



Knights of Columbus

Council 13300

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Faith in

Action

Handbook

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Faith in Action Program Categories

These highlighted programs are meant to inspire Knights of Columbus Council 13300 members to put their faith into action. Our Council may choose to conduct one or more of these programs, or it may develop programs unique to our parish or community. The goals are for our Council members to be active, and conduct programs that draw them closer to their faith, families and communities — as well as defending life in all stages and under all conditions.

A well-rounded Council program will have activities in each of the following categories: Faith, Family, Community and Life. These categories are developed by Supreme, which is the governing body for all Knights of Columbus Councils. As an added incentive for Councils to accomplish their goals and serve their communities, Supreme has established a system of awarding points to recognize successful Councils. Our Council is encouraged to select and implement selected programs from the matrix below to help make a difference in our parish and the local community. Fulfilling the selected activities in all four categories can lead to our Council receiving the prestigious Columbian Award.

Supreme-Recommended Program Category Matrix

FAITH	COMMUNITY
RSVP Into the Breach Spiritual Reflection Holy Hour Pilgrim Icon Program Building the Domestic Church Kiosk Rosary Program Sacramental Gifts	Coats for Kids Global Wheelchair Mission Habitat for Humanity Leave No Neighbor Behind** Disaster Preparedness Free Throw Championship Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest Soccer/Hockey Challenge Helping Hands
FAMILY	LIFE
Food for Families Family of the Month/Year Family Fully Alive Family Prayer Night Keep Christ in Christmas Family Week Consecration to the Holy Family Good Friday Family Promotion	March for Life Special Olympics Ultrasound Program Pregnancy Center Support Christian Refugee Relief Silver Rose Mass for People with Special Needs Novena for Life

Faith in Action Programs — Table 2

***Bold** denotes Featured Programs*

***Only for this Fraternal Year*

Featured Programs

Supreme Council has designated select programs as featured programs in each of the program categories. When our Council conducts a featured program, and satisfies the associated requirements, it will receive additional credits towards that program category, and ultimately the Columbian Award.

FAITH	COMMUNITY
RSVP Into the Breach Spiritual Reflection Holy Hour	Coats for Kids Global Wheelchair Mission Habitat for Humanity Leave No Neighbor Behind
FAMILY	LIFE
Food for Families Family of the Month/Year Family Fully Alive Family Prayer Night	March for Life Special Olympics Ultrasound Program Pregnancy Center Support

Faith in Action Categories

FAITH

The goal of this program is to strengthen our men and their families in the Catholic faith. When we entered the Knights of Columbus, we were reminded to refresh our knowledge of the Catholic faith. This formation goes beyond mere facts or religious practice to an authentic connection with a loving God and his Son, Jesus Christ. Programs in this category are designed to draw us closer to God and the Church in a tangible and meaningful way — whether through helping the future shepherds of the mother Church, quiet contemplation in a spiritual reflection program, or honoring Mary, Mother of God. These programs strive to arm us for the spiritual battle that our men and families face daily. In support of this, the following activities in the Faith category may be undertaken by our Council:

- Refund Support Vocation Program (RSVP) – Keeping the faith alive by supporting our seminarians and postulants.
- Into the Breach - By discussing the lessons and calls to action found throughout “Into the Breach”, men will begin to devise a personal plan of spiritual battle to strengthen their lives, their families, and their communities.

- Pilgrim Icon Program - The Knights of Columbus regularly adopt a special icon of a saint whose patronage is inspiring to Knights and their communities. These icons travel between councils and inspire communal acts of prayer and devotion. Each Knights of Columbus jurisdiction receives several traveling pilgrim icons, which serve as the centerpieces for prayer services conducted in churches and council meeting places throughout the order for the duration of the initiative.
- Building the Domestic Church Kiosk - By making the Building the Domestic Church Kiosk available in our parish and organizing activities based on its content, our Council would educate and evangelize using the rich, faith-based literature found in the Catholic Information Service (CIS) Building the Domestic Church series of booklets. Since 1948, 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 continually provides tools for catechesis and faith formation.
- Spiritual Reflection - under the guidance of our Chaplain, men of our parish can attend a retreat or day of reflection. These events might be open only our Council members or men of the parish – or it may be open to entire families.
- Family Rosary – Held on the 5th Sunday of the month, the Knights of Columbus Rosary Program encourages parishioners to promote devotion to the rosary in our families and parishes.
- Holy Hour – encourages a deep personal encounter with God. Eucharistic adoration in the form of a regularly scheduled Holy Hour is a simple, direct, and meaningful way to address this need. It is familiar to many, easy to organize, and something everyone can participate in together regardless of age, vocation, stage of life, or membership status.
- Sacramental Gifts - this supports families during the most important events in the life of the domestic church. The sacraments stand as the most significant events in the life of the Church. The Knights of Columbus support and embrace our parish families at these essential moments of encounter with Christ.

Council Selected Programs: The following programs have been selected by our Council to support the Faith in Action *Faith Category* for Fraternal Year 2021:

- Springtime Buffet Breakfast supporting the Prison Ministry, Casa Hope/Ana, Marian Servants of The Villages, Widows/Families, Spiritual Friends and St Paul's Scholarship Program.
- Fund the Support Vocation Program (RSVP) to provide for the livelihood of two local seminarians
- Family Rosary on the 5th Sunday of the month
- Into the Breach
- Memorial Mass and Necrology for our Council

- Memorial Mass for the District
- Holy Hour

FAMILY

Programs in this category are developed for families, by families. Father McGivney sought to strengthen the familial bond of father-to-mother and children-to-parents. 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 continue to ground ourselves and raise our children in the faith when there is such limited exposure. In support of this, the following activities in the Family category may be undertaken by our Council:

- Food for Families - The goal of Food for Families is to ensure that as few families as possible go to bed hungry each night. Many in our community are struggling through hardship and unable to provide food for their families. Our Council is committed to helping end hunger. Our fund-raising events support the Wildwood Soup Kitchen and Our Mother of Mercy Food Pantry.
- Family of the Month - Each month, our Council selects a Family of the Month that models Christian family values and visibly lives them every day.
- Family of the Year - Each year, our Council selects one of the previous twelve Family of the Month winners to represent the Council and St Vincent de Paul Parish as the potential International Family of the Year.
- Keep Christ in Christmas - Promotes the true spirit of Christmas in our homes, schools, parishes and communities. Our Council can offer multiple activities such as promoting Christmas and the Season of Advent in their proper context, Journey to the Inn, Light Up for Christ, Crèche or Advent wreath blessing, or a Christmas Poster Contest. These programs are centered on the example of the Holy Family and the Nativity of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
- Family Fully Alive - 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”. 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.
- Family Week – This program helps families place God and the Catholic faith at the center of their lives. Our Council can dedicate a special week of the year for their parish to recognize the vital importance of families as the foundation of our domestic church and to promote Catholic family values. Activities presented in this program seek strengthen

the parish community and affirm the central importance of Catholic family life. Though traditionally celebrated in the summer to commemorate the birth and death of our founder, Father McGivney, this program can take place anytime during the year.

- Consecration to the Holy Family – This program attempts to strengthen families and revitalize our parish. To help families live out the joy of Christ, Supreme Chaplain, Archbishop William Lori, the Archbishop of Baltimore, 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. Seeking to strengthen families and revitalize our parish, our Council may guide the parish and community to understand and offer this important and impactful prayer. Through this consecration, each participant is consciously choosing to be a beacon of god’s love through his Church.
- Family Prayer Night – This program strengthens the bonds within our parish and strives to build faith-filled families. 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. Family Prayer night is an opportunity for children to be exposed to regular people living their faith in a casual setting. This is an opportunity for our Council members, their families, and the whole parish community to come together once a month for an evening of prayer, dinner and fellowship.
- Good Friday Family Promotion – This program brings families into more robust practice and better understanding of our Catholic faith and the sacred Triduum. Despite Good Friday’s central role in the heart of Christianity, attendance at services remains low. In an effort to increase parish attendance and involvement, our Council can conduct a promotional campaign to educate their parishes on the vital importance of Good Friday. Setting an example for their community, Knights would attend Good Friday services with their families and work with our Pastor to encourage increased parishioner involvement at these liturgies. In conjunction with these efforts, our Council could also work to educate our parish about the plight of Christians in the Holy Land and other areas around the world where Christians are persecuted for their faith.

Council Selected Programs: The following programs have been selected by our Council to support the Faith in Action Family Category for Fraternal Year 2021:

- Food for Families Fund Raising event for Wildwood Soup Kitchen and Our Mother of Mercy Food Pantry
- Consecration to the Holy Family – the last Sunday of the year Masses
- Family of the Month selection
- Family of the Year selection
- Social events (i.e., Tampa Bay Rays Baseball Game, movie night, etc.)
- Night Golf event (November 2020)

- Keep Christ in Christmas Magnet sales (Fall 2020)
- Christmas Coloring Contest (Fall 2020)
- Good Friday Family Promotion (Spring 2021)

COMMUNITY

As Knights of Columbus, we are called to serve our family and our God. Our first principle is Charity, at home with our families or in our local community. This is a critical part of our Knights of Columbus mission. We know we can make our community better. Individuals can do great things on their own, but there is something bigger than self when fellow Knights come together to accomplish great things. Our Council focuses on positively shaping our local community by addressing the needs of its citizens. In support of this, the following activities in the Community category may be undertaken by our Council:

- Coats for Kids – Our Council may raise funds through various charity events to purchase coats that are then donated to needy children during cold winter months.
- Global Wheelchair Mission - Since 2009, the Knights of Columbus has partnered with the American Wheelchair Mission, which falls under the umbrella of the Global Wheelchair Mission. The goal of this initiative is to provide aid to those who lack the freedom of mobility in our local area, with a primary focus of providing wheelchairs to local veterans.
- Habitat for Humanity - This program focuses on working closely with Habitat for Humanity, which is a nonprofit Christian organization, to build homes for families in need at substantially reduced costs. Our Council would donate approximately 200 service-hours by volunteer Knights and/or contribute monetary donations to this worthy cause.
- Disaster Preparedness - Communities can be brought to a halt when natural disasters or a local crisis occur. As community leaders, Knights of Columbus may ensure that our members, their families, and the parish community at large are prepared through a campaign that promotes planning and education. This program motivates us to take a holistic approach to emergency situations by promoting readiness in times of crisis, assessing response capabilities, and learning how to properly respond well ahead of a disaster. Our Council can engage the parish and community in disaster preparedness exercises by organizing trainings, fund raisers and various awareness activities.
- Free Throw Championship – For the past number of years, our Councils has sponsored the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship for boys and girls between the ages of 9 and 14. It provides an athletic outlet and encourages the values of sportsmanship and healthy competition. Kids compete within their own

gender and age and progress from local level to the district, regional and state competitions.

- Soccer Challenge - The Soccer Challenge is a great way for our Council to engage in our community with an athletic event for its youth. The challenge encourages the values of sportsmanship and healthy competition. Children demonstrate an important skill in soccer — shooting accuracy on goal. Our Council can sponsor a competition by ordering a Soccer Challenge Kit, or volunteer to host and/or support the district, regional and state/province championships.
- Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest – This contest encourages youth in our community to become citizens who are better grounded in their faith through creative writing. It is open to all Catholic students (public, private, home, or parochial schools) in grades 8 to 12 during the current school year. This contest encourages today’s youth to be more connected to their community and their faith.
- Leave No Neighbor Behind - Knights of Columbus are called to step into the breach and “Leave No Neighbor Behind” – especially in times of crisis. We are encouraged to meet the needs of our Council, the St Vincent de Paul parish and local community by supporting individuals in need. Food banks, blood centers, and working with homeless missions are excellent examples to support this program.
- Helping Hands - Pope Francis writes in Evangelii Gaudium, “our faith in Christ, who was always close to the poor and the outcast, is the basis of our concern for the integral development of society’s most neglected members”. He goes on to say, “in this context, we can understand Jesus’ command to his disciples: ‘you yourselves give them something to eat!’: it means working to eliminate the structural causes of poverty and to promote the integral development of the poor, as well as small daily acts of solidarity in meeting the real needs which we encounter”. In the model of our founder, Father McGivney, our Council can lead efforts to assist those most in need. The “Helping Hands” program is designed to recognize the important work to care for the most disadvantaged members of our communities — the homeless, the addicted, the elderly who may feel isolated and abandoned, and many others.

Council Selected Programs: The following programs have been selected by our Council to support the Faith in Action Community Category for Fraternal Year 2021:

- 5-6 fund raisers for various charities such as the local food kitchen, food pantry, Shoes that Fit, Coats for Kids, Putting for Smiles, Hands of Mercy Everywhere, Life’s Choices Women’s Clinic, Center Hill Children’s Mission, etc. These fund raisers normally are held at local restaurants.
- Springtime Guys and Gals Golf Tournament supporting Combat Veterans to Careers and the Global Wheelchair Ministry.

- Coats for Kids support in local elementary schools
- Leave No Neighbor Behind
- Council Soccer or Free Throw Contest (ages 9-14)

LIFE

The urgency of the threat to a culture of life cannot be misunderstood. Respect for the dignity of life demands a commitment to human rights across a broad spectrum. Both as Knights of Columbus and as followers of Christ, “Catholics must be committed to the defense of life in all its stages and in every condition” (St. John Paul II). Our Council defends the dignity of each human being at every stage of life. Knights work together to build a culture of life and a civilization of love. Our Council stands ready to assist any pregnant woman in need, care for the elderly, aid the handicapped, empower those with special needs to realize their full potential and bring attention to the injustices of abortion, embryonic stem cell research, euthanasia and assisted suicide. In support of this, the following activities in the Life category may be undertaken by our Council:

- March for Life Our Council has annually held the March for Life on the first Sunday of October in front of the Wildwood City Hall promoting this public gathering with prayers for the unborn.
- Special Olympics – We celebrate the intrinsic worth and dignity of every single human being through the Special Olympics. The Knights of Columbus has a unique relationship with the Special Olympics. In prior years, our Council has been highly active in fundraising for this charity.
- Ultrasound Program – This program actively saves lives and helps women choose life by giving them the opportunity to view their unborn children on ultrasound machines at pro-life pregnancy centers. In the recent past, our Council has actively supported the purchase of 2 ultrasound machines for local women’s clinics.
- Christian Refugee Relief - This program helps save persecuted and at-risk Christians facing genocide all over the world, particularly in the Middle East. As Knights, we are called to bring awareness and support to those who have suffered for their faith.
- Silver Rose Pilgrimage – This program shares the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe by promoting 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, from early March through mid-December, Silver Roses are shepherded by councils along routes from Canada to Mexico. The Silver Rose 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.

- Mass for People with Special Needs – As Knights, we welcome individuals or families who might not normally feel comfortable in participating in a regularly scheduled mass. People with special needs resulting from physical, emotional, mental, or cognitive conditions are all around us in society. It can be challenging for these important members of our society to participate in church services due to physical and social barriers — or even family member anxiety. Our Council can 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 their 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.

- Pregnancy Center Support – This program attempts to change the hearts and minds of society about abortion by showing that we love both mother and child before and after birth. Several local pro-life pregnancy centers now operate in our area. Abortion vulnerable, unborn children and mothers experiencing unexpected pregnancies certainly fall within our mandate. With our aid, pro-life pregnancy centers can offer support to help them choose life. Our Council has provided financial support to pro-life pregnancy centers that help pregnant women during pregnancy and following the birth of their newborn children. In addition, by the very nature of our founding, we also are called to provide care for the widows and orphans.

- Novena for Life – This program helps to establish a culture of life in our nation and local community. The protection of life is a sustained prayer intention of the Church, and as Knights, we remain 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, our Council promotes a Novena of sustained prayer, to build up a culture of life in our parishes, homes and the wider community.

Council Selected Programs: The following programs have been selected by our Council to support the Faith in Action Life Category for Fraternal Year 2021:

- March for Life
- Novena for Life
- Fall and Spring Diaper and Baby Clothes Collection supporting the Hands of Mercy Everywhere (H.O.M.E.) (Pregnancy Center Support)
- Funds raiser to support Life’s Choices Women’s Clinic (Pregnancy Center Support)
- Tootsie Roll Fund Raiser Drives supporting the Florida Special Olympics (Special Olympics) and individuals with disabilities (SCARC).