How To Help Catholics and Grow Your Council

It’s our mission to show the world that Catholic men can be reliable examples of integrity, trustworthy leaders and devout sons of God. Our Faith In Action programs help us do this in a tangible and meaningful way — whether through quiet contemplation, intense prayer or helping future shepherds of Holy Mother Church.

This issue explores the programs in the Faith In Action’s faith category. These programs will help us become the men God created us to be: witnesses of strong faith for this age and in this time. They can also help recruit men who are looking for a deeper relationship with God.

Catching Up on The Supreme Convention
Get a close-up look at everything that happened last month at the K of C’s biggest annual event by visiting kofc.org/convention. Videos, including one featuring the family of the year, were posted on Twitter, Facebook and our other social channels.

Read More About Knights and Faith
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Rewrite Your Council’s Faith Story
With the “Five Ps of Success”

Every council should be taking steps to implement the new Faith in Action programs, ideally at least one program from each category. See how easy it is to get started by looking at each program in light of the 5 Ps (place, price, product, people and promotion).

**Holy Hour**

**Product:** A regular hour of eucharistic adoration. Prepared for the men of the parish, this Holy Hour could include a reflection, communal rosary, various prayers and hymns with the aid of the pastor or chaplain.

**Price:** Just one hour of a man’s time; the value to his soul is priceless.

**Place:** Your church.

**People:** Knights and other members of your parish, especially potential recruits.

And why Promote it?

A Holy Hour encourages a personal encounter with God. Now, more than ever, devout Catholics need time to pray. Eucharistic adoration is a way to address these needs. It is familiar, easy to organize and something everyone can participate in together.

**Spiritual Reflection**

**Product:** A retreat for rejuvenation. This could be a “Knights Only” retreat that you plan under the guidance of your chaplain, or it could be an event you organize for men or families of your parish.

**Price:** Will vary on the retreat length, style and number of attendees.

**Place:** Your parish or a retreat center.

**People:** Council members, men of the parish or entire families.

And why Promote it?

Religious retreats are radically rejuvenating spiritual events that often leave a lasting impact on participants’ relationship to their faith. Yet, too often, retreats seem only to be offered to students and youth. Working with their pastors, Knights of Columbus councils can hold low-cost retreats of their own. It creates annual opportunities for prayer and reflection as a fraternity. It’s also a great way to introduce potential recruits to your council.

To satisfy program requirements, councils must organize a Holy Hour at least four times per fraternal year. However, councils are strongly encouraged to hold Holy Hours even more frequently.

If your council is unable to organize a retreat on its own, you can attend a local Catholic retreat — or visit the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, D.C. — to satisfy the requirement. However, council attendance should be significant, with at least 10 percent of the council or a minimum of 10 members participating.

The definition of a “reflection” is broad but should be a day-long event at minimum and could possibly encompass an entire weekend. Be creative: Make a pilgrimage to a nearby basilica, monastery or convent. Celebrate Mass with your chaplain or pastor.

Council participation in Spiritual Reflection is required to qualify for Columbian Award.
SACRAMENTAL GIFTS

PRODUCT: Gifts to be given to recipients of Baptism, First Communion and Marriage.
PRICE: Depends on your gift(s) and the number of recipients.
PLACE: Your church.
PEOPLE: Your council, your pastor and parishioners.

And why PROMOTE it?
The sacraments are the most important events in the life of the domestic church. Knights can help families understand this and better value these events through prayer and gifts. As the families become more integrated into the life of the church, they will turn to the Knights, knowing that they are always ready to pray for them, support them and help them.

BUILDING THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

PRODUCT: The Building the Domestic Church Kiosk and its 225 booklets.
PRICE: $150.00 USD (including shipping).
PLACE: A prominent location in your church or parish hall, provided you get your pastor’s permission.
PEOPLE: People who might benefit include those considering Catholicism, families, Mass attendees, men’s groups, parish retreats and youth groups.

And why PROMOTE it?
It’s important that every parish has exceptional religious education materials available for anyone to study. The Domestic Church Kiosks contain engaging, faith-based booklets, perfect for members, parishioners and the general public. Councils purchasing a Kiosk will also receive a set of 225 booklets of the most popular CIS resources aimed at helping Catholics to live out the Church’s vision for our families.

Set an annual goal for your RSVP fundraising efforts. Then conduct various events in your parish and community in order to reach your goal. Potential fundraising activities include asking your pastor to allow a second collection earmarked to support seminarians or a “Seminarian Breakfast” during which seminarians supported by your council meet the parish and pray together.

Obtain your pastor’s permission and, under his direction, plan the best way for you to present the gift. Check out the Sacramental Gifts Brochure (#10727) for details and gift ideas.

REFUND SUPPORT VOCATIONS PROGRAM

PRODUCT: The support of seminarians and religious.
PRICE: For every $500 your council gives, the Supreme Council will refund $100, up to $400 per seminarian.
PLACE: Your parish and community.
PEOPLE: Seminarians identified with the help of the jurisdiction RSVP chairman, diocesan vocation director, your council chaplain or parish pastor.

And why PROMOTE it?
Men who are in seminary need the moral and spiritual support of the Catholic laity. Knights and our families stand in solidarity with seminarians and those discerning vocations. They need our help, whether that be financial or with our moral support and prayers.

Assign a council member to be responsible for receiving and setting up the kiosk and replenishing the booklets when supplies are low. Councils can purchase the refill booklets in bulk at a reduced rate.
INTO THE BREACH

**PRODUCT:** A weekly study group centering on the *Into the Breach* Booklet (#340) and Study Guide (#10683).

**PRICE:** The cost of providing a copy of the booklet and study guide to each of your study group attendees. Or, they can access both items free online.

**PLACE:** An appropriate meeting venue, such as a parish hall.

**PEOPLE:** Knights and other members of your parish, especially men who may become Knights.

**And why PROMOTE it?**

Times of crisis and uncertainty must be met by Catholics with honesty, integrity and justice, as well as complete dedication to virtue. Bishop Thomas Olmsted’s *Into the Breach* identifies the enemies of the faith — both spiritual and temporal — and draws up a battle plan for us to fight for our own souls, spread the joy of the Gospel, heal the wounds within ourselves and others and steadily transform the world. This program is also a great recruiting tool, so be sure to welcome prospective members to join you each week.

To learn more about the Into the Breach Program, visit kofc.org/breach.

MARIAN PRAYER PROGRAM

**PRODUCT:** The icon of Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians. The icon travels throughout your jurisdiction, and when the Marian image is brought to your parish, it can service as a centerpiece for Marian devotion.

**PRICE:** It’s free, but the *Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians Prayer Program Booklet* (#5050) and *Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians Prayer Card* (#10740) can be ordered through Supplies Online.

**PLACE:** Your parish.

**PEOPLE:** Council and parish members can participate in the Marian prayer service.

**And why PROMOTE it?**

The image of Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians fosters devotion to the Blessed Mother and recalls to mind the sufferings of our brothers and sisters in the faith. A prayer service will raise awareness in our larger communities, and better help us stand in prayerful solidarity with persecuted Christians.

Rosary Program

**PRODUCT:** A regular rosary prayer service for families and parishes.

**PRICE:** Kits with rosary rings, rosary prayer guides and leader books can be ordered by your council at no cost.

**PLACE:** Your church.

**PEOPLE:** Knights and their families, as well as other members of your parish.

**And why PROMOTE it?**

Frequent praying of the rosary deepens a devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, patroness of the Knights of Columbus. This prayer can truly change our lives, because we direct our minds and hearts toward the Lord. The program itself emphasizes the importance of prayer in community and as a family.

Invite each family of the parish and offer those who attend a copy of *A Scriptural Rosary for the Family* (#319).

Councils can schedule services on any day of the week, at any time of the year, with the guidance of their pastor.

Councils should hold rosary prayer services at least four times a year to successfully meet program requirements.
**In The Spotlight**

**From the NFL to the K of C: Matt Birk Witnesses a Life of Faith in Action**

*Super Bowl Champion Matt Birk shares about being pro-life, a Knight of Columbus and the powerful witness of faith.*

**Why did you become a Knight of Columbus?**

I had just retired from the NFL and was actually speaking at a men’s conference in Phoenix. Mike Phelan from the Diocese of Phoenix was talking about the Knights and was thanking them for their participation in the conference. He said, “If any of you men are not Knights, why not?” And I thought, “Yeah, why am I not a Knight?” I guess I had never been asked. So I went home from Phoenix, signed up and became a Knight.

As long as I can remember from wherever I’ve lived, the Knights are always there quietly doing whatever needs to be done — just to be a small part of that and contribute is an honor.

**You’ve had amazing highlights during your years in the NFL, including winning a Super Bowl and being awarded the Walter Payton Man of the Year Award. What’s been the most important?**

Oh, definitely the Walter Payton Award. When I was growing up, Walter Payton was the man. He was the best player in the NFL. As I came into the NFL, I got to learn of his legacy off the field and how much work he did in the community. You know, I’m not even close to the player that Walter Payton was, but as a football player you do have a platform … hopefully my wife and I did some good with that. To be recognized for that is much more important than Pro-Bowls or Championships. You look at the list of those who won the Walter Payton Award, and that’s an honor I don’t really feel worthy of. In my house I don’t have a lot of memorabilia out or any of that, but I do have that trophy displayed.

**How did your faith grow when you were in the NFL?**

If you experience success in the NFL, you basically have everything that the world has to offer. Once you get to that level, you realize there’s a big hole in your heart. ... You find yourself searching for answers, searching for meaning, searching for purpose and so every team I’ve played on had a team chaplain. Three of the four teams I played on the head coach was Catholic, so we had Catholic mass in the hotel either the night before or the morning of the games. I don’t know, it might be the only workplace in America where you are actually encouraged to grow and explore your faith.

**You actively stand up for the rights of the unborn, by withdrawing from events with pro-choice advocates, speaking at the March for Life and more. Can you share how you got involved?**

My wife and I are blessed with eight children. ... For us, it’s kind of absurd that abortion exists or is legal. My wife was first involved, working at pregnancy centers, folding clothes, taking donations and I got involved as well.

Every single day I’m more and more encouraged by the pro-life warriors that I meet. Millions of women who have had abortions now tell you that it was a huge mistake. They advocate and fight for the unborn; I think that is an amazing display of courage. I look up to those women so much.

If we can’t agree that everybody is afforded the right to live, I don’t know if anything else matters.

**What would you tell young people about the K of C?**

Faith without works is dead. As Catholics, we are called to live our faith: Faith in action. The Knights of Columbus not only affords you the opportunity — it’s an easy way. You don’t have to go out and find it, the Knights of Columbus will bring the causes and the work to you. You just have to show up.

*For more on Matt Birk living his faith in action, visit the Knight of Columbus YouTube channel and watch “Super Bowl for Kids,” which follows Matt Birk and Kyle Sloter of the Minnesota Vikings as they deliver winter coats to students at St. John Paul II Catholic Prep in Minneapolis. Find out how you can participate in a similar coats distribution by visiting kofc.org/coats.*
Give Faith a Home by Supporting the McGivney House

“Christianity might have died in Iraq... Because of our commitment, life goes on for our brothers and sisters. But our work is not over.”
– Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, Aug. 7, 2018

In recent years, the Knights of Columbus has been helping construct the McGivney House, a 140 unit apartment building that will provide safe housing for Christian families in the Middle East. The units are nearly ready, but they still need electricity, air conditioning and a water supply. With your council’s help, we can finish the McGivney House and give these families freedom, stability and dignity.

Help support the McGivney House by donating to the Christian Refugee Relief Fund. Visit kofc.org/charities for details.

Grand Knight’s Checklist

Deadlines and Updates
- Prepare the Circle Officers and Chairmen Report (#468) and Report of Round Table Coordinator (#2629), both due Sept. 1.
- Plan your participation in upcoming Coats for Kids drives, Food for Families initiatives and the International World Day of Prayer for Peace (Sept. 11).
- Remain compliant with updated Safe Environment requirements (see kofc.org/safe for details).

Things to Consider
- Confirm that your council’s July assessments have been paid. Note: The incentive credit for Star Councils is listed on your Sept. 1 statement. Please refer to this statement to determine the amount due or credited.
- Regularly meet with your pastor to ensure your council is supporting the parish.
- Welcome your council’s field agent to upcoming meetings, giving him opportunities to speak about insurance benefits.
- Invite men of all ages to join, using the Form 100 or kofc.org/joinus.
- Work with MPCs and officers to implement the Faith in Action program model.

CORRECTION: Last month’s Knightline incorrectly listed the Faith In Action Guidebook as item #10612. The item number is #10590. To access the correct handbook, visit kofc.org/faithinaction.

Hate Your Morning Alarm? Respond with a YES to Jesus

A CHALLENGE AND MESSAGE FROM SUPREME CHAPLAIN ARCHBISHOP LORI

Then he sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, “If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.”
— Gospel for Sept. 22 (Mk 9:35)

When I was in seminary, I had a roommate who was an early riser. Every morning his loud alarm went off at 5:15, at which point he’d say the same thing: “Gladly, Jesus, gladly!”
My comments went in a different direction, let’s be honest. In a selfish, me-first world, it’s just as hard to hear Jesus say “the first shall be last” as it was to hear my roommate at 5:15. And yet, my brothers, Jesus calls us to be servants of all; to step out of our comfort zone and say “gladly!” as we go to serve others in our lives. “Gladly, Jesus, gladly!”

Your Goal for September

This month I challenge you to become even more like Jesus, the “servant of all,” by making an act of charity for someone in your life from whom you have been distant, or whom you have wronged. Secondly I challenge you to prayerfully reflect on these words from Scripture: “Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another” (1 Jn 4:11).

Every month, another challenge will be published in Knightline, the Chaplain’s Report and Columbia magazine. Instructions on the challenge are available on kofc.org/domesticchurch.

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Ten Reasons Why Men of Faith Should Support K of C Insurance

This past July, General Agent Daniel Schachle spoke to a group of agents, explaining that it is our job as Knights to show the world that faith-based values matter. He noted that we must seek to promote those values in every aspect of our lives, including in how we plan our families’ financial future. Here’s why:

1. The Knights of Columbus has products that help families all across the economic spectrum. If a Catholic family needs a strong insurance company, we are it.

2. Knights of Columbus Field Agents serve their members with high integrity, and so does our organization, which was named a World’s Most Ethical Company® by the Ethisphere® Institute for the fifth consecutive year this past February.

3. Your local Knights of Columbus Field Agent is committed to you. His working mission and purpose is to provide the best advice and service to you and your family.

4. Your dollars with the Knights do triple duty: They are invested in a Catholic way, they help those less fortunate and they help your family.

5. The Knights of Columbus offers more than life insurance. We also have insured retirement plans where your IRAs, Roth IRAs, 401ks or non-qualified funds can be placed to maximize your retirement income.

6. Knights of Columbus Field Agents can help members create a solid financial legacy plan. Remember, you don’t choose if you leave a legacy — you either leave your family a legacy of love or you leave them burdens.

7. The Knights of Columbus offers long-term care insurance, a product that helps you pay for your extended medical needs in a nursing home facility or in the comfort of your own home. The Knights allow you, not someone else, to decide how and where you should live. It’s up to you.

8. With the Knights of Columbus you can guarantee that, even if you run out of money, you will never run out of income.

9. The Knights of Columbus offers disability-income insurance, a product that helps replace lost income if you are unable to work due to a disability resulting from an illness or accident.

10. The Knights of Columbus help to ensure that the dreams a father has for his children can come true — even if he’s not here to see to it and provide it himself.

Find out more by visiting kofc.org/insurance.

Live in Tennessee? See how Dan and his team can help you by visiting facebook.com/tennesseekofcinsurance/.

Help Catholics Exercise Their Right To Vote

Knights should vote and should encourage other members of their families, parishes and communities to vote. Yet many, especially senior citizens and people with disabilities, have trouble getting to the polls on voting day. The key first step in helping fellow Catholics exercise this right is to ensure that all eligible voters are registered to vote. The next step is to help get them to the polls.

To help your fellow Catholics get to the polls and exercise their right to vote, coordinate a parish-based Nonpartisan National Voter Registration Program. Detailed action steps can be found at kofc.org/vote.

Members are not authorized to engage in partisan political activity in the name of the Knights of Columbus. Partisan Political Activity is defined as activity directed toward success or failure of a political party, candidate for partisan political office, partisan political group, ballot initiative, proposition and the like. Partisan politics are not allowed in the Order or in any of its council chambers.

Don’t Walk Away From This

If you welcome five men to join before Sept. 30, we have something just for you: a $50 KnightsGear gift card.

To be eligible for the gift card, simply include your membership number as the proposer on a Form 100 and you’ll get the credit. This works with Online Membership too. For information, check out the Membership Incentives and Awards details found at kofc.org/membership.

Membership in the Knights of Columbus is open to men 18 years of age or older who are practical (that is, practicing) Catholics in union with the Holy See. This means that an applicant or member accepts the teaching authority of the Catholic Church on matters of faith and morals, aspires to live in accord with the precepts of the Catholic Church, and is in good standing in the Catholic Church.
Peace of mind is more affordable than you think.

Finding out is free.

Find an agent at kofc.org or call 1-800-345-5632