



## Giving back at Thanksgiving, Christmas, beyond



Veterans' Day and Thanksgiving in the U.S., and Remembrance Day in Canada, offer Squires the opportunity to remember, and give thanks to, those who served in the armed forces. This is also a good time to give to those who are lonely or unfulfilled in mind, body or spirit. Then, before you know it, the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season will be in full swing, which is why it's also important to start planning creative holiday-based programs now. There are many options that are not only fun for your circle, but can make a positive impact in your community and parish.

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## Food Drives: Help feed the less fortunate ...

In these difficult economic times, putting food on the table can be nearly impossible for some. The difference between eating a nutritious meal or going to bed hungry, too often, can be a thin line. You and your fellow Squires and families can be that difference by conducting a food drive.

Hold a Knights of Columbus "Squires Set the Table" campaign to obtain food for local (both community and parish) soup kitchens or food pantries, or other services providing food or meals to people in need. Hold the event at your local supermarket, wholesale store, parish or community center.

Here are some steps to follow when conducting this program.

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## ... That's What This Circle Did



Every year during the Christmas season, when many gather and celebrate around a wealth of food, the Squires from Sto. Nino Circle 3039 in Benquet, Luzon, instead depart their city — located near the bustling Philex ore mines — and embark on a four-hour trek to the barrio, or village, of Tore to distribute goods to the needy.

The Squires spend the month-long outreach program, called "Give Love on Christmas Day," collecting bags of rice, canned goods, dried noodles, eggs and clothing from fellow classmates and friends. Then, shortly before Christmas, they deliver the collected goods to the barrio. Upon arrival, the Squires traditionally set an evening bonfire around which they reflect, sing and spread joy. The following day, the Squires celebrate with a Mass and perform for the villagers as a choir, then distribute the collected goods — providing many of the ingredients, both literally and spiritually, for a Christmas feast.

**Circle 3039**



## 'Light Up for Christ'

The Knights of Columbus will begin the Christmas season on the first Tuesday of December (Dec. 1), with the annual "Light Up For Christ" celebration. Councils and circles throughout the Order are invited to light a Nativity scene and/or Christmas tree at 8 p.m., local time. The ceremonial lighting of the Christmas tree is just part of the celebration; other activities can accompany it, such as caroling, collecting clothing and food for the needy, or serving snacks and refreshments to commemorate the event.

If your circle has not participated in the past, this is the year to start! The "Light Up For Christ" celebration is a great way to kick off the season and celebrate with brothers, family and friends.

A "Light Up For Christ" poster is available (#2757) from the Supreme Council Supply Department. The poster is designed to invite the public to attend your circle's, or sponsoring council's, "Light Up For Christ" ceremony.

For details, visit [www.kofc.org/christmas](http://www.kofc.org/christmas).

## 'Tis the season to 'Keep Christ in Christmas'

Squires are encouraged to help "Keep Christ in Christmas" this December. After all, the birth of Christ is the reason for the season and is not to be overlooked or undervalued.

Sponsor a "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster or essay contest for students in your high school or elementary school, or in your parish. Display posters in the church vestibule, school hallways or your circle's meeting place during the holidays. Essays could be read during Mass and at council-sponsored events or published in local newspapers. Use these opportunities to remind parents and children about the true meaning of Christmas.

Additionally, there are three posters promoting the Order's Keep Christ in Christmas program, "Check the List" (#4554), "Remember, it's CHRISTmas," (#4555) and "Keep Christ in Christmas," (#2760), that are currently available from the Supreme Council Supply Department. Order these using a Requisition Form #1, and put them up in schools, parishes and religious education classes.

To buy mailing seals, Advent wreaths or calendars, leaflets and more, visit [www.christischristmas.com](http://www.christischristmas.com).

## NO BETTER TIME, continued from page 1

Sharing your talents, gifts and kindness with others is an important part of living like Christ, which is a core principle of being a Squire.

Some suggestions include:

- ♦ Place your country's national flag near markers in cemeteries to honor fallen soldiers.
- ♦ "Adopt" a needy family for Thanksgiving or Christmas.
- ♦ Participate in a Christmas-themed fundraiser by selling holiday items such as cards, nativity pins and car magnets.
- ♦ Hold a Christmas or New Year's Eve party. Ask attendees to bring canned or non-perishable goods for a local food pantry or soup kitchen. Don't forget to invite potential Squires so they can see the positive, fun events of your circle.
- ♦ Arrange with your parish priest to hold a special Christmas communion service at a rest home or other location for seniors unable to attend church.
- ♦ Go caroling door-to-door in your neighborhood.
- ♦ Organize a toy or clothing drive for children in need.
- ♦ Raise funds for charitable donations by providing a Christmas gift wrapping service, which can be held at a parish, in a local shopping center or school, or wherever permission can be easily obtained. Set up a booth and charge a fee for each gift wrapped. Mention who will be the beneficiary of the proceeds.

No matter what activities your circle chooses, be sure to publicize it well in advance so people are aware and can be involved. Don't forget to invite potential members and their families to these holiday events.



## TOP JURISDICTION CIRCLES

Top jurisdiction recruiting circles are shown here by jurisdiction, number, location and number of new members from July 1, 2009 to Sept. 30, 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.

AR	5300	Fayetteville	2	4483	Punturin Valenzuela	16	4411	Astoria	2		
AZ	4859	Phoenix	3	3777	Bataan	15	NC	4713	Mocksville	3	
CA	494	Napa	5	4625	San Jose Del Monte	15	OH	1854	Coldwater	3	
	931	Lancaster	5	3306	Kamias Quezon	13	ON	5130	Deep River	7	
	4332	Valley Center	5	4792	Los Banos Laguna	13		5147	Kingsville	3	
CO	5210	Arvada	6	4888	Sta Ana Cagayan	12	PA	5176	York	5	
FL	2797	Lehigh Acres	1	MD	4648	Germantown	4	TN	5075	Jackson	2(tie)
GA	4695	Kennesaw	5	MXSO	4852	Ciudad del Carmen	5		5086	Bartlett	2(tie)
GU	5006	Mangilao	2	MI	1558	Warren	1	TX	5196	Houston	9
IL	2637	Riverton	5	MN	4100	Pine City	2		4560	Alton	8
KS	4743	Paola	2 (tie)	MZ	2492	Davao City	26		4752	Orange	6
	5265	Wichita	2 (tie)		3127	Isulan Suitan	18	VA	5188	Virginia Beach	2
LA	2558	Saint Amant	9		3663	Cataluaan Grande	14	VT	4398	Richford	1
LP	4000	May, Kalookan City	41		1515	Cotabato	5(tie)	VP	3470	Tolosa Leyte	27
	4059	Quezon Nueva	27		2130	Iligan	5(tie)		4733	Tagbilaran Bohol	10
	4206	Malabon	27	NE	4892	Bellevue	7		2953	Cabatuan	6(tie)
	3387	Quezon City	26	NH	4273	Plaistow	2		3498	Miagao	6(tie)
	3278	Las Pinas	19	NJ	5177	Sparta	5	WA	3545	Stanwood	2
	2504	Baguio	16	NY	546	Bayshore	3				

# SQUIRES IN ACTION



Service committee members from **San Isidro Labrador Circle 3655**, in **Valenzuela City, Luzon**, attended a summer swim outing, as a way to thank the committee, its officers and members for their successful sponsorship of service projects. The outing was one of several planned by Circle 3655's many committees. Circle 3655, which boasts a large membership, is broken down into several smaller committees. They use these outings to relax, have fun and brainstorm on what activities to do in the upcoming year, as well as review past projects and ways to improve the Circle's overall performance. Twenty-five Squires attended the service committee's outing.



Members of **Archbishop Lino Gonzaga Circle 4144** in **Zamboanga City, Mindanao**, attended a lecture on how to be effective recruiters. The talk was given by the grand knight of their sponsoring council. The Squires also sponsored a food drive for needy families and hosted an intra-circle Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship for both Squires and community members. More than 130 athletes participated. Finally, the Squires played an active role in the Lenten activities of their parish.



On a frigid day in Minnesota (the temperature outside was 12 degrees below zero), the Squires of **Rev. Andrew P. and Monsignor George A. Gallik Circle 4100** in **Pine City, Mn.**, brought two hours of bingo to the residents of Lakeside Nursing Home. This was the second game held by the Squires in three months. In addition to their time, Squires donated \$76 for prizes.



On Jan. 24, 2009, the Squires of **St. Francis Xavier Circle 4681** in **Mississauga, Ontario**, held their annual Squires Potluck dinner, which was preceded by a Mass. The potluck dinner featured an introduction of the Squires and a slide show of all the recent events the circle had participated in. The family of each Squire contributed a dish and the Squires took turns serving the families. After dinner, the Squires organized several games for the guests and also held a 50/50 raffle as a fundraiser for the circle.

**SEND US YOUR SQUIRES NEWS:** Use the "Squires Newsletter/Major Activity Report" (#363) located in the Circle Report Forms Booklet (#401), or use the online form at [www.kofc.org/squires](http://www.kofc.org/squires). Be sure to include the circle name and number, a description of the event, the number of hours given on the project, funds raised and/or donated, number of participants and other specifics. Also, list the project chairman's name with a phone number and/or e-mail address. Please include a photo, especially an "action" shot.

## ***FEED THE HUNGRY, continued from page 1***

- Contact a local food pantry or soup kitchen to coordinate how they will receive the donated food. Also, ask if there are specific items that they need.
- If permission is needed to set up the drive in the store or church entry way or foyer, have your sponsoring council help by contacting the appropriate government department or pastor to get approval.
- Hang posters displaying the time and location of the drive — again, with permission from the appropriate source — around your parish, community and stores.
- Ask nearby stores for empty boxes in which the donations can be collected.
- If you are running the event at a store, pass out flyers to shoppers as they enter, and remind them to buy extra food and place it in the collection boxes on their way out.
- If you are running the event at your parish, inform parishioners at least a week beforehand. Hand out flyers as they enter the church and ask your pastor to announce the initiative, or get permission to have a circle officer do so before or after each Mass. Also, request that a mention be made in the parish bulletin asking parishioners to donate nonperishable food items. These items should be brought to Mass the following weekend.
- When collecting monetary donations, make sure to have a secure receptacle in your collection area for cash and checks.
- When arranging your collection boxes, place some items in them so people can see what specific foods are needed. Also, display a sign so people who missed the announcement or flyers will know what it is for.
- Don't forget to take pictures of Squires in action at this event to promote this initiative, and send them via e-mail to [michelle.mccleary-siss@kofc.org](mailto:michelle.mccleary-siss@kofc.org).

## **Report Deadlines and Upcoming Activities**

**Tuesday, Nov. 3**  
Election Day (U.S.)

**Thursday, Nov. 26**  
Thanksgiving (U.S.)

**Wednesday, Nov. 11**  
Veterans Day (U.S.);  
Remembrance Day (Can.)  
National Independence Day  
(Poland)

**Sunday, Nov. 29**  
First Sunday of Advent

**Monday, Nov. 30**  
Bonafacio Day (Phil.)

**Nov. 22-28**  
National Family Week (U.S.)

**Tuesday, Dec. 1**  
“Light Up for Christ”

### **Has your circle submitted these forms?**

Officers, Chairmen and Counselors Report (#468)  
Semi-annual Circle Status and Audit Report (#247)

### **Fraternal Survey Due Jan. 31**

The deadline for returning the 2009 Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity (#1728C), found online at [www.kofc.org/squires](http://www.kofc.org/squires), or in the *Circle Report Forms* Booklet (#401), is Jan. 31, 2010.

To help tabulate your circle's accomplishments in volunteer hours and dollars contributed, use the “Survey of Fraternal Activity Individual Member Worksheet” (#1728A). Your bursar should photocopy the worksheet and give a copy to each circle member at a meeting, or mail copies out with the circle's newsletter.

Your chief squire and the bursar should submit the completed survey form before Jan. 31, 2010, by fax to 203-752-4108, mail it to the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council Office, Department of Fraternal Services, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510-3326 or file online by completing the form found at [www.kofc.org/forms](http://www.kofc.org/forms) and clicking “submit.”