

**CALIFORNIA STATE COUNCIL  
PROGRAMS HANDBOOK  
2023-2024**



**GREG MARRACQ  
STATE DEPUTY  
2023-2024**

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Greg Marracq  
State Deputy 2023 - 2024

Worthy Brothers,

Our "Faith in Action" Programs all have a faith component that appeals to our members, especially the younger members. Councils must always be looking at a variety of programs to keep the members active and united in doing God's work. I know that your councils are active and promoting many programs and activities. This year try to include a handful of new activities to keep the interest of the membership and the parish. Ask them, both the members and the parishioners, what kind of programs they would like to see.

We must put our new brothers to work as soon as they finish their exemplification ceremony and continue giving them a brotherly push forward to be leaders and productive knights.

Mother Teresa said "Faith in action is love, and love in action is service. By transforming that faith into living acts of love, we put ourselves in contact with God Himself, with Jesus our Lord."

Our church needs us more than ever to help bring men and their families back to Mass.

Programs and Membership are two sides of the same coin. Without one the other one cannot grow and survive. We must participate in programs to serve God's people and to attract men to join us. Without members, we cannot do God's work. Councils need to be visible in all that they do.

St James said "Faith without works is dead". By being active and partaking in our programs we live out our faith through these good works. We evangelize the people that we service.

There is much to do and great things to accomplish together. I ask you to go back to your councils and ask them to do all they can to support their pastor, the parish, and those brothers and sisters in need.

Thank you for all that you do for God's greater glory.

Vivat Jesus!

Brother Greg Marracq  
State Deputy 2023 - 2024

*"Together we can do great things" St. Teresa of Calcutta*



## STATE PROGRAMS OVERVIEW AND DIRECTION

“Together we can do great things.” This is the slogan of our Worthy State Deputy-Elect Greg Marracq. And whatever great things we do, we always do for the greater glory of God (Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam - AMDG).

I believe in directing all councils to gather Catholic men and their families to hold the various Faith in Action Programs where they will be able to activate our current knights and more so to inspire new members to come to our fold resulting in more meaningful involvements in their respective parishes.

Our Mission is to extensively launch our Faith in Action Programs where we can accomplish faith formation, evangelization, helping the poorest of the poor, reaching those who are spiritually, physically, emotionally and financially in need. Who is our neighbor when we say “Leave No Neighbor Behind”? Who is our brother when we say “Brother Helping Brother”? When Jesus said, “Whatever you do to the least of our brothers, you do unto me”. St Teresa of Calcutta said “I see the face of Jesus in each person I meet”. We Catholics believe the biblical truth that we are saved by **faith with the evidence of works**.

Because we are God’s workers in action, I encourage your councils and you, in coordination with your chaplains, to initially undergo at the beginning of the Columbian Year spiritual renewal retreats which will remind us why we are called to be Knights of our Lord. We build a team where together we can plan and do great things all for the glory of God. With our Lord in our hearts and mind, there is nothing impossible to accomplish. Let us remember the words of our Lord Jesus Christ to St. Peter: **“Come, follow Me.” May we follow Him through our Faith in Action Programs.**

This Columbian year I also encourage you to motivate and inspire your council to be present at parish and church events and to conduct a council event every Sunday, or at least once a month. This way the parishioners see with their own eyes the different involvement and activities the Knights of Columbus do in the parishes. This, in turn, may inspire Catholic men in our parishes to be members of our Order.

- **DOING MORE FAITH IN ACTION PROGRAMS WILL BRING MORE CATHOLIC MEN TO OUR FOLD.**

**With God’s help, together we can do this!**

**Hector C. Poblete**  
**Programs Director**  
**2023-2024**





Having served two consecutive years as the State Service Program Director for Columbian Years 2009 – 2010 and 2010 – 2011, it became aware to me early on the vastness of the many programs that Councils have available to choose from each year. One strategy was to ask the Councils throughout the State to just take on one new additional program during the year above and beyond what they were already doing and to do it well.

It has become more apparent every year that each successful program event is a golden opportunity to introduce the Knights of Columbus to those in the local parish and community that can certainly lead to inviting other eligible Catholic men to join our Order.

Together as a TEAM, we can have a very successful year in the Programs area. TEAM is Together Everyone Achieves More!

Fraternally,

**Edward P. Huestis, PSD**  
**State Programs Consultant**  
**2023 - 2024**



**EDWARD P. HUESTIS, PSD  
PROGRAMS CONSULTANT**



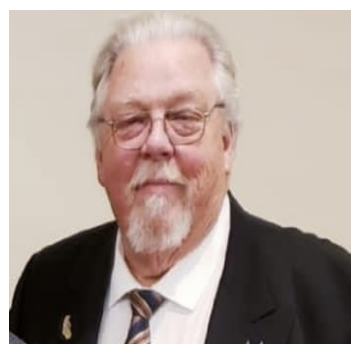
**DR. NOEL PANLILIO, PSD  
FAITH PROGRAMS CONSULTANT**



**ROMEO D. QUEVEDO, PSD  
FAMILY PROGRAMS CONSULTANT**



**IVAN REEK, PSD  
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS CONSULTANT**



**STEPHEN BOLTON, PSD  
LIFE PROGRAMS CONSULTANT**

## Faith Programs Chairman's Message

Overall, the Faith in Action programs provide Knights of Columbus members with opportunities to live out their faith, strengthen their families, make a positive impact in their communities, and defend the sanctity of life. By participating in these programs, members can grow spiritually, build meaningful relationships, and contribute to the betterment of society.

There are eight Faith In Action programs:

The **Pilgrim Icon** promotes devotion to St. Joseph, to pray for the courage to stand up and carry out the Knights of Columbus' mission to defend, protect, and raise future generations. More information is in the Pilgrim Icon section of this guidebook.

**Holy Hour** program helps encourage deep personal encounters with Christ by Eucharistic adoration in the form of Holy Hours and Eucharistic Processions. This is also a featured faith program. For more information on the program go to the Holy Hour section of this guidebook.

The **Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP)** provides support to seminarians and postulants. Go to the RSVP section in this guidebook for additional information. This is also a *featured faith program*.

**Building the Domestic Church Kiosk** program provides Catholic religious education material to help strengthen families as the domestic church. Refer to the Building the Domestic Church Kiosk section in this guidebook.

**Spiritual Reflection** provides opportunities for us to pray and reflect together as a family. This is a featured faith program. More information can be found in the Spiritual Reflection section of this guidebook.

The **Into the Breach** program helps members deepen their spirituality and formation to fight the crisis of religious faith in our world by instituting men's study groups to read the Apostolic Exhortation Into the Breach and use copies of the Into the Breach Booklet (#340) as a resource. It is also a featured Faith program. Refer to the Into the Breach section in this guidebook.

The **Rosary** program helps families and communities build faith through rosary prayer. See the Rosary section in this guidebook.

The **Sacramental Gifts** program provides support and embraces our parish families during the time they are receiving their sacraments. Knights of Columbus councils can provide gifts that can help them celebrate their integration into the Church. For more information about this great program refer to the Sacramental Gifts section in this guidebook.

**Gerald R. Fong**  
**Faith Programs Chairman**  
**916-832-7394**  
**[jerryfong@comcast.net](mailto:jerryfong@comcast.net)**

## Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney

This program includes Blessed Michael McGivney Guild, Blessed McGivney Prayer, and Blessed McGivney Prayer Hour

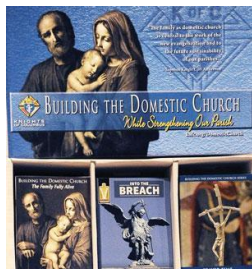
How many of our brothers know anything about our founder Fr. Michael J. McGivney? How many know where he is in the Canonization process? He was Venerable and is now Blessed with one more step to Sainthood. One miracle has been verified.

Join the Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney Guild. Anyone can become a member, even non Catholic. They might even consider becoming a Catholic, or even a Knight. The following are the available resources.

1. **Prayer cards for the Canonization of our founder.**
2. **A DVD trailer for the "Fr. Michael J. McGivney"**
3. **"PARISH PRIEST Father Michael McGivney and American Catholicism"** book available at Amazon.com.. I
4. **"Blessed Michael McGivney 100%" shirts** are available to the members of those councils, assemblies or chapters who have 100% of the Elected Officers signed into the Guild..
5. The parish **Building the Domestic Church series set (with free kiosk)** is available to councils for \$150.00 USD (includes shipping) for councils in the U.S. and Canada. Order at the **Supplies Online** portal at [kojc.org](http://kojc.org). For additional resources visit [kojc.org/faith](http://kojc.org/faith).
6. The parish **Building the Domestic Church series set (with free kiosk)** is available to councils for \$150.00 USD (includes shipping) for councils in the U.S. and Canada. Order at the **Supplies Online** portal at [kojc.org](http://kojc.org). For additional resources visit [kojc.org/faith](http://kojc.org/faith).

For more information, please contact Chairman "Skip" George Frates III.

"Skip" George Frates III  
Chairman  
(831) 899-2619  
[2cd.marshall2gmail.com](mailto:2cd.marshall2gmail.com)



## Building the Domestic Church Kiosk *Supreme-Recommended*

Since 1948, Catholic Information Services (CIS) has been the major evangelical arm of the Knights of Columbus. Through multiple booklet series and various media formats, CIS makes our Catholic faith accessible and provides continuing tools for catechesis and spiritual formation.

**The Building the Domestic (BDC) church series** builds on topics like parenting, fatherhood, and family prayer life, as well as two of St. John Paul II's famous messages for the family – ***Letter to Families*** and ***The Family in the Modern World***.

Knights of Columbus councils can order a complete parish set of the BDC series for their parishes and receive a free display kiosk. For ordering the series and promoting the resources within their parish councils will receive credit for a "domestic church" activity towards the Columbian award.

The parish **Building the Domestic Church series set (with free kiosk)** is available to councils for \$150.00 USD (includes shipping) for councils in the U.S. and Canada and ordered at the **Supplies Online** portal at [kofc.org](http://kofc.org). For additional resources visit [kofc.org/faith](http://kofc.org/faith).

For more information, please contact Chairman Elbert D. Holmes Jr.

Elbert D. Holmes Jr.  
Chairman  
(530)751-2625  
[Elbertholmes49@gmail.com](mailto:Elbertholmes49@gmail.com)



## Clergy Dinners



**Priest & Religious Appreciation Dinner** is an annual dinner sponsored by a Knights of Columbus Chapter or Council. The main purpose of the dinner is to show appreciation to the priest, religious, deacons and altar servers in the diocese.

**Bishop's Vocation Dinner** is an annual dinner sponsored by a Knights of Columbus Chapter or Council. The main purpose of the dinner is to plant the seed with youth to consider saying yes to a vocation, to provide encouragement to priests and seminarians in their vocation and also a great way to raise funds for vocations.

### Funding for Vocations

Each council conducts fundraisers to help the seminarians in the diocese. The funds raised are presented as part of the Parade of Grand Knights at the dinner.

For more information, please contact Chairman Richard S. Jarrett.

Richard S. Jarrett  
Chairman  
925-964-9675  
ricjarrett@comcast.net



## Cultural Devotional Practices

Hispanic, Filipino, Irish, Vietnamese, Chinese and other cultural groups have their own unique devotional practices, like novenas, processions, celebrations in honor of Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe, Semana Santa, San Lorenzo Ruiz, Sto. Nino, St. Patrick's Festival, Feast of Our Lady of La Vang. These devotional practices will enrich the spirituality of Catholic families.



### OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Brother Knights, as many know, The Virgin of Guadalupe refers to when the Virgin Mary, appeared before Saint Juan Diego in Mexico in 1531. She holds a special place in the culture and religious life of many Catholics throughout the United State, Mexico, and many countries. Also known as **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Spanish **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**. There is no reason why we as Knights are not at the center of such celebrations.

As Members of the Knights of Columbus, let us take a strong active role at our parishes. Meet with your local parish priest and offer your Council's assistance in the planning of the upcoming celebration.



### OUR LADY OF MANAOAG

Our Lady of Manaoag, also known as Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, is a title of the Blessed Virgin Mary venerated in Manaoag, Pangasinan, Philippines.

Under this Marian title, the [Blessed Virgin Mary](#) is invoked as [patroness](#) of the sick, helpless and needy.<sup>[1]</sup> The image is celebrated twice a year: the third Wednesday after [Easter](#) and first Sunday of October.

Today, we call upon the Knights of Columbus Councils to participate directly with our parishes and invite yourselves to help celebrate Our Lady of

Manaoag. The Legion of Mary, a ministry within the parishes, is a good source to seek out and offer your assistance to honor Our Lady of the Rosary. The Filipino Catholic Community is a very proud community within our Church hold special celebration in her honor. Let them know you want to help celebrate Our Lady of Manaoag.



### **Our Lady of Lavang**

Brother Knights, Our Lady of Lavang, is our Blessed Mother who came to a group of Vietnamese during the time when fearing the spread of Catholicism, the Cảnh Thịnh Emperor restricted the practice of Catholicism in the country in 1798.

Within our Catholic Vietnamese Community, Our Lady of Lavang is very much recognized and honored by our Church. Our Brother Knights through prayer can reach out to the parish most significantly our Vietnamese Catholic brothers.

For more information on this and other cultural devotional practices, please contact Chairman Edward Castillo or Co-Chairman Juanito Legaspi.

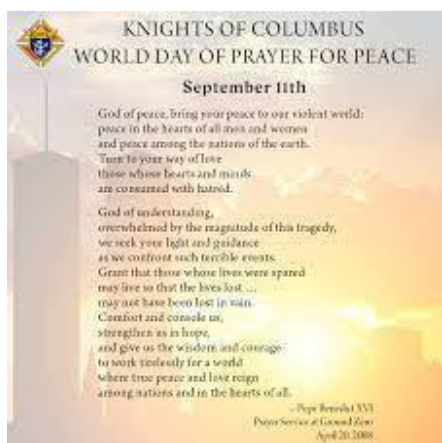


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Juanito Legaspi  
Co-Chairman  
(707) 656-6616  
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## **Days/Year of Prayer**



### **World Day of Prayer for Vocations Initiative**

Each year, on the Fourth Sunday of Easter, Knights throughout the world participate on the annual World Day of Prayer for Vocations. This day is an opportunity for all Knights to raise awareness of the need for men and women to say yes to their vocations, especially if one is called to the priesthood or religious life. With the help of the Knights of Columbus, thousands will hear their calls because of our prayers and vocation materials.

As Knights, we know the difference that one good priest can make. Raise awareness and get involved. The Knights of Columbus World Day of Prayer for Peace will be conducted on September 11. The Knights of Columbus World Day of Prayer for Peace seeks to unite Knights, Catholics and all people of good will regardless of their religious faith – in prayer for peace.

For more information about days/year of prayer, please contact Chairman Anthony Debellis.

Anthony Debellis  
Chairman  
(760) 635-1122  
adebellis@@adebellis.com

## Fr. Juan Perez Award



In 1986 the Fr. Juan Perez Award was established to honor and pay tribute to a priest from the Northern, Central and Southern California Region for their outstanding contribution to our faith formation, brotherhood, church, and order. Fr. Juan Perez was the chaplain for the expedition of Christopher Columbus. He demonstrated great courage and sacrifice to bring the Gospel to the Americas as Christopher Columbus' Chaplain. Our Order today has many priests who exhibit these qualities in their pastoral role in our order and church.

This award presents a great opportunity for your council or assembly to recognize those contributions that your chaplain, friar or other priest has made to your council, assembly or to the order during the current Columbian Year.

An official form must be submitted from each council or assembly to the State Chairman. He must receive this form by April 2, 2020. The State Committee will review the applications and the Fr. Juan Perez Award will be given out to the three recipients at the State Convention.

For more information, please contact Chairman Stephen Bolton, PSD

Stephen Bolton, PSD  
Chairman  
(714) 222-6880  
Sbolton293@aol.com



## HOLY HOUR - *Supreme-Featured*

Like many Catholics, the Knights can spend an hour with our Lord and Savior and say, “The hour that makes my day”.

He is the one who longs for our company more than we long for Him: “Could you not watch with me one hour?” (Mark 14:37). There are many ways of praying and many ways of making a holy hour for “the Spirit blows where it wills” (John 3:8).

Knights of Columbus holy hours should be particularly prepared for men, with a communal rosary, and prayers to St. Joseph and Fr. McGivney. Ask your pastors to give a sermon on a topic involving spiritual leadership in the family. Encourage men to attend regularly.

For more information, please contact Chairman Steve J. Lovison.

Steve J. Lovison  
Chairman  
714-943-1038  
[lovison@adorationservants.org](mailto:lovison@adorationservants.org)



## Into the Breach - *Supreme-Featured*

In the past two decades, more than 14 million Catholics have left the faith. In the face of these losses, Catholic men are called to put aside any hesitation to live a life of mission. We must enter into the breach.

**Called to Conversion.** Christ calls us to a life of continued formation so that, with grace, we can seriously engage the war for our souls. That's why the Knights have produced Into the Breach, a video series inspired by Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted's apostolic exhortation of the same name.

**Ready for Battle.** Prepare yourself for the spiritual battle raging around you. To step into the breach requires every man to have faith and take action. The Into the Breach series challenges men to seek greatness and to be heroically virtuous, to have a character marked by goodness and truth, strength and courage.

**Building a Brotherhood.** “Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another” (Proverbs 27:17). Through shared experience and small group discussion,

men build a brotherhood through Into the Breach, strengthening them in their mission as disciples.

For more information, please contact Chairman Tony Ransick.

✝ IN HOC SIGNO VINCES  
 Tony Ransick  
 Chairman  
 (661) 742-8261  
 aransick@gmail.com



## Mexican Martyrs' Awards



These six priests were martyred for their faith during a time of turmoil in Mexico when Catholics were being persecuted. All of them died because they chose to continue to serve their people despite the threat of death. We want to honor their sacrifice by creating an award in their name that will be given out during the year to the chaplains in California who give of themselves not only to their parish and diocese but also to the Knights as a chaplain. The Knights of Columbus are forever thankful for the dedicated priests who not only serve their parish or community but who also take the time to serve the Knights of Columbus as chaplains.

The Knights want to honor and thank those dedicated priests for their service throughout the Columbian Year. Each month beginning in September through February we will honor the Knights of Columbus Chaplains who have displayed extraordinary service to their Council and Parish.

For more information, please contact Chairman Stephen Bolton, PSD.

Stephen Bolton, PSD  
 Chairman  
 (714) 222-6880  
 Sbolton293@aol.com



## PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION



Our Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly said, "The more we devote ourselves to the Eucharist, the more we will understand what it means to be a Knight - to live a life of service and sacrifice for others and to live a life of true unity, centered on the 'source and summit' of the Christian life."

Past Supreme Knight Carl Anderson has stated the example & advice of St Mother Teresa should be imitated & followed by the Knights. Mother Teresa said her order grew when she and all her nuns made a holy hour of Eucharistic Adoration every day instead of once a week. So will the Knights grow in membership and holiness when we make Eucharistic Adoration on the forefront of our lives.

Carl Anderson has made it clear that the goals of St John Paul II should be made reality. St John Paul II called for "the establishment of perpetual Eucharistic Adoration in all parishes and Christian communities throughout the world." He also stated: Eucharistic Adoration in all parishes and Christian communities throughout the world." He also stated: "We Knights are providentially positioned to take up the challenge of a leadership role in the renewal of parish life . . . we must reach out into more parishes with an active presence."

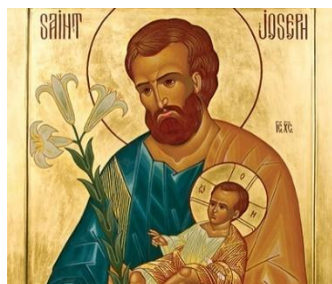
Mother Teresa declared that if every parish in the United States offered three hours of Eucharistic Adoration each day, abortion would end. St. John Paul II speaking directly to Knights of Columbus said, "May a deep and abiding devotion to Jesus Christ, present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar, mark the spiritual life of every Council."

For more information, please contact Chairman Steve J. Lovison.

Steve J. Lovison  
Chairman  
714-943-1038  
lovison@adorationservants.org



## Pilgrim Icon Program - *Supreme-Recommended*



The first pilgrim icon, Our Lady of Guadalupe was introduced in 1979. Since then, over 174,800 prayer services were held in councils and parishes with over 22 million people in attendance

The Pilgrim Icon was introduced in 2020 to honor St Joseph patron saint of workers, fathers, and the universal Church. We received eight Pilgrim Icons which are currently distributed to the

chapters. Some introduced every few years to honor a saint that is inspiring to the Knights of Columbus and their communities. Each jurisdiction receives one to several icons which travel from council to council. chapters are sharing the images on a predetermined schedule. Each chapter has a Coordinator for the Pilgrim Icon Program. Contact him when you want to host the icon.

For prayer booklets and other Pilgrim Icon resources, in English and Spanish, visit [kofc.org/pilgrimicon](http://kofc.org/pilgrimicon).

For more information, please contact Chairman Gerald R. Fong.

Gerald R. Fong  
Chairman  
916-832-7394  
[jerryfong@comcast.net](mailto:jerryfong@comcast.net)

## Prayers in the Pew

This unity of prayer movement is anchored by ***Prayers in the Pew ‘Official Prayer Cards, Monthly Newsletter, and Specialized 9 Days of Prayer Novenas’***. Much more than a collection of prayers every Catholic should be acquainted with, these tools present a platform for Knights’ Faith in Action initiatives whereby spiritual renewal is at the center. Enabling men to balance Faith, Family, Community and Life begins with answering the call to direct everyone to Get Back to Basics!

Knights are Called to Be Men of Prayer!

**The *Prayers in the Pew*™ Men of Prayer program** allows Knights to connect with all parish families in a unique way encouraging them to make prayer part of their everyday life. Just as with corporate communion, every council can come together to emphasize to the local parish the importance of getting to Mass consistently, on-time and to demonstrate that Knights are first and foremost, Men of Prayer. The constant reminder of the *Prayers in the Pew*™ combined with monthly supplements and pulpit announcements serves to inform parishioners regularly of Knights’ leadership role in the parish as well as their activities and intentions.

For more information about days/year of prayer, please contact Chairman Anthony Debellis.

Anthony Debellis  
Chairman  
(760) 635-1122  
[adebellis@@adebellis.com](mailto:adebellis@@adebellis.com)

## REFUND SUPPORT VOCATION PROGRAM (RSVP)

### *Supreme-Featured*



Our future priests and religious need your help! By participating in RSVP, Councils and Assemblies provide direct financial, moral and spiritual support to one or more seminarians or postulants at all stages of their formation. RSVP money helps cover some of their incidental living expenses and for every \$500 given to an individual, the Supreme Council will refund the council or assembly \$100.

Councils and Assemblies are also asked to provide their “adopted” seminarian or religious aspirant with moral support and prayers for their success. For RSVP resources, please visit [kofc.org/rsvp](http://kofc.org/rsvp).

For more information, please contact Chairman Deacon Rich Dizon.

Deacon Rich Dizon  
Chairman  
(650) 274 – 9906  
[richdizon@gmail.com](mailto:richdizon@gmail.com)



## ROSARY PROGRAM - *Supreme-Recommended*



The Rosary Program encourages councils to schedule rosary prayer services on any day of the week, at any time of the year, with the pastor’s permission. When planning a Rosary prayer service, councils should personally invite each family of the parish, and offer each attending family a copy of Catholic Information Service’s **A Scriptural Rosary for the Family** booklet. Encourage families to read it and learn how their faith can be

strengthened through a devotion to Our Lady, while praying at home regularly as a family.

For more information, please contact Chairman Romeo Quevedo, PSD.

Romeo Quevedo, PSD  
Chairman  
(650-255)-8441  
[rdquevedo10@gmail.com](mailto:rdquevedo10@gmail.com)



## Sacramental Gifts - *Supreme-Recommended*



The intent of Sacramental Gifts program is to supplement parish programs, not to duplicate or replace any existing parish programs. Though the Knights of Columbus Supreme Office offers pre-made kits that can be used for the Sacramental Gifts program

**" The Sacraments express and realize an effective and profound communion, among us, for in them we encounter Christ the Savior and, through him, our brothers and sisters in faith."- Pope Francis**

For more information, please contact Chairman George Bagley.

George Bagley  
Chairman  
(707) 372-4913  
[Districtdeputy15@gmail](mailto:Districtdeputy15@gmail)



## SIMPLE SUPPER & STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Councils should partner with their parishes to sponsor a **"Simple Supper & Stations" on Fridays during Lent**. If your parish already prays the Stations of the Cross, ask your pastor's permission to serve a simple supper of meatless soup and bread to parishioners and attendees before or after the stations. This provides a communal opportunity for participation in the traditional Lenten observances of fasting and abstaining from meat. If your parish doesn't already pray

the Stations together, ask your pastor if he would consider adding both the suppers and Stations to the parish calendar.

The prayers, meditations and hymns for Stations of the Cross can be found in The Way of the Cross: Traditional and Modern Meditations. Copies can be ordered at [knightsgear.com](http://knightsgear.com). For more information, please contact Chairman Dennis P. Valerio.

## Dennis P. Valerio Chairman

(510) 499-7961

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## Spiritual Reflection: State Retreats- *Supreme-Featured*



Annual opportunity for prayer and reflection by participating in a retreat.. These events might be open only to council members or men of the parish or may be open to entire families. If councils are unable to organize these events themselves, they could attend an existing retreat as a group. For more information visit: [kofc.org/spiritualreflections](http://kofc.org/spiritualreflections). State Council sponsored Spiritual Retreats are held annually during Lent. All Brother Knights are

invited and urged to attend one of the three State Council retreats.

### State Retreat Southern

A retreat at Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center, located in Sierra Madre. Contact State Retreat South Chairman PSD Ross Willour at [rwill6462@aol.com](mailto:rwill6462@aol.com).

### State Retreat Central

The spiritual retreat for Central California is scheduled for December 1-3, 2023, at [St. Anthony Retreat Center](http://St.AnthonyRetreatCenter). Further details to be provided at a later date. For additional information contact State Retreat Central Anthony Ransick at [aransick@gmail.com](mailto:aransick@gmail.com).

### State Retreat North

The spiritual retreat for Northern California is scheduled for March 3, 2024, at the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose, 43326 Mission Circle, Fremont, CA 94539. Further details will be provided at a later date. For additional information contact State Retreat North Chairman T.W. Starkweather, State Warden at [twstark@aol.com](mailto:twstark@aol.com).

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South Chairman

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Anthony Ransick  
Central Chairman

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T.W.Starkweather  
State Warden  
North Chairman  
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[twstark@aol.com](mailto:twstark@aol.com)

## Vocations Awareness

Vocations to the priesthood is a very important matter for our Church and the Knights of Columbus. Without priests, we have no Church. Without the Church.

1. Each council and chapter meetings should open with a prayer for vocations. Adoration programs should include vocations as a major intention.
2. Each council should ask their Pastor what they can do to encourage vocations in their parish. Each chapter should have a vocations chair and the chapter should work with the Diocese Vocation Director in promoting vocations.
3. Each council is encouraged to support seminarians through the **RSVP** program. Visit [kofc.org/rsvp](http://kofc.org/rsvp) for more information.
4. Each chapter or council within the chapter should sponsor an annual vocations dinner.

The primary purpose is to promote vocations to our youth and young men and women who are interested in becoming a priest or furthering their spiritual growth with God. The secondary purpose.

Richard S. Jarrett  
Chairman  
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## WRAP (Women's Religious Assistance Program)

A new program called - "Women's Religious Assistance Program" to encourage great participation from each and every member as they put their Faith into Action.

This program will not only promote assistance to the Women's Religious Orders but also to foster relationships with our nuns and sisters. We can help them in their needs as well as show them our full support in their service to humanity.

Like many other Religious Orders, the Women's Religious Orders have encountered many challenges over the years. There has been decline in membership, nuns are vanishing at an alarming rate, physical and financial hardship as they struggle to survive, and difficulty supporting the needs of the community they serve. According to recent studies made by the US National Religious Vocation Conference, there had been a 66% significant drop of nuns in the United States over four decades. That means if no one acts and helps the present trend, women's religious life as we have known will just remain a memory.

Catholics and communities need to step forward and help preserve Women's Religious Orders. Our Nation needs them as much as they need us. We have to continue to work together for God's greater Glory. We have to carry on the work that Pope Francis initiated for us and that is the plan to lead the World's Catholics along a journey of intensified action in caring for God's creation.

For more information, please contact Chairman Noel Panlilio, PSD.

Noel Panlilio, PSD

Chairman

510-471-9115

[noel.panlilio.psd@californiaknights.org](mailto:noel.panlilio.psd@californiaknights.org)



## FAITH IN ACTION – FAMILY

***“EVERY FAMILY PROGRAM EVENT IS A MEMBERSHIP DRIVE  
EVENT”***

Saint Mother Theresa had some profound quotes that touches on family:

**“The way you help heal the world is that you start with your own family.”**

**“If you want to bring happiness to the whole world, go home and love your family.”**

**“Love begins at home, and it is not how much we do, but how much love we put into that action.”**

Our FIA Family Programs address a lot of the issues that we are facing in our communities. We have a key role to play as Catholic men to bring positive changes to families and our parish communities and with it the whole country. Not only do we need to implement these well-designed programs, but we also strongly feel that using programs to invite other catholic men is a very novel approach to increase membership. The challenge for all of us is to get involved.

No one can be on the sidelines anymore. The Knights of Columbus must take a stand. Let us be visible to everyone with our family programs. Each family program has a chairman ready and committed to assist you.

***Jesus I Trust In You!***

**Romeo Cabrera**

**Family Programs Chairman**

**510-589-1561 relc11111@gmail.com**



## Campesinos (Farmworkers) Program

In line with St. Mother Teresa's concern for the needy and the poor and her "together we can do great things", this program will initiate for the farmworkers and their families BOX of HOPE, The GIFT of WARMTH, and SHOWER of LOVE.

Through BOX of HOPE, the Knights, on days before Christmas, will deliver boxes of food for a Christmas Dinner to families in need. This activity is in line with the Family Programs' Food for Families.

Through The GIFT of WARMTH, Knights will provide children and young adults coats to keep them warm during cold weather. This activity is in line with the Community Programs' Coats for Kids.

Through SHOWER of LOVE, the Knights of Columbus will provide support, like a collection of items for a baby (diapers, clothes, bottles, etc) for pregnant women, mothers and their new children. This activity is in line with Life Programs' Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP).

George Arias  
Chairman  
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kofcproud@gmail.com



## Consecration to Holy Family *Supreme-Recommended*

Help strengthen families and revitalize our parishes.

**OVERVIEW** To help families live out the joy of Christ, Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori has composed a prayer through which families will come together to consecrate themselves under the protection of the Holy Family. In this prayer, we ask for the aid or intercession of the perfect son Jesus Christ, Mary the perfect mother, and Joseph who is a model for every father. Councils will guide their parishes and community to understand and offer this prayer. Preparing for the Consecration to the Holy Family is not a single event. It is choosing a way of life for your family. Through this consecration, each participant is consciously choosing to be a beacon of God's love through His Church. Year-round program. Feast of Holy Family 12-29-23

[#10605 Guide Sheet](#)  
[#10666 Preparation Steps](#)  
[#10371 Prayer Card](#)  
[#10665 Brochure](#)  
[#10663 Vertical Poster](#)

Romy Cabrera  
Chairman  
510-589-1561  
relc11111@gmail.com



## Food for Families - *Supreme-Featured*

The goal of Food for Families is to ensure that as few as possible go to bed hungry each night.

**OVERVIEW** Knights of Columbus are committed to helping end hunger through the Food for Families Program which has donated millions of dollars and millions of pounds of food toward this cause. Council and parish families will raise funds to support their local food pantries, food banks and soup kitchens. 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. Though in-kind donation of food is valuable, leaders of hunger-relief organizations often comment that financial contributions can be stretched even further and allow nonprofits to procure the exact items needed by the organization and its clients. Year-round program. World Hunger Day 5-28-24

[#10610 Guide Sheet](#)

[#10057 Food for Families Refund](#)

[#10658 News Release - Fillable](#)

[#10511 Brochure](#)

[#10657 Vertical Poster](#)

Omy Ronquillo  
Chairman  
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omy.ronquillo@icloud.com



## Family Fully Alive - *Supreme-Featured*

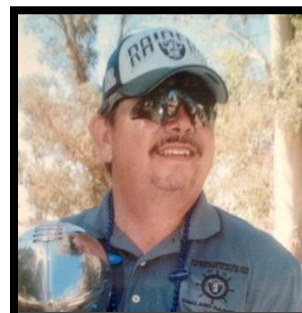
The Family Fully Alive program asks families to invite God into their homes and cultivates each family as a miniature domestic church.

**OVERVIEW** During his visit to the Philippines, Pope Francis cited the need for “holy and loving families to protect the beauty and truth of the family in God’s plan and to be an example for other families” (Pope Francis, Address to Families at the Mall of Asia Arena, 2015). The Family Fully Alive monthly devotions are concrete ways that Knights of Columbus, in solidarity with Pope Francis, can support the growth of holy and loving families in the Church. The Family Fully Alive Program asks families to invite God into their homes and cultivates each family as a miniature domestic church. Year-round program. Choose any month.

[#10606 Guide Sheet](#)

[#10162 Booklet](#)

Larry Mastin  
Chairman  
707-592-9107  
raider1fan@yahoo.com



## Family of the Month/Year - *Supreme-Featured*

Stimulate and support the development of strong and vibrant families.

**OVERVIEW** Each month, the council Family of the Month committee selects one parish family that models Christian family values and visibly lives them every day. Once a year, each participating council also selects one of the previous twelve Family of the Month winners to represent the council/parish as the potential international Family of the Year. The Knights of Columbus Family of the Year is chosen by the Supreme Council and recognized each year at the annual Supreme Convention. Year-round program

[#10607 Guide Sheet](#)

[#10680 Family of the Year Entry Form](#)

[#10667 Family of the Month News Release](#)

[#1993 Guide Book](#)

[#1843 Family of the Month Certificate](#)

Dave Reynolds

Chairman

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## Family Prayer Night - *Supreme-Featured*

Family Prayer Night is an opportunity for children to be exposed to regular people living their faith in a casual setting.

**OVERVIEW** Catholics often struggle with the reality that they do not have the opportunity to socialize and/or pray with other faith-filled Catholic families. It can be quite a challenge to raise our children in the faith when their only exposure comes from Mom and Dad. Put plainly, the majority of our time can easily be spent in secular circles unless we intentionally create ways to live out the domestic church. Family Prayer Night is an opportunity for children to be exposed to regular people living their faith in a casual setting. Families of council members, as well as other Catholic families within the parish and community, will gather for prayer, dinner and fellowship. Multiple groups can be formed and families are encouraged to rotate between these groups. Year-round program. Choose any month.

[#10608 Guide Sheet](#)

[#10691 Vertical Poster](#)

[#10692 Brochure](#)

[#10693 News Release - Fillable](#)

Ron Ytem

Chairman

708-297-6997

ytem.ronald@yahoo.com



## Family Week - *Supreme-Recommended*

Councils plan a special week for their parish celebrating family life.

**OVERVIEW** Knights of Columbus councils will dedicate a special week of the year to recognizing the vital importance of families as the foundation of our domestic church and to promoting Catholic family values. When choosing a week, councils should consider factors affecting parishioner schedules, such as school vacations, holidays, and other local events. Though traditionally celebrated in the summer to commemorate the birth and death of our founder, Blessed Michael J. McGivney, this program can take place anytime during the year. Choose any week or weeks.

[#10609 Guide Sheet](#)

Bret Sanford

[#10652B Calendar Poster](#)

Chairman

[#10662 Suggested Activities](#)

510-589-6111

[#10510 Vertical Poster](#)

sanfordinvestigations@yahoo.com

[#10652A Calendar Flyer](#)

[#10656 News Release - Fillable](#)

Check Suggested Family Activities



## Good Friday Family Promotion *Supreme-Recommended*

Knights of Columbus councils conduct a promotional campaign to educate their parishes on the vital importance of Good Friday.

**OVERVIEW** Despite Good Friday's central role in the heart of Christianity, attendance at services remains low. In an effort to change this, councils will encourage participation in Good Friday services through a promotional campaign. Setting an example for their community, Knights will attend Good Friday services with their families and work with their pastors to encourage increased parishioner involvement at these liturgies. In conjunction with these efforts, councils will also work to educate their parishes about the plight of Christians in the Holy Land. Beginning of lent 2-24-24. Good Friday 3-29-24.

[#10611 Guide Sheet](#)

Epi Engo

[#10573 Horizontal Poster](#)

Chairman

[#10638 Vertical Poster](#)

562-881-2929

[#10639 News Release - Fillable](#)

epi\_1991@hotmail.com

• [Additional Program Material Available](#)



## Keep Christ in Christmas - *Supreme-Recommended*

**OVERVIEW** The Keep Christ in Christmas (KCIC) Program brings all KCIC activities together under one umbrella. It encourages councils to prompt their neighbors to shift from a preoccupation with materialism to the light of Christ and the spirit of giving. KCIC activities include whatever efforts best suit the parish and community of a particular council and do not need to originate from the Supreme Council.

The Knights of Columbus offers multiple activities that promote Christmas and the season of Advent in their proper context: Journey to the Inn, Spread the Light of Christ, Crèche or Advent Wreath Blessing, and the Christmas Poster Contest. These programs are centered on the example of the Holy Family and the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Keep Christ in Christmas Essay- Launch in July 2023. Keep Christ in Christmas Poster- Launch in August 2023. Keep Christ in Christmas Card Sales- Launch in September 2023. Keep Christ in Christmas Posadas- Launch in November 2023.

[#10604 Guide Sheet](#)

[#10681 Program Guide Book](#)

[#9898 Journey to the Inn Booklet](#)

[#2757 Spread the Light of Christ Poster](#)

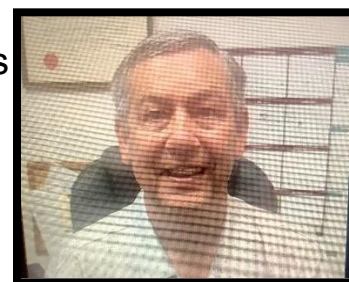
[#2760 For Unto Us a Child is Born Poster](#)

Steve Sykes

Chairman, KCIC Card Sales

951-232-4610

steves@wcsdist.com



## KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS POSTER CONTEST RESOURCES

[#5024 Poster Contest Guide Book](#)

[#5025 Poster Contest Entry Form](#)

[#5026 Poster Contest Vertical Poster \(English\)](#)

[#5026S Poster Contest Vertical Poster \(Spanish\)](#)

[#5028 Poster Contest – Participant Certificate](#)

[#5022 Poster Contest – Winner Certificate](#)

[#10661 Poster Contest Promotional Letter](#)

[#10660 Poster Contest News Release](#)

Bob Pineschi

Chairman, KCIC Poster

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pineschibob@yahoo.com



Claire Tryon

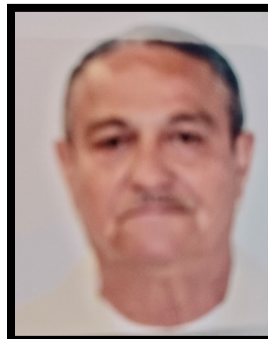
Chairman, KCIC Essay

(925) 349-9286

greyeototo@gmail.com



Luis Peralta  
Chairman KCIC Posadas  
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lsergeantlp@att.net



## Scholarships

**OVERVIEW** The Knights of Columbus have several worthy programs that are often overlooked. One of these is the State Council Scholarships awards program. This program is specifically designed for high school seniors planning to enter college or students who are currently enrolled in a College or University. It is important to stress that this is a “Council Activity” and not run by the state. The program is built upon the premise that all brother knights of each Council actively promote this valuable Program that supports the youth of your State. The primary contacts for questions from the Scholarship Applicants are the Council Grand Knight and the Council scholarship program chairman. Year-round program.

Nick Villicich  
Chairman  
310-874-5985  
nicholas\_villicich@yahoo.com



## Youth Outreach

**OVERVIEW** Our youth are the leaders of tomorrow. As Knights of Columbus, we have an opportunity, and indeed, a responsibility, to provide youth with the means to become personally committed and involved in meeting the challenges of our times. These activities can take many forms. Members can be encouraged to volunteer themselves in another Parish or community-

based youth groups and programs where there is a need for adult leaders. The Knights of Columbus further supports youth with a number of bursary programs available to the sons and daughters of members and deceased members. Year-round program

Alexei Lukban  
Chairman  
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alexeilukban@yahoo.com



## World Marriage Day

**OVERVIEW** “A Family that prays together, stays together.” “FAMILY – Father and Mother, I Love You! Our relationship with God and each other is the foundation of the family. Having a strong marriage bond will strengthen the family. Strengthen your family! Strengthen your marriage with God. The Knights of Columbus would like to help strengthen your family and your marriage bond with God, we encourage you to dedicate a time each day for family prayers. Holding each other’s hands during the family prayers as a symbol of family unity. As you pray your family prayers, we ask that you include this prayer below. When it is time to say this prayer, the husband should take his bride’s hands, place them together, and wrap his own hands around hers as they recommit the vow to one another under God’s Divine blessings. Launch in January 2024. World Marriage Day is 2-11-24

Romy Cabrera  
Chairman  
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## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

When you look at the Community Programs you can see that there is a lot that we all can do to help and make some kind of difference in our community. The key word is **"Make a Difference"** in someone's life in multiple ways and we see this with our featured programs. We have The Global Wheelchair Mission to give the Chance of Mobility, Habitat for Humanity which gives a family or a Veteran a place to live in safety. There is the Coats for Kids Program which provides warmth to a less fortunate child or Children. Disaster Relief is not a featured program from Supreme but provides a great service to others and the Community all around.

We need to get the youth more involved in activity and this way it might get them more involved in their community and country and they can show their talent. We have these programs in the Essay and Poster contest and most kids like to express themselves in writing and drawing. Also, another way for kids to get active is our Basketball Free Throw Contest and Soccer Challenge. We also have many more to get our Youth involved to get them back into the church and help them Make a Difference.

We also live in a country where we have some special people that have helped and Make a Difference in our Country today and those are the men and women who have fought for our freedom. We need to make sure that we honor them in so many ways and that is why we have the Veterans Assistance Program, and this is a program that I would like to see all councils get involved in. It's not just a program for the 4th Degree, it's a program for all Americans.

All these programs are also a great way to get men to Join the Knights of Columbus. As we show them what we can do to help them Make a Difference in their Community and in themselves. If you have any questions with these programs, please contact the Chairman for help.

**Joseph Hill**  
**Assistant State Programs Director**  
**Community Programs Chairman**  
**559-355-1897**  
**Joseph.hill@kc9445.org**



## **Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest**

### ***Supreme-Recommended***

Encourage youth in your community to become citizens grounded in their faith through creative writing.

Open to all Catholic students (public, private, home, or parochial schools) in grades 8 to 12 during the current school year. For additional information and to find this year's Essay Contest topic visit [kofc.org/essay](http://kofc.org/essay).

Claire Tryon  
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(925) 349-9286  
[greyeototo@gmail.com](mailto:greyeototo@gmail.com)



## **Coats for Kids - *Supreme-Featured***

Provide warmth for deserving children during cold winter months.

Councils across North America can purchase new winter coats for children in need at a discount and distribute them in their local communities. For additional information visit [kofc.org/coats](http://kofc.org/coats).

Luigi V. Zoni  
Chairman  
619-980-3313  
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## **Council Newsletter & Website**

For information, please contact Chairman Thomas H. Quintana.

Thomas H. Quintana  
Chairman  
626-863-7061  
[skthomasquintana@gmail.com](mailto:skthomasquintana@gmail.com)

## **Disaster Preparedness - *Supreme-Recommended***

Prepare your community before disaster strikes.

Communities can be brought to a halt when disaster occurs — from large natural disasters to local crises. As community leaders, Knights of Columbus will ensure that their members, families and parish communities are prepared through a campaign that promotes planning and education. This program motivates councils to take a holistic approach to emergency situations by promoting readiness for times of crisis, assessing response capabilities, and learning how to properly respond well ahead of a disaster. Councils will engage their parish and community in disaster preparedness exercises by organizing training, fundraisers and various awareness activities. For additional information visit [kofc.org/prepare](http://kofc.org/prepare).

Joseph L. Galbraith  
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818-317-5787  
[j2gal2000@yahoo.com](mailto:j2gal2000@yahoo.com)

## **Free Throw Championship - *Supreme-Recommended***

Since 1972, councils have sponsored the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship for boys and girls between the ages of 9 and 14 to provide an athletic outlet and encourage the values of sportsmanship and healthy competition. Kids compete within their own gender and age and progress from local level to district, regional and state/province competitions. Councils can sponsor a competition by ordering a Free Throw Championship Kit or volunteering to host and/or support the district, regional and state/province championships. For additional information and to order your Free Throw Kit visit [kofc.org/freethrow](http://kofc.org/freethrow).

Percy G. Park  
Chairman  
916-936-6145  
[dbk576@aol.com](mailto:dbk576@aol.com)

## **Global Wheelchair Mission - *Supreme-Featured***

Change the lives of people with disabilities worldwide.

The Knights of Columbus has partnered with the American Wheelchair Mission and Canadian Wheelchair Foundation, which falls under the umbrella of the Global Wheelchair Mission, to obtain wheelchairs at a deeply discounted price. These wheelchairs help provide aid to those who lack the freedom of mobility in our communities. The Global Wheelchair Mission is a perfect opportunity to put your Faith in Action and involve the entire community through rewarding

charitable work done by councils. For additional information visit [kofc.org/wheelchair](http://kofc.org/wheelchair).

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Chairman  
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[loukofc76@yahoo.com](mailto:loukofc76@yahoo.com)

## **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY - *Supreme-Featured***

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, Christian organization founded in 1976 that seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness one family at a time. The organization helps provide quality-built, affordable homes to needy families by cooperatively involving the future homeowners with the community volunteers and suppliers to build the home. Since its founding, Habitat has helped more than 29 million people improve their housing conditions in 1,400 communities in over 70 countries worldwide. Contact your local Habitat for Humanity office, by visiting [habitat.org](http://habitat.org), to learn about Habitat for Humanity builds near you or click [here](#) for more information.

Shane Clark  
Chairman  
916-724-9354  
[montanaclark@gmail.com](mailto:montanaclark@gmail.com)

## **Helping Hands - *Supreme-Recommended***

The Helping Hands Program Chairman will work closely with all State Chapters and Councils to identify resources available to assist in caring for the disadvantaged community. These resources may include, but not be limited to, local homeless shelters and food banks, as well as the Catholic Charities and member agencies in the respective Chapter/Council area. The Councils and Chapters are then encouraged to work in cooperation with and provide support to the shelters and Catholic Charities agencies.

Zaki Mustafa  
Chairman  
909-234-5148  
[kofc13403@gmail.com](mailto:kofc13403@gmail.com)



## Leave No Neighbor Behind

Knights are urged to help provide the “daily bread” for their neighbors. The Knights of Columbus Leave No Neighbor Behind Fund will financially support food banks in areas most impacted by the present situation of homelessness and hunger. Councils can directly participate in this initiative by: • Donating Funds to the Knights of Columbus International Effort • Donating Funds to a Local Food Bank or Pantry • Collecting and Distributing Food for a Food Bank or Pantry • Checking on shut-ins from your council or parish and provide them with essentials they are missing.

Marco Ferrero  
Chairman  
619-792-0926  
[marcoriveraferrero@gmail.com](mailto:marcoriveraferrero@gmail.com)

## Soccer/Hockey Challenge - *Supreme-Recommended*

The Soccer/Hockey Challenge is a great way for councils to engage in their communities with an athletic event for youth that encourages the values of sportsmanship and healthy competition. Children demonstrate the most important skill in soccer and hockey — shooting accuracy on goal — and compete to reach the international level of competition. Councils are free to choose between either the Soccer or Hockey Challenge, whichever makes the most sense for the youth of your community. Councils can sponsor a competition by ordering a Soccer Challenge Kit or Hockey Challenge Kit, or volunteer to host and/or support the district, regional and state/province championships. For additional information visit [kofc.org/soccer](http://kofc.org/soccer) or [kofc.org/hockey](http://kofc.org/hockey).

Percy G. Park  
Chairman  
916-936-6145  
[dbk576@aol.com](mailto:dbk576@aol.com)

## Substance Abuse and Youth Poster Contest

Would you like to get your youth involved more in your parish and community? The California Knights of Columbus have a program for you. Our communities have many problems they face these days. Everyday we hear or know of someone who has been influenced negatively by alcohol or drugs, legal or illegal. We have a program that allows our youth to use their talents, to express the effect these substances have on their life. This program is the California

Substance Abuse Poster Contest for your Council. This poster program is open to all Youth, 8-14 years of age. Please don't miss this opportunity. Click on the link to find out more information.

Bob Pineschi  
Chairman  
916-645-8366  
[pineschibob@yahoo.com](mailto:pineschibob@yahoo.com)



## Veterans Assistance

When our country needed men and women to serve in our Armed Forces our Veterans answered the call to serve. Today Knights are being called to serve our Veterans through a new program: "Serving Those Who Served." The VA Healthcare System recognizes that volunteers provide a valuable service for Veterans and their families. It is an honor and a privilege for us as Knights of Columbus to volunteer our time and efforts for those who have sacrificed so much for our nation. The VA Healthcare System is in need of volunteers the year around. Our goal is to have an active corps of Knights serving as volunteers at every Veteran's Administration Medical Facility in California.

Mark R. Malebranche  
Chairman  
619-838-7218  
[mmalebr1@san.rr.com](mailto:mmalebr1@san.rr.com)

## Yearbook

For information, please contact Chairman James Hart

Chairman James Hart  
661-878-2183  
[jimhart63@yahoo.com](mailto:jimhart63@yahoo.com)

## Youth Education

The Knights of Columbus is founded on membership and growth and developing programs for young men who can build into a member for the local council. According to the website Newman Connections, there are 24 Newman Centers throughout the state. First, we need to work on building the relationship with your local Newman Center and/or college groups. Reaching out to that Newman Center Director and treat the Newman Center as a roundtableparish.

For more information, please contact Chairman George F. Eilhardt.

George F. Eilhardt  
Chairman  
916-987-7367  
gfeilhardt@gmail.com

## Life Programs Chairman's Message

**As we begin** another Columbian Year it seems at times that we are in an uphill endeavor within some of our Life Programs. As one of the four Faith in Action Programs, our Life Programs weave their threads throughout all of these Programs. This helps us to create an environment to affirm a Knight's devotion to being Pro-Life and Pro-Family. There are many substantive areas for your council and its Brother Knights to be involved in, from Activities that you can support individually or those at the council level, locally, regionally or state-wide.

**Featured Programs to especially target:** Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) which includes pregnancy center support, our Marches for Life, the Ultrasound program and Special Olympics. While attention is being directed to these featured programs, *don't neglect to also support the other life program areas*. You will find that your council brothers may have differing viewpoints on what set of programs they would like to support. Discuss the directions your council would like to go and then work to facilitate the full participation of your members. We have many Brother Knights in our California councils, so we should be able to see many of our program areas being supported and reported on.

### **Featured Programs**

**Pregnancy Center Support** provide the resources needed to protect the unborn to help women to choose life. Your aid doesn't stop there, the Center is there to support the new mother and her baby in those first critical years of life.

**Marches for Life** give us the opportunity to publicly show our affirmation in the protection of life.

**Special Olympics** shows the worth and dignity of every single human being. Special Olympics programs not only build strength and character in the athletes and participants, it is a support system for the entire family. Take the opportunity to volunteer at a Special Olympics Event.

**Ultrasound Program and ASAP** provide the tools to dramatically impact a change in expectant parents through the mother (and father) being able to see the growing life in the mother's womb. Don't only look at Centers who don't have an ultrasound. Ultrasounds do have a life span, so also aid Centers in the updating of these older machines. Once ultrasounds are in place, be aware of the need for continued support and maintenance plus using the ASAP program to enable this funding to go further.

And lastly, communicate with those of us in the State Family and especially with the Chairmen of each of the Life Activities areas with your ideas, offers of support and commitment to be involved. We are your resource, because together, we will again have a successful year of Life Activities.

<https://www.californiaknights.org/culture-of-life/>

[Life Programs - Faith in Action | Knights of Columbus \(ko fc.org\)](http://ko fc.org)

**Dale Pittman**

**Life Programs Chairman**

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## **COLUMBIAN RETIREMENT HOME (CRH) ADVOCACY**

This California State program fits nicely into the Culture of Life Activities group since we as Catholics and members of the Knights of Columbus advocate for life from conception to natural death. All humans deserve to maintain a good quality of life. We have many programs to advocate for life in the earliest stages. Unfortunately, we do not focus much attention on those at the end stage of life. This program's purpose is to focus on helping those struggling to survive at the end of life and give back the dignity and respect they so richly deserve.

The Columbian Retirement Home, Inc. (CRH) operates the "Columbian Center" in Marysville and is dedicated to providing affordable housing and care for members or family of members, of the California State Council of the Knights of Columbus who have attained the age of 55 years. With the sometimes-subsidized rental costs, maintaining this operation requires support from all brother knights. As a state program, we encourage creative member activities and fundraisers in support of these struggling knights and their families. With all our California State Knights, we can maintain this facility and open new facilities in other areas of the state to further support the right to life!

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## **Christian Refugee Relief - *Supreme-Recommended***

For this Columbian Year we should continue to be engaged in Supremes' call to support Christian refugee Relief wherever feasible and miracles can happen. We all see daily news of the tragic impact of Isis and other anti-Christian groups warring against our Christian Brothers and Sisters, and against non-Christians as well like the Yazidis and Shabak referenced on the Supremes' website: [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org) "FACTS ABOUT PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS"59 in the Middle East.

The need is dire. Christians are facing genocide in the Middle East and Nigeria because of their faith, but you can help. You can learn more about the history of how Knights of Columbus have come to the aid of genocide victims in the past and most recently.

Visit: <https://www.christiansatrisk.org/>

For more information, please contact Life Programs Chairman Dale Pittman (626) 864-1356  
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## End Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking is a stain on our Society and of Christian Family Life. We can be knowledgeable of the legislative activities being done to combat this and to also directly support the activities that bring direct public awareness of this. For example, as a council we can support attendance at viewings of the "Sound of Freedom" movie and foster discussion groups. <https://www.angel.com>

And support...Human Trafficking Awareness Day -- 11<sup>th</sup> January

STOP the Traffic! BLUE is the color to wear during the month of January to raise awareness of human trafficking. National Human Trafficking Awareness Day is recognized each year on January 11th! Wear blue and share your pictures with us.

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## Foster Care & Rancho San Antonio

As individual Knights of Columbus there are ways that we can help support the youth in our society who are in need of a supportive environment. One is to look into being a foster parent or to support those who are foster parents and to be aware of the changes in our legislative environment that impact the regulations within this area. Foster parents have the important role of teaching children what a family looks like. Through foster care, they get the individual attention and guidance they need to help them grow and develop according to their age. They see what being a parent is supposed to mean, so that when they grow up, they don't have to continue the cycle.

Rancho San Antonio provides an alternative environment to foster care for troubled youth. Rancho San Antonio provides a haven and safe zone to begin healing and engage in the process of change. Rancho is a multi-service non-profit organization that provides both traditional and non-traditional trauma-informed therapeutic services to youth and families. As Knights we can support Rancho through their giving program and Annual Raffle. [Giving - Rancho San Antonio](#)

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## Health and Wellness

There are many areas of personal wellness, including physical, financial, spiritual, mental, emotional, and sexual to name a few. The one area of wellness that forms a first impression to others when we meet them for the first time is our physical wellness.

So much of promoting and improving personal wellness comes down to education and awareness. The environment that we surround ourselves with is also important. There are healthy choices there that we can make as well.

We can make those wise choices that can help extend our health span, where we continue to be relatively healthy and can remain functional without too much pain, up to the time of our natural death, we are then able to continue to enjoy those activities and causes that we are most passionate about, including our volunteer time with the Knights of Columbus and spending quality time with our wives and families. It also provides additional opportunities to travel and explore other areas and passions without being hampered due to physical limitations.

There is a wealth of information out there for us to tap into very easily via the internet that can help us make those healthy choices from simply educating ourselves and becoming aware of those lifestyle changes that we can make to improve the length of our health span.



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## ID Campaign

**“Empowering Programs that Empower People”**

Why we support people with intellectual disabilities! The Gospel of Jesus Christ is a radical invitation to get beyond our own self-centered worldview. Jesus announced that we are all children of God and we need to do our part to protect and liberate the most vulnerable children of God. In doing this, it is also important to remember that some of God’s most vulnerable children are people with intellectual disabilities. Jesus teaches us, “Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:40). If we truly believe that people with intellectual disabilities are God’s children, how would we behave differently?

Campaign Supporting People with Intellectual Disabilities Supporting and assisting people with intellectual disabilities have been an ongoing program supported by the Knights of Columbus for many years. This is the largest program that California Knights are involved in and every council should try to participate. This program unites Knights throughout California in charity and love of our brothers. We are what we do.

Through annual fundraising, Knights have been able to successfully collect donations for the Intellectual Disability Program outside stores, on street corners, in their parishes, and through appeals to local businesses. In appreciation, the donor is offered a Tootsie Roll. The high visibility of this program has led to the campaign being referred to as the “Tootsie Roll Drive.”

The success of any fundraising venture is predicated on planning, organization, setting goals and people. These four ingredients will help you achieve your goals.

We sincerely request that each Council work with us and should there be any questions pertaining to the above, please do not hesitate. We are here to assist you, and we are anxious for your success.

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## Life Legislative Advocacy

For more information, please contact Chairman Richard B. Marciniak.

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## March for Life - *Supreme-Featured*

Show public support for the right to life.

The Knights of Columbus encourages others to choose life through public support of the pro-life cause. Knights can sponsor, promote, and participate in existing local, state, provincial and national marches. They can also organize bus trips. Councils in areas without existing events can organize new rallies, walks and marches on their own or by coordinating with other pro-life organizations. For additional information, visit [kofc.org/march](http://kofc.org/march).

The Knights of Columbus respect, defend, and promote the dignity of every human person, at every moment and in every condition. The Order has long stood at the forefront of the movement to protect human life. What better way to continue this commitment than to gather with thousands of others in your community to celebrate life in all its stages.

We thank all who've participated or supported in the “Walks for Life Movement” during the past years. Our growing number of Brothers, Families, and Friends who make their way yearly to the 3 major California Cities Walks, the 40 Days for Life Walks, and various other local

community walks, etc., bear public witness to the simple undeniable truth that human life is made in the image and likeness of God and is to be held sacred from conception to natural death.

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## **Mass for People with Special Needs** ***Supreme-Recommended***

Welcome individuals or families who might not normally feel comfortable participating in a regularly scheduled Mass.

People with special needs resulting from physical, emotional, mental, or cognitive conditions are all around us in society, at school, at work, and in our families. It can be challenging for these important members of our society to participate in church due to physical and social barriers —

or even family member anxiety. Councils will sponsor a distinct Mass for people with special needs. Celebrating a Mass for People with Special Needs can be the first of many steps toward integration into regular weekly or even daily Mass — and more deeply into all of the sacraments and other aspects of parish life. Holding this Mass sends the message that all of God's children are welcome under the parish roof and that every person is an integral part of the parish family. For additional information visit [kofc.org/mpsn](http://kofc.org/mpsn).

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## **Novena for Life - *Supreme-Recommended***

The protection of life is a sustained prayer intention of the Church, and in particular of the Knights of Columbus. Knights remain firmly committed to defending the right to life of every human being – from the moment of conception to natural death. To commemorate and bolster this important cause, councils will promote a novena, nine days of sustained prayer, to build up a culture of life in our parishes, homes and wider community. October is “Respect Life Month” – those continuing to gather and pray their Novena for Life can complete the Novena’s 9th Day on the last Friday in October. For Novena for Life program resources, visit [www.kofc.org/novenaforlife](http://www.kofc.org/novenaforlife) or <https://www.californiaknights.org/culture-of-life/novena-for-life/>

For more information, please contact Life Programs Chairman Dale Pittman (626) 864-1356 [kofc.skdalep@gmail.com](mailto:kofc.skdalep@gmail.com).

## **Pregnancy Center Support / Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) - *Supreme-Featured***

Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP), describes the Knights of Columbus’ efforts to support pregnant women, mothers and their new children by serving pregnancy resource centers and maternity homes. These pro-life, non-profits are lifelines to women and babies in need and offer essential services that make the difference between a baby being aborted and a baby being born in a supportive environment.

Pregnancy resource centers and maternity homes, and the women and (preborn) babies they serve, are in dire need of financial contributions, donations of material goods, and other volunteer services.

Pregnancy centers and maternity homes sometimes host “open houses” in which volunteers and their communities are invited to attend. These open houses raise awareness of the organization’s services and offer an opportunity to meet the center’s leadership and staff. Councils can help pregnancy centers and maternity homes host these important events and tie-in council fundraising activities before or during the event.

Every council should identify a pregnancy resource center or maternity home that it can serve through the ASAP initiative. If a council is unsure where the local PRCs are, contact your local parish pro-life coordinator or the diocesan Respect Life Office. Questions? Contact your State Life Chairman.

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## **Silver Rose - *Supreme-Recommended***

Share the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe and promote respect for life by participating in this meaningful pilgrimage.

The Silver Rose program demonstrates the unity between Knights of Columbus in Canada, the United States, and Mexico, through a series of prayer services promoting the dignity of all human life and honoring Our Lady. Each year Silver Roses are stewarded by councils along routes from Canada to Mexico. Every stop the Silver Rose makes throughout the pilgrimage is a rosary-centered occasion for Knights, parishioners, and community members to pray for respect for life, for the spiritual renewal of each nation, and for the advancement of the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe. For additional information visit [kofc.org/silverrose](http://kofc.org/silverrose).

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## Special Olympics - *Supreme-Featured*

Celebrate the intrinsic worth and dignity of every single human being through the Special Olympics.

The Knights of Columbus' rich legacy of serving others has long extended to the support of the Special Olympics. We believe that Special Olympics programs are unparalleled in their ability to show the worth and dignity of every single human being. Special Olympics programs not only build strength and character in the athletes and participants, it is a support system for the entire family. Our State Special Olympics Program is a balance between Voluntarism and Charity.

**Voluntarism:** In Service to One, In Service to All. A simple and powerful statement! The Knights of Columbus are committed to making our communities better. To volunteer at a Special Olympics Event is one of the most rewarding things a person can do. These opportunities are open to everyone – Knights, their families, Councils and even potential Knights and their families. Do it, and it will change your life!

**Charity:** Charity is the first principle of our Order. Raising funds to support Special Olympics is one of the featured programs in California. Since the largest supporter of people with Intellectual Disabilities is Special Olympics and the largest program in California is the Campaign to Support People with Intellectual Disabilities, it only makes sense for the Feed the Athlete program to be associated with the Campaign. See the Campaign to Support People with Intellectual Disabilities for specific information.

**Feed the Athletes:** The Knights of Columbus' rich legacy of serving others has long extended to the support of the Special Olympics. The State Council continues to support the "Feed the Athletes" program. Through your efforts we will raise specially earmarked funds so the Knights of Columbus can be the major sponsor of meals for athletes at Special Olympics events throughout the state. Raising funds to sponsor the meals at these events will help our local councils provide lunches to the athletes, because after all, we the Knights of Columbus know how and love to cook! You can contribute to this program two ways. When filling out your Campaign to Support People with Intellectual Disabilities Distribution Form-201 simply designate, "Special Olympics Feed the Athletes" as a recipient and then state the percentage for distribution. Or use the new state form.

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## **Ultrasound Initiative - *Supreme-Featured***

Save lives and help women choose life by giving them the opportunity to view their unborn children on ultrasound machines at pro-life pregnancy centers.

This initiative is funded by state and local councils and matching grants from the Supreme Council's Culture of Life Fund. The Knights of Columbus donates funds to purchase ultrasound machines for qualifying pregnancy centers. After the state and/or local council raises 50% of the cost, the Supreme Council will provide the other 50% to complete funding for purchase of an ultrasound. Or, if the council raises 100% of the cost of a vehicle outfitted to serve as a mobile medical unit for a pregnancy center, the Supreme Council will provide 100% of the funds for an ultrasound machine to be used in that vehicle. This program has specific guidelines. Be sure to consult your State Life Director or the Department of Fraternal Operations before beginning this program. For additional information visit [kofc.org/ultrasound](http://kofc.org/ultrasound).

**Brother Knights let us stand up for a Culture of Life in our communities and help with the funding of these life saving ultrasound machines** **airman Alex**

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