co-Op Housing Project received Christmas Dinner Hampers from the Squires of **S.K. Leonard T. Smith Circle 4742** in **Oshawa, Ontario**. The circle held several fundraisers beforehand, and used \$300 of what they raised to fill the hampers with all the fixings of a Christmas Dinner. The Squires also lent their assistance at the St. Vincent

de Paul Society at St. Gertrude's Church in Oshawa, handing out food, toys and gift certificates to 200 needy families in the community.

To help the parish social ministry's efforts in aiding the MaRiH center, a confidential emergency pregnancy service, the Squires from **St. Mary's of Sorrows Circle 3992** in **Fairfax Station, Va.**, held six breakfasts over three Sundays at a local church hall. Their efforts helped raise the \$1,150, plus clothing and other items that were donated to the MaRiH Center and two other Pro-Life organizations — Hope and AAA for Choice.

Nine Brother Barnabas Award winners hailed from Luzon and Mindanao in the Philippines:

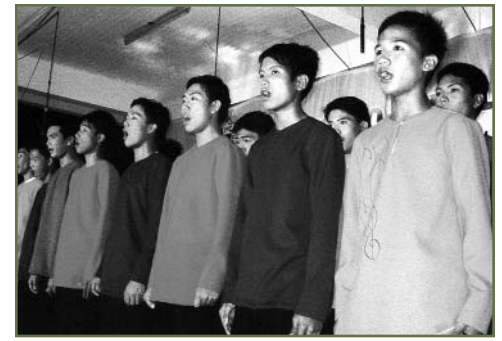
► Squires from **Porta Vaga Circle 2450** in **Cavite, Luzon**, organized an "Online Safety & Basic Child's Rights Orientations" in partnership with World Vision International, a Christian relief, development and advocacy organization working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice.



Squires from **Immaculate Conception Circle 1704** in **Batangas, Luzon**, held a Columbian Squires Sportsfest with 48 Squires attending from different nearby circles. The boys competed in basketball, badminton, chess and tug-of-war games. Twenty-one potential Squires also attended the event, leading to the investiture of 15 of them.

Shortly before the school year began, Squires from **Immaculate Heart of Mary Circle 4206**, in **Malabon Metro Manila, Luzon**, spent a week cleaning two schools in the community — power washing and painting the classrooms, and cleaning all the chairs, desks and tables.

In order to raise funds for the repair of Calumpit St. John the Baptist Council 10582's meeting space, the Squires from **Calumpit St. John the Baptist Circle 4154**, in **Calumpit, Bulacan, Luzon**, held a concert, "Sing to the Lord: Concert for a Cause" dur-



ing the Christmas season. The event raised P 98,000, or about 2,045.25 U.S. dollars. ▲

Young Catholics aspiring to become Squires were treated to a spiritual activity, dubbed "Catechis for the Squires Candidates" by the Squires from **Gat. Blas F. Ople Circle 4863** in **Calumpit, Luzon**. The Squires spoke to a gathering of more than 100 boys about faith, morals, the Catholic life and Jesus.

Squires from **San Jose de Panasahan Circle 5126**, in **Malolos Bulacan, Luzon**, hosted a district-wide summer camp-out for the Squires of District M28 in conjunction with its first-ever investiture ceremony. Seven circles were represented at the event.

In honor of Squire Fernan O. Dealca, the first Squire from the

Philippines to attain the "Squire of the Body of Christ" level in the Squire Advancement Program, the Squires from **Liceo de Pulilan Circle 5230** in **Longos Pulilan, Luzon**, helped organize a mass investiture of 368 new Squires — a record high.

Squires from **Telaje Circle 3584** in **Surigao del Sur, Mindanao**, held a "Rosary Crusade" with host families throughout the month of October, in which they first learned about, and then demonstrated, how to pray the Rosary. During these sessions, they also solicited donations from those in attendance, which they put toward the construction of the Telaje Chapel.

As a way to raise money for the clergywomen of their church, the Squires from **San Miguel Arkanghel Circle 4931** in **San Miguel Surigao, Mindanao**, sang Christmas Carols and played guitar, going door-to-door in their community. They raised enough funds to purchase Church garments for the women.

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scored a net gain of 21 circles, and as of June 30, 2008, had 1,399 active circles, which was, at the time, the highest number ever.

This past year, three jurisdictions in particular led the Squires in growth, helping the program to reach an all-time high in the number of active circles. Connecticut had the greatest net percentage gain in new circles, adding three circles for a gain of 37.5 percent. Connecticut also achieved a 47 percent gain in membership, the highest net percentage gain in membership throughout the Order.

In the Philippines, Luzon achieved the greatest gain in Squires membership recruitment, posting a net gain of 2,617 Squires to end the fraternal year with 11,352 Squires, and Visayas had a net gain of 20 circles this year, the highest net gain in circles in the Order.

As the Supreme Knight pointed out in his report, there is quite a bit of turnover in the Squires program as participants graduate. This year, 5,629 new Squires joined or transferred in, and 5,742 graduated. Membership in the program stood at 22,845 as of July 1.

"I want to thank all of the councils who work so hard to make this program a success," Anderson added, "and ask that you make every effort to make sure that these young men are encouraged to become Knights when they turn 18."



St. Timothy's Circle always busy

Squires are called to serve and be loyal not only to their family, friends, circle, Church and faith, but to their community as well. The Squires from St. Timothy's Circle 5001 in Laguna Niguel, Calif., have done all that and more by hosting their Fourth Annual Spaghetti Fundraiser, participating in a local fundraiser "Poker for a Purpose," and helping install Monsignor John Urell (on Feb. 2) as the new pastor of their church at St. Timothy's.

The Squires raised over \$1,000 while dishing out heaping plates of spaghetti to more than 100 parishioners and their families at what has become a community tradition and the Squires' big fundraiser event each fraternal year. The June 20 event, which followed a Mass at St. Timothy's, was used to offset expenses toward the circle's main ongoing causes, which encompass past Barnabas Award-recog-

nized efforts, including supporting young, pregnant, unwed mothers from Orange County, Calif., through the Toby's House foundation, and providing troubled teens from the CSP Youth Shelter in Laguna Beach, Calif., with backpacks and daily toiletries. The Squires also did a little spring gardening in February for one of the Toby's House centers located in Mission Viejo.

The Squires used the money raised at the dinner to also help their third ongoing cause — supporting the Corazon de Vida Foundation, a nonprofit organization founded in 1984 that today is helping daily to feed, clothe, shelter and educate more than 750 children in a network of privately funded orphanages throughout Mexico. Circle 5001 has supported Corazon de Vida for three years and was able to further contribute to both it and the CSP Youth Shelter when the Squires participated in Corazon's "Poker for a Purpose" Fundraiser on March 27.

