

Faith in Action

New Programs

Eight new Faith in Action programs have been released as part of our efforts to welcome more Hispanic men into the Order and better serve the spiritual and cultural needs of their families. These programs fall under the Order's existing categories of Faith, Family, Community and Life, and give councils new opportunities to engage their parishes and wider communities.

Each of these programs is a "Featured" program, earning councils 2 program credits toward the Columbian Award. While these programs appeal to all councils, no matter their demographics, their unique strength lies in their ability to unify diverse parish communities through prayer and service, particularly those parishes with Hispanic Catholic cultures and traditions. By using these programs, councils can better appeal to the men and families in their local communities and create an environment where men will want to join the Order.

NEW PROGRAMS

FAITH	COMMUNITY
¡Viva Cristo Rey! Imitating Saint Juan Diego	Celebrating Our Catholic Heritage Bright Futures
FAMILY	LIFE
Remembering our Faithful Departed Quinceañera Support	Gospel of Life Holy Hour for Life with Our Lady of Guadalupe



Faith



¡VIVA CRISTO REY!

The *¡Viva Cristo Rey!* program celebrates the sanctity of the Mexican Martyrs, including members of the Knights of Columbus, who were killed for their faith during the religious persecution of Catholics

by the Mexican government in the early 20th century. During the persecution, which led to “La Cristiada,” or the “Cristero War,” priests, missionaries and members of religious orders were expelled from the country, more than a million Mexicans migrated to the United States seeking refuge, and others spontaneously organized to defend themselves against government oppression, some peacefully and others taking up arms under the banner of “Cristo Rey y Santa María de Guadalupe” or “Christ the King and Holy Mary of Guadalupe.” Councils are encouraged to ask for the intercession of the Mexican Martyrs by going to Mass on their feast day, praying the novena leading up to their feast day, and spreading devotion to these Saints and Blesseds throughout their community.

Suggested Program Dates: The feast day of the Saint Mexican Martyrs (May 21), the feast day of the Blessed Mexican Martyrs (Nov. 20) or leading up to the Solemnity of Christ the King.



IMITATING SAINT JUAN DIEGO

The *Imitating St. Juan Diego* program encourages councils to promote devotion to St. Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe. As Knights of Columbus, whose patroness is Our Lady of Guadalupe, we are called to be her messengers, just as St. Juan Diego was throughout his life. Councils can teach others about the lives of these two great saints and about their status as powerful intercessors by organizing a traveling image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, promoting acts of popular piety and sharing the richness and blessings of Our Lady of Guadalupe with members, their families and their parishes.

Suggested Program Dates: The feast day of St. Juan Diego (Dec. 9) or Our Lady of Guadalupe (Dec. 12).

Life



GOSPEL OF LIFE

The *Gospel of Life* program calls upon councils to educate their members and wider parish communities on the sanctity of life from conception to natural death. To do so, councils can study the teachings of the

Church, promote other informational resources and organize events featuring pro-life speakers. Councils can also use the Knights of Columbus Evangelium Vitae Study Guide (#614) to study St. John Paul II's historical encyclical and lead discussion groups. By learning important truths about human life and sharing them with others, councils can help spread awareness of pro-life issues, save lives and strengthen families.

Suggested Program Dates: Consider the weeks preceding national, state or local marches for life, during 40 Days for Life and Life Chain campaigns, and during Respect Life Month (October, United States), National Family and Life Week (varies in May, Canada) and the International Day for the Unborn Child (March 25).



HOLY HOUR FOR LIFE WITH OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

The *Holy Hour for Life with Our Lady of Guadalupe* calls upon councils to organize adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and ask for Our Lady of Guadalupe's intercession for the cause of Life. As patroness of the unborn and as a pregnant woman herself, Our Lady of Guadalupe is a powerful advocate for those at-risk of abortion and all those involved in the Pro-Life Movement. Councils can choose a variety of intentions for which to seek Our Lady's assistance, such as healing from infertility, defense of the unborn, care for mothers and families, and an end to the evil of abortion.

Suggested Program Dates: The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12), leading up to National or State Marches for Life, The International Day for the Unborn Child (March 25), Respect Life Month (October).

Family



REMEMBERING OUR FAITHFUL DEPARTED

The Remembering Our Faithful Departed program calls upon councils to honor and pray for the deceased members of their council, families, and parish community. By commemorating the dearly departed, and calling upon the intercession of the saints, Knights can help others overcome the grief that accompanies the death of a loved one, strengthen family bonds, promote the unique cultural and religious traditions of their parishes, and help the suffering souls in purgatory. Councils can implement this program by creating “ofrendas” or altars in their churches or homes that serve as a call to prayer for the deceased. Other means of commemoration include praying at cemeteries, offering a Mass for the deceased, or praying a memorial rosary. Councils can also work with their parishes to organize a youth costume party honoring the saints or clean and decorate gravestones and cemetery plots.

Suggested Program Dates: October 31 (All Hallow’s Eve), All Saints’ Day (November 1), All Souls’ Day (November 2), and the entire month of November.



QUINCEAÑERA SUPPORT

The *Quinceañera Support* program encourages councils to support the quinceañera celebrations of the families in their parish. A quinceañera, common in Hispanic cultures, celebrates a 15-year-old young woman’s passage from childhood to adulthood, thanks God for the blessing of her life and asks for His blessing going forward. Councils can serve as a part of this important milestone by providing resources, manpower and general support for the celebration and related prayer services or thanksgiving Mass. Knights can carry out their duties to form families and support their parishes by providing assistance with this formative aspect of young women’s spiritual lives, especially by offering Our Lady as a role model.

Suggested Program Dates: In coordination with the pastor and families, determine the most appropriate time to celebrate a thanksgiving Mass or prayer service for the life of the young woman. Some dioceses and parishes may offer group celebrations.

Community



CELEBRATING OUR CATHOLIC HERITAGE

The *Celebrating Our Catholic Heritage* program encourages councils to celebrate the cultures and traditions of their parish communities. Parish festivals and other events can feature the food, music, art, and Catholic devotions of the countries or cultures represented in their areas. This program aims to educate, inspire, and unite the community while celebrating the deep-rooted faith and cultural heritage of its members.

Suggested Program Dates: Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15 – Nov. 15) or on the feast day of an important saint or blessed for the parish or community.

BRIGHT FUTURES

The *Bright Futures* program invites councils to support the students and schools in their communities. Too often, youth face significant barriers to their educational success. Councils can help by providing funding and resources to those most in need. Popular ways to provide support include establishing parish libraries relevant to your local community, running supply drives and fundraisers, participating in school beautification projects and supporting other volunteer programs offered by schools. Catholic schools are in particular need of council support.

Suggested Program Dates: Back-to-School Week, Black Friday, Boxing Day, 3 King's Day (Jan. 6), and Catholic Schools Week (last week of January).