

BUILDING THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

While Strengthening Our Parish



Through our Building the Domestic Church Orderwide initiative, every Knights of Columbus council is called to respond to the challenges facing our families and our parish communities. To accomplish this, together we must rededicate ourselves to our mission of service for the Church. By implementing this initiative in your councils, Knights, their families, and all parishioners participate in activities that promote the New Evangelization, strengthen our parishes, and build Catholic fraternity.

Strengthening Parish Life

Since our founding by parish priest Father Michael McGivney, Knights of Columbus have been dedicated to strengthening Catholic family life. As Knights we strive to dedicate our time, talent and resources to ensuring that our parishes are beacons of the new evangelization.

To be evangelizers, families look to find support in the sacramental life of the parish. In support of this evangelization of family life, every Knights of Columbus council strives to be united with its parish mission and vision. Our programs and activities – at home, at Church, and in the community – are a means to impact and strengthen parish family life.

A Quick Guide to Getting Started

- 1. Meet with your pastor.** Sit down with your pastor to plan your fraternal year. Parish priorities should drive your council's activity.
- 2. Read or watch the Supreme Knight's Domestic Church address.** Available online at kofc.org/DomesticChurch.
- 3. Explore the Domestic Church web pages.** Resources are available online to help your council plan activities and to share with your members and families. Visit kofc.org/DomesticChurch.
- 4. Promote the *Family Fully Alive* program.** Order copies of the program (#10162) for your members to begin at home. Ask your chaplain or lecturer to incorporate the monthly themes into your meetings. Go to kofc.org/familyfullyalive for full details.
- 5. Start an *Into the Breach* (#340) study group.** Invite all men of the parish to join your council in a study of Bishop Olmsted's letter. Commit to promoting his *Practices of a Committed Catholic Man* throughout your council and parish.

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Your Council Action Plan

Through the Domestic Church initiative your council, like every Knights of Columbus council, will implement “Domestic Church Activities” into your annual action plan. Work with your pastor to organize a combination of activities aimed at strengthening the bond between the council, the parish and families.

Domestic Church Activities

Any council that organizes at least **TWO activities from each of the four areas** that follow will receive a commemorative Holy Family icon signifying your council’s devotion to the Holy Family and your dedication to “Building the Domestic Church”. Reporting information and forms will be available online at kofc.org beginning September 1st.

MEMBER ACTIVITIES



- Start a Men’s Holy Hour
- Organize a parish reflection of *Into the Breach* (#340)
- Sponsor a Faith Formation group for men utilizing the Catholic Information Service resources (kofc.org/cis)

FAMILY ACTIVITIES



- Encourage families to participate in the *Family Fully Alive* program (#10162)
- Encourage family Consecrations to the Holy Family (#10371)
- Hold a Father’s Day *Affirmation of Wedding Vows*
- Plan a Family Week Celebration for your parish

PARISH ACTIVITIES



- Host the Holy Family Prayer Program (#5050)
- Encourage participation in a Family Rosary Program
- Promote Simple Suppers & Stations during Lent
- Join the Keep Christ in Christmas Campaign
 - Sponsor a Christmas Poster Contest in your parish school
 - Conduct a *Journey to the Inn — Advent Celebration* (#9898) at your parish

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



- Lead your parish community in **two** Community Service projects. Focus particularly on Knights of Columbus programs such as Coats for Kids, Food for Families, and similar activities.