

# Church Program Director

(extracted from Supreme Pub 962-2010)

## Addressing the Needs of the Church

In response to the changing world around us, Christians are searching for ways to further develop the reach of the Catholic Church. If these good intentions are going to bear fruit — if the Church is going to not only exist, but thrive in today's society — men and women throughout our communities must come forward and take an active part.

Far more action of an ecumenical nature is needed. As Knights of Columbus, our prime responsibility is to encourage and promote that action.

The lay faithful must respond to the constant call for active involvement in the work of the Church. Your council has the numbers, the organization, and the communication ability to get involved and spread the word throughout the Christian community.

Appeal for greater unity, understanding and ecumenism among all religions. Initiate programs through which members can practice their Catholic duties in the fields of charity, devotion and education. Strive to sponsor activities which will enable the individual Knight to set a constant and worthy example as an ideal Catholic to his family, his community and his fellow members.

## PARISH ROUND TABLE

- Develop close ties between councils and parishes, which are mutually beneficial and helpful to members in developing their lives of faith, worship and service. The K of C Parish Round Table program has been designed to help foster continued close ties between parishes and councils, especially in areas where council membership may come from several surrounding parishes. Simply put, the **K of C Parish Round Table** program is an offer of service from the local council to every parish in its area. This service will not interfere with any existing parish council or organization, since the pastor himself designates in which programs the council should become involved. Further information is provided in the *Parish Round Table* flyer (#2632).

## LAY APOSTOLATE

- **Invite non-Catholics to enjoy a tour of a church in your area.** Your council chaplain or pastor should explain such points of interest as the baptismal font, the tabernacle, Stations of the Cross, the sacristy, a display of the vestments and sacred vessels. Ask guests to stay for Mass and dinner or a social event. Encourage an exchange of information between guests and your council chaplain or members.

- Organize a **study group** to read and discuss Pope John Paul II's apostolic exhortation on the role of the laity, *Christifidelis Laici*. Laypeople need to know more about what their role in the Church is. Copies of the text of *Christifidelis Laici* can be purchased from the Daughters of St. Paul, 50 St. Paul's Avenue, Boston, MA 02130.

- Work with **Project Moses**, a non-profit organization striving to restore respect for the Ten Commandments via the placement of Ten Commandments plaques in individual homes and 5 foot 4 inch tall, 900 pound, stone Ten Commandments monuments on parish properties. The sale of these monuments pays for the construction of the National Judeo-Christian Memorial to Moses and the Ten Commandments in Washington D.C. Knights of Columbus councils can spearhead local projects at no cost. For more information review the "Placing A Monument Guide" available for free at <http://www.projectmoses.com/pm/contactus/contactform.aspx>.

- Spread the good news about the Catholic faith in the community by maintaining a **Catholic video lending library** for use by parish and council families. Check out local religious materials stores. Also, peruse the Web sites of various video/DVD, book and religious suppliers. Check with parish and religious schools for catalogs of available videos/DVDs. Once the council begins to accumulate a library of videos, offer to lend them to members and their families. Prepare a sign out sheet to keep track of who takes out the videos and to make sure they are returned on time and in good condition. Consider making the price for renting a video/DVD a nonperishable food item that can then be donated to a local soup kitchen.
- Recognize people receiving their **First Communion, council and parish families baptizing children, and individuals receiving the sacrament of confirmation**, with congratulations, certificates or special appreciation gifts. Use the new generic certificate (#2898) to design a certificate of congratulations.
- Support your parish's **Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD)** program: embark on a concerted drive in your council for volunteers to enroll in one of the CCD training courses and agree to donate time as CCD substitutes; extend financial assistance to CCD groups in developing visual aids; provide assistance recruiting discussion leaders, helpers to provide transportation and general assistance, and parent educators who foster religious education in the homes of children from preschool through high school ages.
- The council chaplain can provide information concerning Catholic doctrine and liturgy to Knights and their families through a **chaplain's column** in the council bulletin. Since not all members are usually present at council meetings, the chaplain's influence can be expanded by his regularly offering some Catholic information through this column. The chaplain and council bulletin editor should meet to determine the deadline for copy and the approximate number of words the chaplain should provide for publication each month.
- Encourage council families to set aside time each week for **Bible reading and discussions** which foster quality family time.

## EVANGELIZATION

- **Invite ministers of local Christian churches to speak at a council meeting on the history**, tenets and practices of their denominations. Since many Christian churches have produced excellent films on their denominations, suggest the possibility of showing such a film. Or, conduct a panel discussion program in which representatives of the various faiths explain their religions and precepts. Suggest a question-and-answer period following the program.
- Utilize the **Catholic Information Service (CIS)**, located at the Supreme Council office. As part of its work conducting correspondence courses for non-Catholics interested in learning about Catholic beliefs, CIS produces pamphlets outlining Catholic doctrine on many topics. Catholics also find CIS pamphlets useful for clarifying or reinforcing the Church's outlook on certain issues. Consider setting up a rack of CIS pamphlets in local Catholic churches so that parishioners (or visiting non-Catholics) will have them available as a resource. A complete listing of available pamphlets can be obtained by writing the Catholic Information Service, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510-3326 or [www.kofc.org/cis](http://www.kofc.org/cis).

## FATHER MICHAEL J. MCGIVNEY

- Promote membership in the **Father Michael J. McGivney Guild**. The guild serves as a source for information about the life, works and spirituality of Father McGivney. The guild distributes informational materials about him, receives reports of favors granted through his intercession and oversees the distribution of relics. Guild members are invited to participate in promoting devotion to this Servant of God. Members of the Knights of Columbus are not automatically guild members and must elect to join the guild. The Father Michael J. McGivney Guild Newsletter is published bimonthly except July-August, and is sent free to guild members. To join the guild, call 203-752-4087 or register directly on their Web site, [www.fathermccgivney.org](http://www.fathermccgivney.org).

- **Promote devotion** to Father McGivney by distributing the pamphlet *The Spirituality of Father Michael J. McGivney* (#4196) and the flyer *Apostle for the 21st Century* (#4064). Both items are available in English, Spanish and French.
- **Distribute prayer cards** for the canonization of Father McGivney, and encourage council members and their families to pray it often. Item #2617 is a simple prayer card and Item #4040 features the prayer along with a second class relic of Father McGivney. Both items are available in English, Spanish and French.
- **Show the production** *The Life & Legacy of Father McGivney* to your council family or ask that it be shown on your local public access cable station. The production is available by contacting the guild at 203-752-4087 or at [guild@kofc.org](mailto:guild@kofc.org). It is also available by contacting the Department of Fraternal Services at 203-752-4270. Specify English, Spanish or French. *It is not available through the Supreme Council Supply Department.*
- For additional information and suggestions on Father McGivney, visit the guild's Web site at [www.fathermcgivney.org](http://www.fathermcgivney.org).

## VOCATIONS

- Establish a **vocations committee** for your council. Activities can include: celebration of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations in April or May; special observance of Vocations Awareness Week in January; regular prayers for vocations at every council meeting, family meal and other suitable times; attendance at regular Masses for vocations; cooperation with the family life committee in getting the vocations message into homes; and participation in the Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP).
- Participate in the **Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP)**. Through RSVP, councils receive incentives for providing an individual seminarian or novice with meaningful financial and/or moral support. This encourages direct interaction and gives council members a better understanding of men and women who pursue religious vocations. Under the program, at the end of the fraternal year, councils in:
  - **United States and Canada** For every \$500 given to an individual, the Supreme Council will refund to the council or assembly \$100. The maximum refund a council or assembly can receive is \$400 per individual supported.
  - **Philippines** For every \$250 given to an individual, the Supreme Council will refund the council or assembly \$50. The maximum refund a council or assembly can receive is \$400 per individual supported.

Those councils that also provide significant moral support (letters, visits, parish activities in support of vocations, etc.) can apply to receive a special plaque award. More information about RSVP is available in the *Vocations Handbook* (#1942), on the Order's Web site at [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org) or from the Supreme Council Vocations Committee.

- Obtain and **distribute vocations materials**. Vocations booklets, posters, prayer cards and other supplies are available from the Supply Department.
- **Invite a seminarian or novice to council meetings and events**. Make him or her the guest of honor at a council dinner. Include seminarians and novices in religious appreciation dinners. Remember seminarians and novices in council prayers.
- **Hold a vocations fair**. Ask the religious orders in your area and your diocesan vocations director to participate, and invite the young people of your parish or community to attend and learn more about the religious vocations opportunities available to them. Have each order give a short presentation to the group, describing the major works of the order.
- Arrange for local boys, particularly altar servers and Squires, to **visit a nearby seminary**, meet some of the seminarians and get a feel for what it means to prepare for the priesthood. Make sure that the possible priests of tomorrow understand and are comfortable with the seminarians of today.

- **Recognize newly ordained priests** by presenting them with a personalized congratulatory note or certificate (consider using the multi-purpose certificate [#2898]) available from the Supply Department.

## PAROCHIAL SERVICES

- Initiate an **“Adopt a Catholic School” program**, organizing fund-raising or volunteer support activities deemed feasible and appropriate by a committee of council and school officials.
- Offer to **purchase uniforms** for athletic teams of a local Catholic school or CYO.
- Volunteer to **provide lectors or commentators** when needed in your council’s parishes.
- Plan a **“Clean Up, Fix Up, Paint Up” Day** in your parish. Enlist the support of all council members in donating their services.
- Buy copies of the **Sacred Heart Kid’s Club** video program for CCD programs and parochial schools. These videos, developed by the Sacred Heart Sisters, present the teaching of the Catholic Church to children in a dynamic and appealing way. The program is developed into three series: Creed, Sacraments and Commandments. For more information contact: Sacred Heart Kids’ Club, 869 South Rimpau Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90005 or visit their Web site at [www.sacredheartsisters.com](http://www.sacredheartsisters.com).
- **Distribute Bibles and catechisms** to parochial schools, religious education classes and missions.
- **Recognize regular altar servers in your parish with an “Altar Server Certificate”** (#1859, E, F, S, 25¢ each), available from the Supreme Council Supply Department.
- Help new parishioners feel welcome by sponsoring a **“Parish Family Welcome”** program once or twice during the year. Through this program, your council would sponsor a social event where all new parish members — both families and singles — would be invited to an open house hosted by your council, but dedicated to introducing new members to the parish. Include refreshments, an introduction from your pastor and priests, introductions of the parish council members and descriptions of the various organizations (Knights of Columbus, PTA, CYO, etc.) and groups active in the parish. Be sure to include speakers (especially your grand knight or other council member) to promote the parish’s various programs and activities including the Knights of Columbus.

## RELIGIOUS DEVOTIONS

- Provide **assistance to your pastor** by promoting attendance at all parish devotions.
- Arrange for the celebration of **Mass within the council home or individual family homes** to celebrate special events.
- **Sponsor living rosaries** on or near Marian feast days.
- Establish a **perpetual family rosary program** under which council families pledge to pray the rosary at home each day during a week of their choice in honor of our Blessed Mother.
- Organize a **family adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** program with the cooperation of the local pastor and parish.
- Inaugurate an **annual or semiannual council retreat** to allow members a chance to step back from their daily routines to examine through prayer, meditation and the sacraments what God intends for them.

- Distribute **rosary prayer cards (#1877 E, F, S)**, available from the Supreme Council Supply Department, to promote more frequent recitation of the rosary. Councils ordering rosary prayer cards on a Requisition Form (#1) will be charged \$3 per hundred.
- Give out the wallet-sized **Eucharistic Devotion Prayer Card (#4194 E, F, S)** to help promote devotion to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. This collection of prayers can be used before the Blessed Sacrament and during Communion.
- Pray the rosary in English, French or Spanish by obtaining a cassette tape or cd available from the Supreme Council Supply Department. The **rosary cassette (#4436 E, F, S)** is available for \$3.50. This is also available on compact disk (#4439 E, F, S) for \$3.50.
- Order and distribute the informational card “**A Guide to Confession**” (#2075 E, F, S) to help combat the neglect of this powerful sacrament. Councils ordering penance cards using a Requisition Form (#1) will be charged \$3 per hundred.
- The *Prayer for the Beatification of John Paul II* Card (Item #9528) encourages Knights, their families and parishes to pray for the special intention.
- The *Prayer for Pope Benedict XVI* Card (#9530) encourages Knights, their families and parishes to pray for His Holiness.
- The *Prayer to the Mexican Martyrs (Saints)* Card (#4229, English; #4229S, Spanish) and the *Prayer to the Mexican Martyrs (Blessed)* Card (#4535, English; #4535S, Spanish) encourage Knights, their families and parishes to pray to these martyrs who were Knights.

## KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

- Sponsor a “**Keep Christ in Christmas**” billboard. Billboard posters are available from Christ Is Christmas/P.O. Box 20717/Roanoke, VA 24018/telephone: 800-722-5032/www.christischristmas.com.
- Distribute “**Keep Christ in Christmas**” materials, available through Christ Is Christmas (see above) or the Supreme Council Supply Department.
- Create your own **Advent calendar** of actions you can take each day to bring you closer to Christ. Write your scheduled activities on a calendar posted prominently. Your activities can be for your own personal enrichment or to help those around you. Your council can create a similar Advent project calendar full of small community service projects for members to undertake daily.
- Promote **Advent wreaths** in your council bulletin as a means for families to mark the time of preparation for the coming celebration of Christ’s birth. Urge members to participate with a wreath in their homes.
- Organize a **parish nativity play**, with children from your parish or local parochial school playing the parts.
- Volunteer to **work in a soup kitchen** in your community during the Christmas season.
- Encourage children in your parish to **give gifts they made or gifts of themselves**.
- Buy **Christmas cards with religious themes**.
- **Visit hospitals and nursing homes during the Christmas season.** Present each patient with a religious Christmas card. Bring a supply of cards large enough that you can give the patients cards they can send to family and friends. Offer to help write and mail cards if necessary.

- Order and display or distribute **“Keep Christ in Christmas” printed materials** available from the Supreme Council Supply Department. Posters (#2760, E,F,S; #4555, E, #4554, E,F,S; #4555, E) are available for only the cost of mailing.
- Sponsor **“Keep Christ in Christmas” spot announcements on radio and television**. Prerecorded public service announcements for radio and television are available from the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Services.
- Participate in the Orderwide **“Light Up For Christ”** program to help share the light of the Advent season with your community and the world. Plan a Christmas tree or nativity scene lighting ceremony for the first Tuesday in December. Then, at precisely 8 p.m., local time, throw the switch to “Light Up For Christ.”