

# STATE PROGRAMS DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE FOR JULY AND AUGUST

## MISSION AND PURPOSE

"Together we can do great things." This is the slogan of our Worthy State Deputy Greg Marracq. And whatever great things we do, we do for the greater glory of God (Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam - AMDG) and not for our own personal glory.

Our programs are key to the continued relevance of the Knights of Columbus. Without them, what is the reason for being a part of the Knights of Columbus? We know that Blessed Michael McGivney established the order to help families. And this is integral in our programs. Why are we motivating and encouraging Catholic gentlemen to join the order through membership drives and delta church drives? If not to have more members to implement our faith in action programs. Without our faith in action programs, we are just a "men's club". Why are we doing fundraisers? If not to have funds to implement our programs. Without our faith in action programs, we are just a "fundraising organization or foundation". Thus the importance of our faith in action programs.

In short I believe in directing all councils to gather Catholic men and their families to our fold through the various faith in action programs where we would be able to activate them, as well as our current knights, to meaningful involvements in their parishes.

Our Mission is faith formation, evangelization and helping the poorest of the poor and those in need spiritually, physically, emotionally, financially, through Faith in Action Programs. 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 there is a need to undergo at the beginning of the Columbian Year Spiritual Renewal Retreats, in coordination with our chaplains, from the State level down to the Council level which will remind us why we are called to be Knights of our Lord and to build a team where together we can 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.**

## STATE PROGRAMS HANDBOOK

This handbook is expected to provide all our councils guidance on successful planning and tools for effective implementation of the various faith in action programs and related activities.

## NEW STATE PROGRAMS

### **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 on this program, please contact Faith Programs Chairman Jerry Fong at [programs@californiaknights.org](mailto:programs@californiaknights.org) and PSD Noel Panlilio at [noel.panlilio.psd@californiaknights.org](mailto:noel.panlilio.psd@californiaknights.org)

### **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).

For more information on this program, please Family Programs Chairman Romy Cabrera at [programs@californiaknights.org](mailto:programs@californiaknights.org) and Chairman for Campesinos George Arias at [programs@californiaknights.org](mailto:programs@californiaknights.org).

### **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.

For more information on this program, please contact Faith Programs Chairman Jerry Fong at [programs@californiaknights.org](mailto:programs@californiaknights.org), Chairman for Cultural Devotional Practices

Edward Castillo at [programs@californiaknights.org](mailto:programs@californiaknights.org), and Co-Chairman for Cultural Devotional Practices Juanito Legaspi at [programs@californiaknights.org](mailto:programs@californiaknights.org)

### **STATE PROGRAMS OF THE MONTH**

August - Holy Hour (Featured) - FAITH

September - Into the Breach (Featured)(Featured) - FAITH

October - Family Rosary - FAITH

November - Helping Hands (Required) - COMMUNITY

December - Consecration to the Holy Family (Required) - FAMILY

January - Novena for Life (Required) - LIFE

February - Mass for People with Special Needs - LIFE

March - Spiritual Reflection (Required)(Featured) - FAITH

April- Good Friday Family Promotion - FAMILY

May - Marian Prayer - Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians - FAITH

June - Building the Domestic Church Kiosk - FAITH

### **HOLY HOURS**

Wasting Time With Jesus

Our Past State Chaplain Antony Vazhappily recently wrote a book about Eucharistic Adoration called "Wasting Time With Jesus." This tongue-in-cheek title emphasizes the fact that spending time with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration is, in actuality, a most valuable use of one's time. This book is dedicated to the Knights stating: "May these gentlemen find strength in adoration and be models of prayer in every generation! May they promote adoration in every parish."

For twenty years our Past Supreme Knight Carl Anderson told us we the Knights of Columbus are the Knights of the Eucharist and now, since the moment of his acceptance speech, our current Supreme Knight tells us the same thing, over and over. How can we, as Knights, take this title to heart? While we are encouraged to promote formal Holy Hours and invite as many souls as possible, what is most important is that you, my Brother Knight, personally, make Eucharistic Adoration a central part of your life.

In his book, Fr Vazhappily actually suggests you "spend an hour every day with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. . . It may be challenging; you may believe you cannot afford such time. You can't afford NOT to do this. Even if an hour per day is impossible, surely you can find time on a regular basis if it becomes important enough for you."

Our current State Chaplain, Fr Raymund Reyes, told all the Knights at the recent State District Deputy Meeting to ". become more intentional in our personal encounter of Jesus. . create a space for God in our lives. . . [making Jesus] the center in our life and not just a part of our life. . . we can do this by establishing a habit of having a holy hour of adoration at least once a month. . . to come face to face with the living God. It is a great act to intentionally deepen our personal encounter with our Lord before the Blessed Sacrament."

There are many resources for making holy hours. . We are here to help. I recently created <http://www.holyhour.org> which includes a holy hour to pray for priests and vocations that I wrote in collaboration with Bishop Timothy Freyer. In our Council every Lent we conduct the Holy Hour of St Gemma Galgani to meditate on the Agony in the Garden. Knights in our Council have cried during this holy hour.

As our current State Deputy has dedicated this Colombian year to St Mother Teresa I will close with a quote from Carl Anderson on this great saint of our time. "Although the world praised Mother Teresa for feeding the poor and bandaging the sick, secular media often ignored the only part of her day that was absolutely consistent and, in her view, vital - the hour she spent, every single day, in Eucharistic adoration."

For more information, please contact Faith Programs Chairman Jerry Fong at [programs@californiaknights.org](mailto:programs@californiaknights.org) and Steve Lovison, Chairman of Holy Hours at [programs@californiaknights.org](mailto:programs@californiaknights.org)

### **VISIBILITY CAMPAIGN**

*"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:13-16)*

How do we have our light shine?

One way is to have at least one event on a Sunday every month or ideally an event every Sunday in church like Prayers in the Pew, in front of the church like fundraisers for parish programs, or near the church or in conjunction with parish events. This way the parishioners see with their own eyes the different activities your council does in the parish. Hopefully these events will make them more curious about the Knights of Columbus, entice them to know more about our fraternity, and encourage and motivate them to join.

Another way is to have short writeups/captions of your council events, together with action photos (Note: action photos and no firing squad photos) released in your council's facebook account and/or through the state website and state facebook.

### **FRATERNAL PLANNER**

I highly encourage you to use your 2023-2024 Fraternal Planner, especially pages 4-6. It will greatly help you in the planning and implementation of Faith in Action programs by your council

### **FORM 10784 AND FORM STSP**

Councils are encouraged to submit Form 10784 ( ***Fraternal Program Report Form***) immediately after completion of the event. This can be done by online form submission. Councils can use this link to report program activity <https://www.kofc.org/en/forms/spa/invite.html?lang=en&form=10784C.019> .

This report gives important real time data on council activities. Inputs are used in ongoing evaluation and improvements to our Faith in Action programs.

Form STSP is used for the State Council Program Awards. You can access this in our state website [www.californiaknights.org](http://www.californiaknights.org) under council forms.

### **INCENTIVE**

The monthly \$100 Raffle incentive will be continued. Councils which provide program reports using the 10784 Form will be automatically entered into a monthly \$100 raffle. Result of the raffles will be announced.