Since Faith In Action arrived in July, we’ve seen a revival of faith, family, community and life activities that enable Knights to be a force for good in their homes, parishes and communities.

This month, the focus is on Faith In Action’s Family category, highlighting its special events, religious services and volunteer opportunities.

Take a look and help your council get started on these activities. Before you know it, your council too will become a source for transformation, not only among Knights of Columbus, but throughout the entire world.

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Help Victims of Hurricanes
Countless brother Knights stepped up in the immediate wake of hurricanes Florence and Michael with charity and volunteer aid. Thanks to your generosity, the Knights of Columbus were among the first to respond. With your continued help, we can keep working with local brother Knights and relief groups to help rebuild. Visit kofc.org/disaster. One hundred percent of your donation will go directly to relief efforts.
Programs Created for Families by Families

Two centuries ago, Father Michael McGivney saw that Catholic families needed help and support, or they would break apart or even leave the Catholic faith.

Today, societal pressures on families are even greater. But we can respond by supporting our Catholic friends and parish communities through the Faith In Action programs. These programs are easy to implement and will give families the support they need.

FAMILY WEEK

Under this program, councils plan a special week of activities for families in their parish.

Though traditionally celebrated in the summer to commemorate the birth and death of founder Father McGivney, Family Week can take place anytime during the year. Choose a time that allows as many people as possible to participate.

Schedule fun events that affirm faith and strengthen family ties. A list of suggested Family Week activities is available at kofc.org/familyweek.

FAMILY PRAYER NIGHT

If you have a parish community, a gathering space and a few appetizers, then you have a Family Prayer night!

This program is the perfect way to welcome newer members of your council or parish. You also get to know the church community in a deeper way.

A typical Family Prayer Night should ideally last between two and three hours, with guests leaving as needed. The schedule should include:

- Introductory period to meet the other families
- Community prayer
- A family game or activity
- Potluck meal and social time
- Concluding prayer

Since this is a Family Night, make sure every family member can participate. For example, a toddler might drop a marble in a cup to count the prayers of the rosary or place a flower in a vase for every decade.

GOOD FRIDAY FAMILY PROMOTION

Attendance at the Good Friday Liturgy of the Lord's Passion and Death has been in decline in many parts of the world — but as a Knight, you can change this.

Our faith — and that of our families and parishes — is strengthened when we take the time to meditate on Christ’s Passion and Death. As part of this program, Knights attend Good Friday services with their families and work with their pastors to encourage increased parishioner involvement at these liturgies. Along with these efforts, councils will also work to educate their parishes about the plight of Christians in the Holy Land and other areas where Christians are persecuted for their faith.

To get started speak about the importance of attending Good Friday services throughout the Lenten season, especially at Friday Fish Frys and other council events. Refer to the resources at kofc.org/goodfriday.

Conducting Good Friday Family Promotion program does not satisfy the programming requirements for the Christian Refugee Relief program.

The two activities are separate and cannot be double-counted.
FOOD FOR FAMILIES

We have the power to help feed those who need it.

Ask each Knight in your council to go through his own pantry for non-perishable food items. Others might pick up items at the local grocery store. Bring these items together and donate them to a local parish food pantry, soup kitchen or food bank.

You can also offer financial contributions, which allow nonprofits to procure the exact items needed by those in need.

Did you know?

- 49 million Americans struggle to put food on the table.
- Each month in Canada, more than 850,000 people turn to food banks for help. More than one-third are children and youth.
- Knights donated nearly 4 million pounds of food and nearly $2 million through Food for Families last year.

If your council meets the requirements for Food for Families, you will receive two credits in the Family category. Visit kofc.org/food for details.

For every $500 or 1,000 pounds of food donated, the Supreme Council will refund $100 back to the council — up to a maximum of $500 per council per fraternal year.

Participating in Food for Families Program does not satisfy the programming requirements for the Helping Hands program. The two activities are separate and cannot be double-counted.

Family Fully Alive

The Family Fully Alive program asks families to invite God into their homes and cultivates each family as a “domestic church.” To accomplish this, the program provides monthly themes, scripture verses, activities, prayer and reflection.

This is a flexible year-round program. Start by viewing the free resources available at kofc.org/familyfullyalive.

Family of the Month/Year

As part of the program, your council establishes a committee to recognize a deserving Family of the Month. Find exemplary families by asking:

- Is the family tight-knit? Does the family spend quality time together? Do they volunteer and pray together?
- Does the family serve as a model of Catholic family values?

Each month, the Supreme Council awards gifts to 100 Families of the Month. Visit kofc.org/family for details.

Once you choose your 12 winning families, select one to be honored as your council’s Family of the Year.

Don’t forget to submit your Family of the Year to the state/provincial competitions — winners at the state level are considered for the Supreme Council’s International Family of the Year nomination. Contact your state family chairman regarding deadlines and where to send entries.
How One Council Brought in 71 Members in a Year

Father Patrick Power Council 4588 in Livermore, Calif., broke their personal recruiting records last fraternal year. Knight Don Wesley Arnold shares how they did it.

On June 30, Juan Carlos Zaragoza Chavez became the 71st man to join Council 4588 during the 2017-2018 fraternal year. Local council member Don Wesley Arnold attributes the record-breaking growth to the council’s unique activities.

The Knights organized large, attention-grabbing events: baby showers to collect for pro-life pregnancy centers, walks for life, Christmas baskets, fish taco meals during Lent, family movie nights, Hispanic outreach and more.

“We invited our wives and families to attend one of our business meetings. Over 120 attendees got to see what we do and remove the perception of secrecy,” Arnold said.

At the same time, fraternity was being bolstered by an internal recognition program.

“We recognized performance and contributions at every meeting and event. Multiple Knights of the month and families of the month, along with a number of other special awards like shining armor, honorary life member, years of service certificates and pins, certificates of appreciation and merit, etc. This helped bring meeting attendance to around 50 men,” Arnold said.

The council used a combination of tools including traditional membership drives, individual and event recruiting, and the First Degree DVD. They also created a binder for their pastor, listing council needs and upcoming events.

“How laying out exactly what support we needed from the clergy was critical to our effective programs and parish outreach,” Arnold said.
Q & A With Danny O’Keefe:
“Be Part of a Strong, Fun Family Organization”

Volunteer Fireman Danny O’Keefe is a member of Msgr. John C. Seidenschwang Council 11836 in Garden City, N. Y. During the 2017-2018 fraternal year, he recruited more than 42 members and is still adding more! His recruitment efforts won him a place at the World Meeting of Families in Ireland. Check out the exclusive Knightline interview below.

You were chosen from a lottery of other K of C recruiters to attend the World Meeting of Families in Ireland. What was the best part?
I was able to visit the General Post Office where my grandfather was shot and wounded in 1916 during the Easter Rising. Another favorite part of this trip was being able to meet great brothers with the same motivation in building the Knights of Columbus’ future.

Another great experience was to be able to meet, speak to and share stories, ideas and laughter with the supreme and deputy supreme knight and their staff. I have to say the best part of the trip was being able to see Pope Francis and pray with him at the Mass.

What motivates your recruiting efforts?
My motivation in recruiting members is truly to build a great family atmosphere of friends you could rely on and trust. ... What better way for us to stay involved together than through a strong Catholic religious organization?

A driving factor to recruiting new members is to further build a great organization with friends to support our parish, our religion and our priests. A goal of mine is to continue to recruit as many as I can to keep our council alive, strong and growing.

Do you mentor the guys you recruit?
My mentorship starts as soon as I hand them their application. I make sure to communicate with them during this time and make sure they hand it back in. I also make sure the council is aware of their potential membership and works to expedite their interview process. As they begin their journey in making their degrees, I also make it with them by attending their ceremonies and supporting them. I keep a group text with all the new brothers I recruit, and I continually send out messages on upcoming degree ceremonies, news and events.

Does your family support your involvement with the Knights?
My family supports my motivation and belief in the Knights. I recruited my brother and father to join and we will be doing our 4th degree together. My father-in-law is a 60-year member of the Knights as well. My family believes in the Catholic Church and realizes the importance of having a strong organization to assist the Church and its needs.

What’s your “secret to success” in recruiting so many Knights?
I believe I have been successful in recruiting members due to being honest with them. I explain to them why I am asking them to join, and why it is important to be a part of this organization. I think in this time we live in, Catholic men understand the need to stand up for and defend our religious beliefs, especially when our families’ lives depend on it.

Younger men want to be a part of a strong, fun family organization. I try to have them benefit from it as a networking group as well. To help get jobs for those that need work, even for members to promote their own job skills like carpenters and other trades. There is no better way to help your brother man than to get him work to secure his future.

You can mirror O’Keefe’s recruitment success: Invite a man to join and your name might make it to the top of the monthly incentive leaderboard. The leaderboard tracks your progress toward exciting incentives that run until June 30, 2019.
See page 6 for details.
Grand Knight’s Checklist

Upcoming Deadlines
• Jan. 1 — Council Per Capita Tax, Catholic Advertising Fund and Culture of Life Fund assessments levied by the Supreme Council.
• Jan. 31 — Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity (#1728), Partnership With Special Olympics Profile (#4584), Free Throw Championship Participation Form (FT-1) and Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest Participation Form (#4001) due.

Planning
• Host your council’s Coats for Kids and Food for Families.
• Start planning Christmas activities, as well as an Advent celebration for the community.
• Remain compliant with updated Safe Environment requirements (see kofc.org/safe for details).

Things to Consider
• Regularly meet with your pastor and your council’s field agent.
• Invite men of all ages to join, using the Form 100 or kofc.org/joinus.
• Work with regional growth directors and officers to implement the Faith In Action program model.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF JESUS CAME?

A CHALLENGE AND MESSAGE FROM SUPREME CHAPLAIN ARCHBISHOP LORI

Jesus said to his disciples,
“In those days after that tribulation
the sun will be darkened ...
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
But of that day or hour, no one knows,
neither the angels in heaven,
nor the Son, but only the Father.”
— Gospel for Nov. 18, Mk. 13:24, 32

There’s an old country Gospel song with a catchy refrain that asks this question: “What would you do if Jesus came to spend the day with you?” As Advent quickly approaches, the Church invites us to ponder this question — and prepare our hearts and souls accordingly. We frantically prepare for Christmas, buying gifts and decorating our homes. But will we prepare our soul with the same sense of urgency, purpose, and care? Advent is a sobering time of reflection on the second coming of Jesus. “What would you do if Jesus came to spend the day with you?” Soon he will. May we meet him with open arms and pure hearts.

This month’s challenge
This month, recalling that we do not know the “day or the hour,” I challenge you to go confession, and make a commitment to go monthly thereafter as a means of maintaining vigilant care over your soul. Secondly, I challenge you in the coming month to forgive someone who has hurt you in some way.

Fast-Track Your Recruiting and Win These Trips

S uccessfully bring a new member into the Order before June 30, 2019, and you may be eligible to win these exciting prizes.

• The top grand knight and district deputy in each jurisdiction (based on their council or jurisdiction having the highest membership intake numbers) will be entered into a raffle for five trips to New Haven for him and his spouse. The top district deputy and grand knight orderwide will both be awarded a trip to the Supreme Convention in Minneapolis, Minn.
• The top 10 recruiters and their spouses will receive a complimentary trip to the Supreme Convention and will sit at the Supreme Knight’s Reserved Tables during the States Dinner. The top recruiter will receive the Top Recruiter Plaque during the Awards Session.

So what are you waiting for? Ask a man to join today.

Incentives only available in insurance territories. Track your progress via the monthly incentive leaderboard at kofc.org/incentive.

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.
General Agent Transforms Local Coats for Kids Efforts

Agents are more than salesmen.
They are great partners in your council's volunteer work.

For General Agent Neil Bouvier, good work is done through personal connections. The Ontario Knight sought an opportunity to get involved, and get his agents active, in serving the community.

Coats for Kids — which launched in 2009, and has since distributed 500,000 coats to children in 49 states and all 10 Canadian provinces — was his answer.

In Ontario, the average winter coat does not suffice. The Supreme Council Coats for Kids program makes available several types of coats, including heavy duty ones that are suitable for the Canadian winter.

Bouvier sought out school superintendents, to determine the needs of local children. He then began working with local field agents and council members in 2015, distributing 84 coats to students in four schools.

What started that day as a moderate service project has evolved into a province-wide movement.

“Without the councils’ buy-in there’s no way we’d be where we are today,” he said. “It’s taking on a life of its own.”

Bouvier’s agency is bringing their enthusiasm for the initiative to local areas as well, including the nearby town of Hamilton. He built a website for the Hamilton Coats for Kids effort, and joined fellow Ontario general agents in spreading the initiative across the whole province. Today, since Bouvier got involved with Coats for Kids, councils across Ontario have become more attuned to the needs of underprivileged communities and children. In 2016, Ontario Knights collected and distributed 2,676 coats. Last year they exceeded their goal of 3,000 with 5,256 collected and distributed.

This year, they’re aiming to collect more than 7,000 coats.

Members, from Page 4

Especially successful was a Hispanic culture event, which brought in 15 men to the council.

One-third of the members regularly participate in events during the year, a result of the council leadership’s encouragement “to find an activity right after joining the council and that seems to get them engaged for good.”

The council’s increased size has allowed it to aim higher. They incorporated the Faith In Action program changes, with 3-6 events per week. Although the initiative hasn’t yet been used as a recruitment tool, “the new materials are engaging our members and we already have a list of more than 30 candidates after our first membership drive.”

Online Membership, too, has played a key role in the council’s recruiting planning, as they advertise online membership on the council’s website and on business cards containing QR codes. They also encourage members to suggest online signups to prospects who want to learn more before committing.

When asked what recruiting advice he would give other councils, Arnold has two bits of advice: “Have a great set of programs that inspire people,” and “Factor fun into the schedule.”

It’s the timing that matters, he explains. “Don’t wait for a membership drive or First Degree ceremony. Sign up and initiate them with the video to get them involved while the interest is there — they will stay involved.”
Protect What Matters Most


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

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