

A Knight Before Christmas

Give the gift of Knights of Columbus membership this Christmas. Use your “Light Up for Christ” program and any other holiday celebrations your council sponsors to tell qualified men about the Order and ask them to join.

At your “Light Up for Christ” ceremony (Dec. 1) distribute Knights of Columbus promotional materials, including the Member/Spouse Fraternal Benefit flyer (#2773), the Family Fraternal Benefits flyer (#2761), *Columbia* magazine, council newsletters and other items of interest, to nonmembers.

Sponsor a reception, an evening of caroling or a similar event after your “Light Up for Christ” ceremony and invite nonmembers to attend. Have K of C promotional flyers and posters on hand. Also, show one of

the Order’s promotional DVDs.

If your council is planning a Christmas social or similar activity, set a date and time for the event well in advance to ensure a positive turnout from your council and their family members. Also invite your pastor and other members of your parish and the Catholic community, and recruit volunteers from your council to set up for the event, run activities, serve food, clean up, etc.

Be sure to consider all the details of your event. Will it be a sit-down meal or a standing social with a variety of snacks? What about advertising? Announce your event at Mass and in church bulletins to spread the word to all possible prospects. Write out all the different aspects of your

Continued on page 3

The “Light Up For Christ” celebration is a wonderful way to kick off the season and celebrate with brother Knights, family and friends. Find out even more ways to promote the “Keep Christ in Christmas” cause on Page 3.



International Service Program Winner: Church

St. Joseph’s church was built in 1897, making it the oldest public building in Lino Lakes, Minn. The building would spend 41 years sinking into a state of disrepair until St. Joseph’s of Lino Lakes Council 9905 helped take on the challenge of restoring the old church.

It was originally estimated that the massive amount of work necessary to restore the church building would cost \$833,450, but it was completed for less than \$150,000, thanks to more than 40 volunteers working for three and a half years on the project.

Knights, their wives, friends, parishioners and community volunteers did everything — from completely gutting the building and refurbishing the pews to bringing everything up to code, and adding a new roof, handicap-accessible bathroom (there was no plumbing to begin with), and sidewalk.

For more information on entering your council’s top activities in the areas of Church, Community, Council, Family, Pro-Life and Youth in your jurisdiction’s Service Program competition, please visit www.kofc.org/service and then select the “Council” link.

K of C Free Throw Championship

The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship is a great way to provide entertainment and enjoyment for the young people in your community.

Here are steps that Knights planning free throw competitions should keep in mind. First, order the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship Kit (FT-KIT). Use the order form on the Order's Web site (www.kofc.org/forms) or in the *Council Report Forms Booklet* (#1436), or call the Department of Fraternal Services at 203-752-4270.

Build public interest. Use the sample press release in the *Official Guide to the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship* (#1928) to

contestants whenever possible. Enlist help from schools. Ask school superintendents, principals and athletic directors to promote your championship.

See if schools will hold preliminary competitions as part of their intramural or physical education programs. High school athletes should be reminded to check with their state high school athletic association about possible eligibility conflicts. Don't forget to contact and invite the recreational and youth basketball programs in your community.

Immediately following your local competition fill out a Free Throw Participation Report Form and either submit it electronically or print it out and mail it to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Services.

For more information on the Free Throw Championship go to www.kofc.org/freethrow.



announce your competition. Use that text on your council's letterhead, giving the details of your championship. Deliver or send your news release, along with clip-art logos, to the editors of both local news and sports sections. When sending news releases always use the program's official name: "Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship."

Schedule a date and location for the event. Contact schools, and community and youth centers to reserve a basketball court. January is recommended for council competitions, February for district competitions, and March-April for regional and state championships.

The Free Throw kit contains two posters to help your council promote the contest. Poster (#1596) features a color photograph of a basketball and hoop. This poster includes space to list the name and phone number of the competition's contact person, and the competition date, time, location and name of the sponsoring council. The "Step Up to the Line" poster (#1686) also includes a space for competition information.

Obtain permission to display them in schools, youth and community centers, and churches. Make sure that Free Throw Entry Forms and Score Sheets (#1598) are also available at these locations. Pre-register

2008-09 International Free Throw Champions

Congratulations to the international winners of the 2008-09 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. These winners not only demonstrated their athletic ability in free-throw shooting, but also demonstrated outstanding conduct and resolve throughout the levels of the competition.

Boys Age	Champion	Score*	Sponsoring Council	Location
10	Haden Deaton	25	8056	West Lafayette, Ind.
10	Patrick Golden	25	8980	Myrtle Beach, S.C.
10	Josh Ricker	25	1753	Fort Fairfield, Maine
10	Peyton Rohling	25	746	Baraboo, Wis.
11	Reece Dupler	25	11665	Newark, Ohio
11	Brendon Wexted Hand	25	9137	Sherwood, Ore.
12	Ricky Bisson	25	12669	Oklahoma City, Okla.
13	Drew Onega	25	5801	Columbus, Ohio
13	Brock Kovach	25	8726	Sinking Spring, Pa.
13	Jacob Vinyard	25	1143	Edwardsville, Ill.
13	Kyle Doran	25	11552	Annapolis, Md.
14	Sean Bengochea	25	2997	Glasgow, Mont.
14	Kiran Shastri	25	13179	Concord, Calif.
Girls Age	Champion	Score	Sponsoring Council	Location
10	Jessica Maguire	25	7268	Benicia, Calif.
11	Kathleen Dyer	25	7786	St. John's, Nfld.
12	Caroline Hummel	23	10102	Brights Grove, Ont.
13	Jasmine Jackson	24	7258	Mena, Ark.
14	Megan Hooven	25	11470	Georgetown, Ky.

*Please note: Scores are out of 25 attempts

Keeping Christ in Christmas

In a time when all things religious are being discouraged and swept away, it's refreshing to know that the Order established the "Keep Christ in Christmas" campaign to remind people that Christmas is above all a holy day celebrating the birth of Christ. To help deliver the "Keep Christ in Christmas" message, the Knights of Columbus offers several promotional materials:

- ◆ There are three posters, "Check the List" (#4554), "Remember, it's CHRISTmas" (#4555), and "Keep Christ in Christmas" (#2760), currently available from the Supreme Council Supply Department. Offer these posters to local parochial schools, religious education classes and all area Christian churches.
- ◆ Sponsor a "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster or essay contest.
- ◆ Send Christmas cards with a religious theme, and use Christmas postage stamps.
- ◆ Contact CHRIST IS CHRISTmas, PO Box 20716, Roanoke, VA for "Keep Christ in Christmas"-themed mailing seals, Advent wreaths, Advent calendars, Advent wreath leaflets and a tri-fold indoor Nativity scene. This company also sells billboards depicting the Holy Family and the campaign slogan. For pricing and ordering, contact Christ is Christmas at 1-800-722-5032 or go to www.christischristmas.com.
- ◆ Offer to help your parish or a poorer parish prepare for Christmas through cleaning, repairing or providing decorations or flowers.
- ◆ Undertake a letter writing campaign in November to area churches or local businesses urging them to construct a Nativity scene.
- ◆ Urge all members to display a Nativity scene on their property

or at their businesses this Christmas season.

- ◆ Submit a "Keep Christ in Christmas" advertisement to your church bulletin or local newspaper, and include it in your council newsletter.

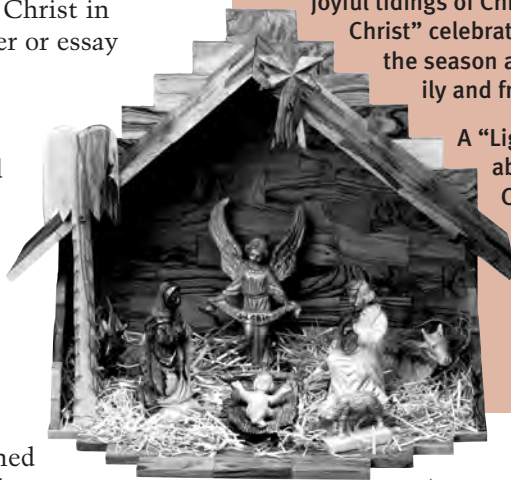
'Light Up for Christ'

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 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 council has not participated in the past, this is the year to start a great tradition and help spread the joyful tidings of Christmas. The "Light Up For Christ" celebration is a wonderful 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 a great way to promote your council's "Light Up For Christ" program.

For more information, visit www.kofc.org/christmas.



- ◆ Don't forget to broadcast the true meaning of Christmas with the Knights of Columbus television Public Service Announcement (PSA) titled "Remember It's Christmas." Personally deliver it to your local TV station. Order by calling 203-752-4044.
 - ◆ Radio PSAs on local stations deliver the message to listeners. The Knights of Columbus offers three PSAs: "Merry What?", "Getting or Giving?", and "Need." Order by calling 203-752-4044.
- To order any of the supplies mentioned here or in the Supply Catalog (#1264), complete a Requisition Form (#1) and mail it to the Supreme Council Supply Department or fax it to them at: 1-800-266-6340.

RECRUIT, continued from page 1
celebration.

Plan entertainment for both adults and children. Contests, raffles, sing-a-longs and holiday videos are just the type of things to keep the families of both council members and prospects entertained.

To get prospects and their families interested in the Order, have display materials and items that show your council's history and the various types of projects you conduct. Have plenty of recruitment flyers and other information on hand including: "The Greatness of a Man" (#4496), "What This Organization Stands For" (#4495 — limit of 50/order), Become a Knight (#1915), and Faith-based flyer (#4497). These pamphlets are perfect for prospective members to quickly read while at your event, sparking interest and generating a desire to learn more about the Order. Also, have a supply of Membership Documents (#100)

available for interested prospects.

Along with members and prospects, invite former and inactive members and their families. Ask for assistance from the financial secretary, past grand knights and trustees in collecting information about these former members and the circumstances of their leaving the Order. Review the list to determine which former members still live in your area and invite them to your celebration.

Finally, ask prospects to attend a council volunteer effort — such as an evening of working in a soup kitchen, cleaning the church, or a clothing and food drive for needy families — to show prospects firsthand what the Knights of Columbus does for the Church and the community.

For details visit www.kofc.org/recruit.

Earn Star Council Status

Through the Supreme Council awards program, councils qualify for recognition by excelling in membership growth (Father McGivney Award), insurance membership growth (Founders' Award), and quality service programs (Columbian Award).

For the council that attains all three awards, the Supreme Council offers the most prestigious awards that a council can achieve — the Star Council Award and the Double Star Council Award. (Note: Those councils that achieve 200 percent of their membership quota, along with insurance and programming, will receive the Double Star Council Award.) Here are the requirements for each award:

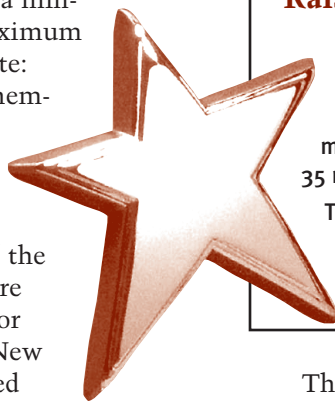
To earn the **Father McGivney Award** a council must achieve its membership quota (over deductions, based on the total active membership of the council as of July 1): Councils need a 7 percent increase of membership additions (with a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 35 members). (Note: Inactive insurance members are not included when computing the July 1 quota. Also, transfers in or out of the council and deaths are not counted toward or against the quotas. New council quota is based upon the number of members recorded on the Notice of Institution.)

To qualify for the **Founders' Award** a council must achieve its insurance quota: Councils with 30-100 members need an increase of three insurance membership additions over deductions; councils with 101 or more members need a 2.5 percent increase of insurance membership additions over deductions, based on the total active membership of the council as of July 1. A minimum of 30 members is required. (Inactive insurance members are not included when computing the July 1 quota.)

For both of the aforementioned

awards, additions are credited for new members, juvenile-to-adult members, reinstatements, reactivations, readmissions and reapplications; and for new insurance members, insurance reinstatements, reactivations, juvenile-to-adult insurance membership and associate-to-insurance transactions received, processed and released at the Supreme Council office between July 1 and June 30.

Deductions charged against the quota include all insurance suspensions and withdrawals and insurance-to-associate transactions processed and recorded at the Supreme Council office between July 1 and June 30. Transfers in or out of the council and deaths are not counted toward or against the quotas. (Note: New council quota is based on the number of members recorded on the Notice of Institution; a minimum of 30 members is required.)



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.

There are no application forms for these awards; achievement of the membership and insurance quotas are automatically determined at the Supreme Council office through the receipt, processing and release of transactions as of June 30, 2010.

A council can earn the **Columbian Award** by annually conducting and reporting at least four major involvement programs in each of the following areas of the Service Program: Church, community, council, family, pro-life and youth. Please note that pro-life has been added as a category for the first time this year. (See the reminder in the "Short Takes" column at right.) Use the Columbian Award Application (#SP7) to report

SHORT TAKES

'Neighbors' Summit DVD

Dozens of fraternal and volunteer organizations gathered February, in New York, at the "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" summit to discuss how together they can increase the level of charitable outreach for those most affected by the current economic situation. A three-DVD summary of the summit is available for councils, assemblies and circles at no charge, except \$5 for shipping and handling. This DVD set details how to effectively work with other organizations to improve life in their communities. To order, call the Fraternal Services Department at 203-752-4270. Refer to item #50051 when ordering. To view coverage of the summit, and to learn more about working with other organizations, visit www.servicetogether.org.

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 changes. 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.

programs and submit it by June 30.

To earn these awards, complete and return the Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity Report Form (#1728) and the Service Program Personnel Report Form (#365) to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Services by Aug. 1. Also, in order to qualify for any awards, councils must not be suspended by the Supreme Council office for nonpayment of per capita, Catholic Advertising, or supply charges.