

## MESSAGE FOR DECEMBER

Christmas is just a few weeks from now. Your councils can still implement and/or participate in programs such as Keep Christ in Christmas, Consecration to the Holy Family, and Campesinos (Coats for Kids, Food for Families, and ASAP (Aid and Support After Pregnancy).

You may want to start preparations to participate in the Walk for Life by joining your parish group or the Knights of Columbus group going to the event

Other worthwhile programs that are not time sensitive and your council has the ability to help out: Helping Hands, RSVP (Refund Support Vocation Program), WRAP (Women's Religious Assistance Program), Special Olympics, Global Wheelchair Mission.

Another important event your council can start working on is the Basketball Free Throw.

There are so many Faith in Action programs your council can do to make your "Light" shine more.

As the Holy Scriptures said:

*"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)*

And if I may add, as what 1 Corinthians Chapter 13 says, "If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal." This is the same with what we do. Whatever we do if it is not out of love for God and our neighbor, it has no value and no meaning. And our founder, Blessed Fr Michael McGivney, had charity as the first principle of our order. And charity includes concern and love for others. In Filipino we say "malasakit sa kapwa".

One thing we must always remember and which should be at the back of our mind in everything we do – success will depend on our disposition and attitude. Our mindset and outlook should be Christ-centered and Christ-like. We should work from our hearts for Christ, in Christ, and with Christ in our hearts. Jesus Christ must be in us. We must be His instrument. And our words and especially our actions should reflect this.



**Hector C. Poblete**  
**State Program Director**

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS

#### **1. State Program for December - Consecration to the Holy Family**

Families today face many struggles, both through cultural pressure and through the personal struggles that accompany family life. Despite these struggles — and partly as a result of conquering them — families have great capacity for love and joy, a joy that is strengthened through the peace and truth found in Christ. To assist families in living out this joy of Christ, Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori has composed a prayer through which families may come together to consecrate themselves under the protection of the Holy Family. We invite every family in the parish to engage in the Consecration to the Holy Family.

#### **2. Keep Christ in Christmas**

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.

### **Simbang Gabi**

Simbang Gabi celebrations began in the Philippines in 1668 when Spanish missionaries brought the practice from Mexico as part of their evangelization. At the time, they had a tradition of celebrating pre-Christmas novena Masses in honor of the Annunciation. These Masses were known as "Misa de Gallo" or "rooster Mass," because they were celebrated early in the morning to accommodate farmers, who often start work before sunrise to escape the heat in the fields.

Simbang Gabi (Filipino for "Evening or Night Mass"), also called Misa de Aguinaldo ("gift mass"), is a devotional novena practice of a nine-day series of Masses attended by Filipino Catholics in anticipation of Christmas and to honor the Blessed Mother. It traditionally begins during Advent on December 16 and ends on December 24. It is similar to the nine dawn Masses leading to Christmas Eve practiced in Puerto Rico called Misa de Aguinaldo. Here in the US, this nine-day series of Masses is held in the evening or at dawn and is now celebrated by Filipino Catholics and non-Filipino Catholics.

### **Posadas/Journey to the Inn**

With the bustle of Christmas shopping and the frequent removal of religious imagery from Christmas displays, it seems that communities have forgotten the incredible gift of Christ and the beauty of his birth. What should we, as Knights of Columbus, do in the face of this secularism? How can we teach our communities that Christmas is a holy day celebrating the birth of Christ? Such questions, of course, are not wholly new; Franciscan missionaries in the 16th-century faced similar concerns when first introducing Christ and his beloved Mother to the New World. In the tradition of their founder, St. Francis of Assisi, the missionaries found that simple reenactments of the story of Christ's birth could touch the hearts of the Mexican people. The Spanish missionaries referred to these ceremonies as Las Posadas — meaning "the inns" or "the shelters" — as they gave emphasis to Mary and Joseph's search for shelter before Our Savior's birth. These festivities have remained popular throughout Latin America and the southwestern United States, yet children and adults from all cultural backgrounds can use similar celebrations to embrace the true meaning of the Christmas season and share the joy of Christ's birth.

For more information on the Keep Christ in Christmas (KCIC) Program, please contact [programs@californiaknights.org](mailto:programs@californiaknights.org) and [Faith-in-Action@CaliforniaKnights.org](mailto:Faith-in-Action@CaliforniaKnights.org)

### **3. Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe (under Cultural Devotional Practices)**

Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, also known as Our Lady 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 States, Mexico, and many countries.

This day has become important for Mexican Americans to celebrate their religious and cultural identity. In preparation for the feast day, many individuals in the community erect altars in their home. In many cases they are made of a painting of Our Lady of Guadalupe that is surrounded by candles and flowers. Celebrations usually include a time of prayer, fanfare/festivities, dance presentations, parades and fireworks.

We as Knights must be at the center of such celebrations and take an active role since Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Patroness of the Knights of Columbus,

### **4. 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).

#### **5. March for Life (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 and to 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.

January 13, 2024, Saturday - San Diego Walk for Life

January 20, 2024, Saturday - Walk for Life West Coast, San Francisco

January 20, 2024, Saturday - One Life LA, Los Angeles

For more information on this program, please contact

[programs@californiaknights.org](mailto:programs@californiaknights.org), and [Faith-in-Action@CaliforniaKnights.org](mailto:Faith-in-Action@CaliforniaKnights.org)

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

December - Consecration to the Holy Family - FAMILY

January - Novena for Life - LIFE

February - Mass for People with Special Needs - LIFE

March - Spiritual Reflection - FAITH

April- Good Friday Family Promotion - FAMILY

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

June - Building the Domestic Church Kiosk - FAITH

#### **FORM 10784**

**It's very important that you submit Form 10784 immediately after each council event.**

For **July**, there were **61** forms submitted from **24** councils.

For **August**, there were **81** forms submitted from **34** councils.

For **September**, there were **114** forms submitted from **37** councils.

For **October**, there were **137** forms submitted from **44** councils.

There has been continued improvement from month to month but we need to continue encouraging submission of forms, especially since we have **732** councils in our State.

**To access Form 10784, click on the following link:**

<https://www.kofc.org/en/forms/spa/invite.html?lang=en&form=10784C.02>

or

<https://www.kofc.org/en/forms/spa/invite.html?lang=en&form=10784C.019>

Once you enter your membership number and name it will give you this message:

Please check your email account (In Box or Spam Folder) for an email from [donotreply@kofc.org](mailto:donotreply@kofc.org), for instructions to file your 10784 online. If you do not receive an email, please ask your financial secretary / faithful comptroller to make sure you have an email on file in Member Management.

### **Video on Form 10784**

To get instructions on how to fill up Form 10784 to report an event which is not on Family of the Month, Coats for Kids, Global Wheelchair Mission, Habitat for Humanity, March for Life, Silver Rose, and Special Olympics, [Watch this short video tutorial](#) for step by step process in filling up the form.

If you are reporting an event which is on Family of the Month, Coats for Kids, Global Wheelchair Mission, Habitat for Humanity, March for Life, Silver Rose, and Special Olympics, please access the following link to the video which includes additional information and form to submit for Family of the Month, Coats for Kids, Global Wheelchair Mission, Habitat for Humanity, March for Life, Silver Rose, and Special Olympics

[https://site-842560.bcvp0rtal.com/detail/videos/forms/\\_video/6222163148001/faternal-programs-report-form-10784-training-video?autoStart=true](https://site-842560.bcvp0rtal.com/detail/videos/forms/_video/6222163148001/faternal-programs-report-form-10784-training-video?autoStart=true)

### **FORM 10784 INCENTIVE**

July winner - Council 16185 under District 70, Central Chapter

August winner - Council 4438 under District 98, Southern California Chapter.

September winner - Council 11393 under District 148 , Arrowhead-Desert Valley Chapter

October winner - Council 10948 under District 29, St. Francis Chapter

### **FAMILY OF THE MONTH**

July - Family of Bro Ricardo Saldana from Council 953, District 10, Northern California Chapter

August - Family of Bro Eric Gutierrez from Council 7241, District 11, Northern California Chapter

September - Family of Bro Ray Werner from Council 3162, District 155, San Diego Chapter

October - Family of Bro Raimund Krammer from Council 9511, District 137, Diocese of Orange Chapter