

Faith Activities

"Our Mission: Increasing Our Faith"

Faith in Action is the new service program model from Supreme in which the Church activities have been refashioned as the Faith activities. This is done, in part, to remind us to keep the faith of our Catholic religion in the forefront of our efforts as Knights. In the Gospel of Luke "The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our Faith!' And the Lord said, 'If you had faith like a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and be planted in the sea;' and it would obey you.'" (Luke 17:5-6). As Knights of Columbus we must increase not only our own faith, but that of our families, our parishes and of those who do not yet know the Church.

The priestly mission of our founder, Fr. Michael J. McGivney, was always spiritual in nature. He sought to use the Order's charity to not only help make the world a better place, but to prepare



people for their next life in the Kingdom of God. As Knights, we must help others with our charitable programs while we build our fraternity. But in doing so, we should not forget that our primary goal is to support the Church and help it to guide not only ourselves, but others, into an eternity with God.

Foremost, we must pray. The writings of Doctor of the Church St. Alphonsus Liguori had a tremendous impact on Fr. McGivney. St. Alphonsus once said that "Whoever prays is certainly saved." To aid us in our prayer as Knights, Supreme is introducing two new activities as a part of its program model. A third will go to help us in the celebration of the Sacraments. While more information will come out over the course of the fraternal year, you can read about them below. The faith enrichment coordinator and diocesan chairmen can help you implement these programs.

In addition to our prayers, we must promote Catholic education and continue our support for religious vocations – all of which our State Council Faith programs do here. Continue with those activities that your council already does in this area, but prayerfully consider other areas in which you can expand your council's good work.

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Spiritual Reflection Program

Many who have attended a Catholic retreat experience a radical rejuvenation and increase in their faith. But in many cases, retreat opportunities are limited where many Brother Knights are concerned. Supreme is asking that every council, in conjunction with their pastor and parish, hold a low-cost retreat of their own. Councils can work with neighboring councils and larger groups of Knights to hold retreats if they cannot do so on their own. Attendees can be just the

council members, or their families, or their entire parish. Council members can also go to a local retreat in the area to fulfill the program as well.

This program is one of the new ones being introduced with the Faith in Action Program. Supreme has designated this program as required for the Columbian Award.

Holy Hour Program



During our Admission Degree, we were told how knights spent the vigil before their knighting in prayerful vigil. In our Knighthood Degree we learn how our fraternity is Eucharistic in nature.

The real presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Eucharist is the pinnacle of our Faith. Likewise, the chivalric character of the Knights of Columbus and the Church's tradition of spiritual combat resonates with men today, especially as threats from the devil are sadly so present in the world today. What better way to combat the threats to our Faith and Family through Eucharistic adoration, something that not only Knights but our families and parishes can participate.

Supreme is asking each council to work with our pastors and organize Holy Hours at least four times per year (quarterly), but encourages them on a more regular basis, perhaps weekly.

Sacramental Gifts Program

When someone who is young, or who has chosen our Faith, completes a sacrament, it is one of the most important events in their lives. Supreme is asking all of us to be there for the men and women in our parishes, along with their families, who receive one of the Sacraments for the first time to embrace the fullness of the *Building the Domestic Church* initiative.

Many of your councils participate in some form for those children who receive their First Communion or Confirmation and the families of those newly baptized. Others support the adults who go through the RCIA progress and join the Church at Eastertime. Continue to undertake these programs under this initiative and think of ways to use them to reach new men who could be Knights. For those of you whose councils do not have a program, talk with your pastor to implement something this fraternal year.



Faith Enrichment

Sometimes it can be difficult to plan and carry out faith activities. In other instances, it can be challenging to find the best way to implement the State and Supreme Council's programs in your council. To help you work with these programs and to involve your parish priests, the State Council has appointed Fr. Rick Jones as the state faith enrichment coordinator.

Fr. Rick Jones
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Vocations

Fr. McGivney knew the importance of vocations to the priesthood and religious life as they are needed for the success of the Church. In each of our councils there are things that we can do to promote vocations. For instance, we can make sure that we have a vocations chairman in our council. Encourage families to talk with their children about vocations – do not be forceful, but simply pose the question asking them if they have thought about a vocation to the priesthood and religious life. Work with your pastor and other groups which promote vocations, like Serra Clubs. Pray for vocations as well, especially through Eucharistic Adoration. Finally, support the Missouri Religious Vocations Fund.



Missouri Religious Vocation Fund

The Missouri Religious Vocation Fund was established to aid all four of the dioceses in Missouri in promoting future vocations. Our goal is to raise \$15,000 for this fund this year and ask each council, assembly and ladies auxiliary to prayerfully consider contributing fifty cents per member to help us reach this goal. Another way to help us meet this goal is to use the \$100 that you get back from the Supreme RSVP program to donate to this program. Checks can be made out to Columbian Charities with the mention that the funds go to the Missouri Religious Vocation Fund or sent to the chairman Joe Stoverink.

Another way you can support the program is by getting a personalized Missouri Knights of Columbus license plate for your vehicle. A \$25 donation for one year or a \$50 donation for two years is all that it takes! By doing this not only will you show your pride in the Knights but helping vocations through the Missouri Religious Vocation Fund as well. To receive an “Emblem Use Authorization Statement” to take with you when you register your vehicle, please fill out the form available on the state website.

Joe Stoverink
Religious Vocation Fund
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Adopt a Seminarian Program

The diocesan chairmen will give each council a seminarian to support. This support can be financial or with letters of support or cards. Certainly, pray for your adapted seminarian. Include his information and progress in your newsletter and invite him to council events, if he can attend. Most seminarians will be supported by multiple councils. Though, be sure to let your diocesan chairman know if you are financially supporting a seminarian so he can make sure that he is assigned to your council.

Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP)

Under the Supreme Council's Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP), local councils and assemblies that make an annual contribution of \$500 or more to help an individual seminarian with his daily living expenses will receive a \$100 reimbursement from Supreme. Eligible individuals include seminarians at various stages of their studies with a diocese, seminarians who belong to a religious institute and men and women who are postulants or novices in religious orders. Keep in mind that the \$500 must go to a single individual, not an institution or fund. The maximum a council or assembly can receive is \$400 per supported individual. Though, more than one seminarian can be sponsored through this program if resources permit. Supreme also mandates that the council provide moral support as well. This can include correspondence, personal visits or the invitation of the seminarian/postulant to council events.

Supreme Form 2863 is what you will need fill out to claim the reimbursement. Be sure to send a copy to your diocesan chairman as well. This is a featured program from Supreme, and as such you get an additional credit on your Columbian Application for it. A good way to use your reimbursement from Supreme is by donating to the Missouri Religious Vocations Fund.

Diocesan Chairman

The diocesan chairmen are the liaison between the Knights of Columbus and the dioceses of Missouri. They are responsible for the vocations programs in the diocese done in conjunction with the Knights. Not only will the chairmen communicate with district deputies and grand knights concerning activities and opportunities within the diocese, but they will keep in touch with the diocese on individual council activities. If we are to build up the Catholic Church, good communications with our diocese are critical.



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Religious Appreciation

One of the ways to show our support for our clergy and religious is to formally thank them for their devoting their lives to serving the Church. You can do this by having a dinner, picnic or other formal recognition event. Maybe you could take your clergy and religious out to diner once a month. If you like assistance with an event or simply to let the state council know of one's existence, contact chairman Don Allen.

Pilgrimages



For centuries Catholics have undertaken pilgrimages as journeys of devotion. In 2010 Pope Benedict XVI said “To go on pilgrimage is not simply to visit a place to admire its treasures or nature, art or history . . . To go on pilgrimage really means to step out of ourselves in order to encounter God.” The State Council will continue to offer pilgrimages to help the councils, assemblies and auxiliaries further their faith and relationships with God. Once again, we are planning to have a pilgrimage in each diocese in the state. More information will be published on these pilgrimages as the fraternal year gets underway.

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Msgr. Joseph Mancuso Catholic Education Grant Program

Providing a strong Catholic education for our youth has always been a priority of the Missouri State Knights of Columbus. Beginning in 1984, Msgr. Joseph Mancuso spearheaded a drive to establish a \$1,000,000 trust fund for Catholic education programs. Since 1990 interest earned from this fund has provided over \$600,000 in grants to Catholic schools and parish-based religious programs. During the 2017-18 fraternal year eighty-three grants were awarded for a total of \$50,000.



Catholic schools, which include pre-schools, parochial schools and high schools along with K-12 religious education programs can apply for either a \$500 or \$1000 grant. Application forms are available on the state council website under the forms section and are due by March 1st – no late forms will be accepted. While electronic submissions are preferred, if you have issues with the online form contact Fr. Weber.

Grant Criteria

- Deals with a specifically Catholic dimension of education which is in conformity with the Magisterium of the Catholic Church.
- Would affect a high percentage of the potential number of students enrolled or other persons involved.
- Shows promise of continuing after the initial funding is expended.
- Does not merely replace what is an expected service but offers an improved dimension (supplements basic programs, does not supplant, or initiates a needed program).
- Could be replicated in other Catholic educational settings.
- Show clearly the basis of need for this project.
- Show clearly the inability of the local setting to meet this need.
- Would be implemented by personnel with appropriate background and expertise.
- Is accompanied by a budget which meets requirements and includes no request for overhead expenses unless it is a new project.
- Offers matching effort (not necessarily financial) on the local level to the extent possible.

Fr. Joseph Weber, Jr.
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Memorial Board



Many of you have seen the State Memorial Board that is displayed at the Missouri State Convention and district deputy meetings. To help support the administrative expenses of the grant program, you can set up a memorial for a deceased knight or lady on the Memorial Board. Send your donations, or any questions you might have to Clarence “Book” Lawrence.

Clarence “Book” Lawrence
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