

Conduct a Church Drive for Recruitment Success

A church drive is an ideal opportunity to reach an audience of qualified prospects. Its ultimate success depends on careful planning and execution.

- ❖ Start by obtaining your pastor's approval to hold a membership drive at all Masses on the target week-end.
- ❖ Order quantities of Prospect Cards (#921A), and Membership Documents (#100). Both of these items are available from the Supreme Council Supply Department at no charge when ordered in reasonable quantities. Please use a Requisition Form (#1) when ordering.
- ❖ Prepare an announcement for the parish bulletin and ask that it be run during the two weekends before the drive.
- ❖ Put together a tabletop display that highlights your council's activities and the benefits of membership. This display should include handouts with information on your council and copies of your council's newsletter. Arrange for a spot near the main church entry for this display.
- ❖ Collate materials for presentation as people enter the church. Leave sharpened pencils in each pew for people to use when completing prospect cards.

On the day of the event, post teams of two to three Knights at each church door before each Mass to distribute flyers and prospect cards.

- ❖ Arrange for the pastor, grand knight or membership director to make a brief announcement before the Mass or after Communion explaining the Order and encouraging men to complete the Prospect Cards and turn them in as they leave the church. Read a letter of support (if available from the state council) from the local bishop or use a "Sample Pulpit Announcement" (#2678) available from the Supreme Council Supply Department.
- ❖ Have Knights in position at church exits to answer questions from prospects, collect Prospect Cards and assist interested prospects in completing Membership Documents.
- ❖ Restock tables and supplies for each Mass.
- ❖ After the event, deliver Membership Documents and completed Prospect Cards to the membership director for follow-up. Prospects who signed Membership Documents should be immediately informed of the date and time of their meeting with the Admission Committee and the First Degree exemplification.

A church drive is an ideal way to reach an audience of qualified prospects. Ultimate success depends on careful planning and execution.

Follow these steps to ensure that your council's church membership drive is a success. For more information on membership programs, visit www.kofc.org/recruit.



Outstanding Service

Deputy Grand Knight Peter A. Lombardo of Cargill Council 64 in Putnam, Conn., loads food into a truck during a K of C-sponsored food drive. Knights from Council 64, along with St. James Council 2883 in Danielson and Right Rev. Msgr. John C. Mathieu Assembly in Putnam, helped refill a local food pantry that was nearly empty due to increased demand.

For more information on conducting a food drive, visit www.kofc.org/service, click on the "Community" tab, and then on "Food Drives." If you have an outstanding program that your council has conducted, please send a photo and a short written explanation to fraternalservices@kofc.org with the words "Program Supplement Activity" in the subject line.

Two Great Contests to Inspire Youths



Substance abuse is one of the most difficult and confusing problems facing young people today. The Knights of Columbus annually conducts a **Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest** to address this issue, offer a positive outlook for children to embrace, and help carry them through peer pressure to use alcohol and drugs.

The contest, open to all young people ages 8-14, also helps councils strike up a dialogue with youth, all while providing alternatives to drug and alcohol use.

Entries are judged at the local, district, state and international levels. The winning entries at the international level are incorporated into substance abuse awareness materials produced and distributed by the Supreme Council.

Local councils are encouraged to contact the schools (public, private and parochial) in their communities to organize and conduct the poster contest as part of their youth activities program.

To participate, first order a Substance Abuse Poster Contest Kit by going to the Knights of Columbus Web site at www.kofc.org/forms. If you do not have access to a computer, you can use the form in the *Council Report Forms Booklet* (#1436), or call 203-752-4625.

When it arrives, you will see that the kit contains an informational flyer that includes a step-by-step guide (#4112) for the contest, a sample promotional letter and press release, sample contest posters, entry forms, participation certificates and award certificates.

Enjoy the experience of providing a positive outlet for the youths in your community's schools by participating in the Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest. The artwork created will instill pride in the artists and send a community-wide message that alcohol and drug abuse is a dead end.

Local councils, contact the schools in your community to organize and conduct the poster contest as part of your youth activities program.

Today's Catholic youths will be tomorrow's Catholic adults. By their actions and decisions, today's young Catholics will play a major role in the future direction of the Church. The Order encourages all councils and assemblies to sponsor the **Knights of Columbus Essay Contest** in their communities. The essay contest is a creative way to encourage young people to become citizens who are firmly grounded in the Faith.

This year, the essay contest boasts a new look with redesigned materials, is open to more grade levels, and will be incorporating district, state and international levels!

The Knights of Columbus Essay Contest is open to all Catholic students — in public, private or parochial schools — in grades 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 during the current school year. The theme of the essay contest is "The Responsibility of the Catholic Citizen in a Free Society." The contest opens the doors of young minds, enabling the entrants to be creative, thoughtful and introspective in their work.

All guidelines for conducting the contest are explained in the Essay Contest Kit: timetables, judging, awards, etc. Order the kit (#EA-KIT) online at www.kofc.org/forms, or by contacting the Department of Fraternal Services at 203-752-4270. The essay contest kits, available at no charge, contain everything needed to conduct the contest in your area, including the *Official Guide to the Knights of Columbus Essay Contest* (#4202) — with recommendations for books and Web sites — as well as the entry/judging forms, certificates for the winners and participants, and promotional posters for you to spread the word and advertise your contest.

Use the Essay Contest to build a solid relationship between your council/assembly and the participating schools, opening the doors to future knights who will get a firsthand look at what the Order is all about. Younger students may be interested in the Squires program, while graduating high school boys may be eligible to join your council directly.

The contest can also have the added benefit of attracting faculty and administration members — as well as family members of the entrants — to join your council.

Come, join the fun, and open the hearts of children in your area, as they acknowledge what it means to be a Catholic in today's free society.

For details visit www.kofc.org/essay.

For details on the Knights of Columbus Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest and the K of C Essay Contest, as well as other programs for young people, go to the "youth" link at www.kofc.org/service.

Have a question or comment about *PS*? Got a suggestion on what types of articles you'd like to see in a future issue? Contact us at: fraternalservices@kofc.org.

Honor All Priests during the 'Year for Priests'

Since its founding by a priest, the Venerable Michael McGivney, the Knights of Columbus has maintained a strong and close relationship with priests. To acknowledge and reinforce this special bond, all councils are urged to recognize their priests during the "Year for Priests" celebration.

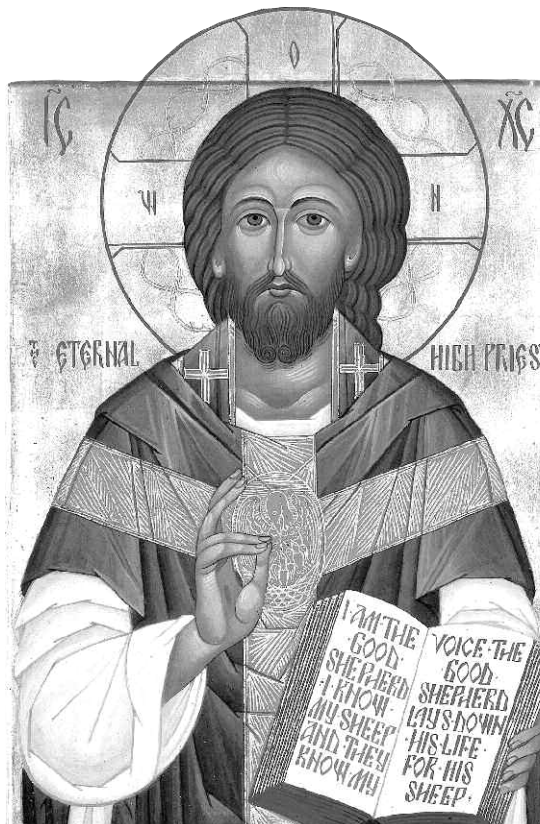
Holding an appreciation event for priests is a wonderful way to show the gratitude that the Knights of Columbus has for the men who dedicate their lives to guiding us in our faith. Along with honoring priests and showing that the Knights of Columbus stands "In Solidarity With Our Priests," such an event can also serve to familiarize nonmembers with the Order and your council. Here are some steps to follow when organizing this event:

- ❖ Form a priest appreciation committee. This committee will select the date, time and place for the Mass and priest appreciation event, and should also suggest additional ways the council can honor priests during the "Year for Priests."
- ❖ Organize a program for the event that will allow attending priests to relax and see that the members of the Order appreciate and are ready to serve them.
- ❖ Assign Knights and other volunteers to personally greet all priests attending the event and direct them to their seats.
- ❖ Provide guests with pre-dinner refreshments once they have arrived. If dinner is to be served, decide whether it will be a sit-down meal or buffet, whether it will be cooked by volunteers or catered, and whether Knights will act as servers. (Strongly consider having Knights serve

during the meal as a way to show the Order's willingness to serve our priests. Make arrangements for volunteers to handle these duties.)

- ❖ Decide upon any appropriate entertainment well in advance of the event and make sure the facility at which it will be held is suitable. Decorate the hall/facility for the event. You may also want to consider providing a simple printed program of the evening's activities to the guests either in advance or upon their arrival.
- ❖ Consider presenting each priest with a "Clergy Appreciation" certificate (#4362 horizontal). This attractive certificate includes spaces for the grand knight's signature as well as the recipient's name. Knights of Columbus maroon certificate folders (#4100) are available for \$2 each and black leatherette certificate frames (#1973) are available for \$2.50 each.

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Use the "Prayer for our Priests" prayer card (#4864, \$3 per bundle of 100) at your appreciation event for priests. This image, created by Iconographer Marek Czarnecki of Seraphic Restorations in Meriden, Conn., is depicted on the front of the card.

Get Out the Vote!

Voting is a privilege and a right that each citizen should exercise. Councils can encourage citizens to vote by conducting a public awareness campaign. To help with your campaign, these five posters are available:

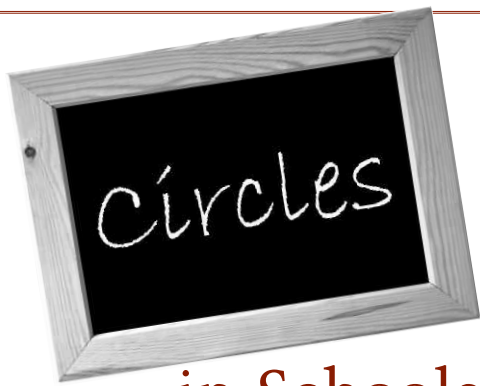
- The new "A People of Life and For Life. Vote Pro-Life" poster (#4807) includes a full color image of an infant along with text urging people to support pro-life candidates.
- An unborn child awaiting birth is featured on the "Vote... so she will have a chance to" poster (#4286).
- The "Too Many...Have Given Too Much..." poster (#2586) includes a photograph of a military cemetery as a reminder of the price paid for freedom.
- The "Vote! For Lots of Little Reasons" poster (#2587) shows a smiling group of children as a reminder that people need to participate in the election of public officials as a way to guarantee the future.
- The "It's not a spectator sport... Government only works when everyone participates" poster (#2588) features a crowd at a ball game. Display these posters throughout your community well before an election.

All of these posters are available at no cost when ordered in reasonable quantities from the Supply Department.

In addition to using posters to encourage voter turnout, your council can do much more. Voters need to know the candidates and the issues. Local councils and assemblies can sponsor a "Know Your Candidate" discussion at a convenient community location (but not in council homes due to the Order's policy of not allowing pro-abortion politicians to speak there). Here is how to do it:

- Invite candidates to attend and address the group.
- Work with cable access stations to televise the event.
- Send press releases to newspapers and television and radio stations to help entice them to cover the discussion.
- Prepare a list of issues on which candidates can speak.
- Appoint a moderator to present the records and platforms of the candidates and chair discussions.

Remember, an assembly or council must never endorse a political candidate or party. But they can have an impact on society by making sure voters know the candidates and the issues.



in Schools

Catholic schools, or interested public schools, are excellent locations for establishing Squires circles. The main advantage of having a circle in a school is the ability to reach potential Squires.

Councils interested in forming a circle in a school — perhaps one where a Knight serves as an administrator or faculty member — should

first contact the school's administration to present the idea. Consider showing school officials the video, *Something More*, which outlines the Squires program. This production is available from the Department of Fraternal Services free of charge except \$3 for shipping and handling. Allow four weeks for delivery.

Also, give administrators materials about the Columbian Squires. Once the circle is established it will operate in the same manner as other circles under the guidance of a council or assembly. Circle meetings can be held before or after school. Also, a circle can be beneficial to a school in the support it can give to school activities. For more information on starting a circle, contact the Department of Fraternal Services at 203-752-4403.

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- ❖ Show *The Life and Legacy of Father McGivney* (#24358, includes English, French and Spanish all on one disc) during the event. This production chronicles the life of this holy and hardworking priest from his boyhood and priesthood to his death in 1890 at the age of 38. This production is available free except for a \$3 shipping and handling charge from the Department of Fraternal Services or download it for free from the Web site www.kofc.org/videos.
- ❖ Gather together in prayer during the event. Consider opening the program to the entire Catholic community by inviting nonmembers and their families to participate. Use the "Prayer for our Priests" prayer card (#4864, \$3 per bundle of 100) at your service. Also, consider distributing the

- Father McGivney prayer cards (#2617), available in English, French or Spanish from the Supreme Council Supply Department at no cost, during all events. In addition, hand out copies of *The Life and Legacy of Father McGivney* booklet (#2045 — available, at no cost, in limited quantities of 50 copies per order).
- ❖ Present copies of the book *Parish Priest — Father Michael McGivney and American Catholicism* (#40095, hardcover for \$20 or #40094, softcover for \$12) to the attending priests.
- ❖ In addition, during this celebration, please consider distributing "In Solidarity With Our Priests" buttons (#SWP-1, available in bags of 50 for \$8.50 each) to all attendees at your council meetings and events.

REMINDER: Pro-Life Added as Sixth Service Program Category

Effective this 2009-10 fraternal year, rather than report "Pro-Life" activities under the "Community" category, you will report them under the newly created "Pro-Life" category.

If you use either the State Service Program Awards (#STSP) entry form or the Columbian Award (#SP7) application from the *Council Report Forms* booklet (#1436), you will need to

make a couple of simple modifications. In reporting your council's best Pro-Life program to your state council, write "Pro-Life" in the area at the top of the form where the other categories are listed. On the Columbian Award application, attach a separate sheet of paper listing your four reported programs in the "Pro-Life" category.

Electronic versions of these forms are currently being updated, and we will advise you when the new versions have been posted to the Web site at www.kofc.org/forms.

SHORT TAKES

Soccer Challenge

The Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge is designed for players to demonstrate the most basic of soccer skills — the penalty kick. The Soccer Challenge is open to all boys and girls in your community, ages 10-14.

In the Soccer Challenge, the soccer goal is divided into a series of five scoring zones, with a point value given to each section. After the participant is given 15 penalty kicks, his or her total number of points will be awarded depending upon the scoring zones that were hit.



The contest will take place on the council, district, regional, state, and international levels. Order the *Official Guide to the Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge* (#4576) from the Supply Department for all the details.

The program is also outlined in the Soccer Challenge Kit (#SC-KIT) that can be ordered by filling out the Soccer Challenge Order Form found on page 5 of the *Council Report Forms Booklet* (#1436), at www.kofc.org/forms, or by contacting the Supply Department.

Raising the quota bar

Starting July 1, 2009, the new membership quota will be based on 7 percent net of your council's membership (with a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 35 members).

This quota, up 2 percent from the previous year, affects qualifying for the Father McGivney and Star Council awards.

Check out the Order's Web site
www.kofc.org