

Family Activities

Changing Lives by Strengthening Families

Brother Knights,

Ours is a Catholic, family, fraternal, service Order, and of course, in family activities, our focus is on the family. Families come in all different forms: they might be a husband and wife, include kids younger or older or of many ages, just be a widow or widower, or maybe include a member's or wife's parent or two. As we inevitably age, our families change. Children are born, children move out to start their adult lives, people die, parents and children live near and far. In our hearts, our families are always close.

As Knights, family programs are one of the six core programming areas for the Columbian award, but they are more. Family activities are how we support families, how we strengthen and build better families, how we encourage families to be alive and live the Catholic faith with joy and love for one another. They are how we attract young men with new families to our Order. I think of many of the older men from the several Councils to which I have belonged as role models, showing me and my wife how we can stay in love for decades, how to care for one another, showing me how to be a better father and a better husband. As a Knight, I want to participate with my family – including my six year old twins – as they gain the example of the many, many friendly, faithful Catholic men and women I've met as a consequence of being a Knight.

In our state and your Council activities, we strive to give families and the Knights something to do *together*: pray together, play together, grow together, and serve together. *Be together.*

Please contact me or any Family Activities Chairman with questions or for more information on any of these activities:

<p>Dave Dillon Family Involvement (West) Chairman 21427 165th Trl., Marshall, MO 65340 (D&N) (660) 815-3296 familyw@mokofc.org</p>	<p>Bill Schulte Family Involvement (East) Chairman 1736 Lake Meade Dr., Pacific, MO 63069 (D&N) (636) 393-0559 or (636) 288-5335 familye@mokofc.org</p>
<p>John Naby Knight, Family, and Youth of the Month Chairman PO Box 907, Licking, MO 65542 (D) (417)260-0546 (N) (573) 674-4899 familyr@mokofc.org</p>	<p>Tom Caffrey Food for Families Chairman 11624 Scarritt Ave., Independence, MO 64054 (D&N) (816) 254-8067 foodforfamilies@mokofc.org</p>
<p>Peter Nicastro Family Activities Director 2169 Willow Ridge Ln., Chesterfield, MO 63017 (D) (314)-684-6762 (N) (636) 519-0335 familydirector@mokofc.org</p>	

Recognition Programs

Councils are encouraged to recognize in their Council activities, and submit for State and Supreme recognition, Knights, Families, and Youth who make an outstanding contribution to their local Catholic community. Our members, their families and family members do fabulous work, and it's hard to thank them publicly and reward them for their hard work. Show your gratitude, and let the State Council say thank you as well by submitting your winner for the respective State contests. There's no better way to recognize someone who demonstrates outstanding charitable leadership.

For Council awards, the Council's Grand Knight can select the awardee, the Council might vote, or selection might be performed by committee. The Knight, Family, and Youth of the Year might be selected from the respective monthly awardees, and presented at a year-end awards event or Officers' Installation. [Certificates available from the Supreme Council](#) are 25¢ each. State Awards are selected and presented every other month, and winners receive a plaque recognizing their achievement.

Knight of the Month

Eligibility: The Knight of the Month, and Year, can be awarded to any Knight in good standing, except that State Officers, Directors, and Chairmen; District Deputies; and Grand Knights are not eligible.

Consider using the Knight of the Month certificate #1476, and Knight of the Year certificate #1545.

For State awards, please submit [the online application](#). The application asks for a summary of the awardee's contributions to and leadership of activities which serve the Council, Church, and Community. There is no State or Supreme Knight of the Year.

Family of the Month

Eligibility: A Family of the Month, and Year, includes the Knight and at least one more immediate family member. This includes children, and/or a spouse, or perhaps a parent. Again, State Officers', Directors', and Chairmen's; District Deputies'; and Grand Knights' families are not eligible.

Consider using the Knight of the Month certificate #1843, and Knight of the Year certificate #1843-A.

For State awards, please submit [the online application](#). The application asks for a summary of the awardee family's participation in, contributions to, and leadership of activities which serve the Council, Church, and Community. A State Family of the Year is selected from the bimonthly winners and invited to the award presentation at the annual state convention.

Councils are encouraged to submit their Family of the Month winners to the [Supreme Family of the Month](#) contest. 100 families are selected at random every month by the Supreme Office to receive a beautiful Holy Family gift and certificate signed by the Supreme Knight. Submit [form #1993A](#) by the 15th of each month.

Youth of the Month

Eligibility: Any child under age 18, either the child of a Knight or a Columbian Squire or Columbus Girl, who remains a practical Catholic and is of good academic standing at his or her school, is eligible.

A Youth of the Month certificate is not listed; however, blank certificate #2898 is suitable.

For State awards, please submit [the online application](#). The application asks for a summary of the youth's participation in, contributions to, and leadership of activities which serve the School, Church, and Community. A State Youth of the Year is selected from the bimonthly winners and invited to the award presentation at the annual state convention. There is no Supreme Youth contest.

Due Dates

Applications are due on the last day of odd months (July, September, November, January, March and May) and are selected the following month. Questions, and completed applications, are intended for Chairman [John Nabity](#).



Feed the Hungry is the first of the Corporal Works of Mercy. The Knights of Columbus is committed to ending hunger in local communities by asking local councils to participate in the [Orderwide Food for Families](#) Program. Since 2012, the Knights of Columbus has donated over \$8.5 million and 14.7 million pounds of food to local food pantries, community food banks and soup kitchens. In the last fraternal year, 30 Missouri Councils collected 37.7 tons of food, donated \$60,740, and volunteered 12,292 hours at food agencies.

To encourage local Knights of Columbus councils to participate in this worthwhile program, the Supreme Council offers financial rebates to councils or assemblies that donate food or money. For councils or assemblies, the Supreme Council will refund \$100 for every \$500 donated, or for every 1,000 pounds of food that a council contributes to a parish food pantry, community food bank or soup kitchen - up to a maximum of \$500 per council/assembly per fraternal year. Reported contributions of food and/or monetary donations are cumulative for the fraternal year. Units must submit the [Food for Families Reimbursement Program](#) form #10057 to receive the refund, and will also receive an attractive plaque recognizing their participation.

Food for Families is the Featured Program for Family Activities. A Council that donates a minimum of 1,000 pounds of food and volunteers a minimum of 100 man-hours to the food agency fulfills all four of the Family Activity requirements for the Columbian Award.

Questions about Food for Families? Contact Chairman [Tom Caffrey](#).

Family Involvement

Every year, the Family Activities team plans two sporting events, one each on the east and west sides of Missouri, for our member families to come together in fellowship, enjoy a great game at our teams' two amazing ballparks, and support local charities with their attendance. Although Cracker Jack no longer contains a prize (can you believe it?) take your family out to the ballgame and enjoy a fun afternoon with your brother Knights.



The west side event was a game at Kauffman Stadium to watch your World Champion Kansas City Royals defeat the Houston Astros on Sunday afternoon, June 26. Attendees enjoyed a first-ever, pre-game tailgate starting. Tickets were \$33 including the tailgate and a donation to [Outpace Poverty](#). 200 Knights and family members attended. Stay tuned for details Missouri Mavericks minor league hockey on January 28, and a summer 2017 event, from Chairman [Dave Dillon](#).

The east side event is Saturday, October 1 to see the St. Louis Cardinals, when first pitch will be at 3:05 pm to watch the Redbirds challenge the Pittsburgh Pirates. Tickets in the right field loge section, currently priced at \$80.90, can be yours for only \$25, including \$5 donated to the [Knights of Columbus Developmental Center at Cardinal Glennon Hospital](#).

Cardinal fans will also take home a David Eckstein bobble-head. Ticket orders must be received by Chairman [Bill Schulte](#) by, and no refunds after, September 15. A [convenient order form](#) is below. Tickets will be mailed to you one week before the game.



Name: _____		Council: _____	
Address: _____			
City: _____		Zip Code: _____	
# of Tickets: ____	@ \$25 each =	\$ _____	total
Send orders to Chairman Bill Schulte 1736 Lake Meade Drive, Pacific, Missouri 63069 Tickets will be mailed 1 week before the game. No refunds after September 15.			

BUILDING THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

Starting in 2014, the Supreme Council started a concentrated suite of family programs to strengthen the family. The Building the Domestic Church initiative recognizes the family as “domestic church” encounter with Christ within the community of a particular Christian family — a place where each member of the family has an important role. Programs part of the initiative are continuing to be rolled out, and will be throughout the fraternal year.

The Family Fully Alive

The very first program was [The Family Fully Alive](#), a set of materials designed to support the family's spiritual development. The program includes a monthly themes, meditations, projects and Scripture verses that can help you place God and the Catholic faith at the center of your family's lives. These are contained in the [Building the Domestic Church program book](#) #10162, for which the first 300 copies are free from the Supply Department. Additional materials are available on the web.

Family Week

Knights of Columbus [Family Week](#) is commemorated during the week that includes the birth (Aug. 12) and death (Aug. 14) of [Father McGivney](#). In 2016, this is August 8 – August 14. Councils should plan a family Mass, a picnic, a dinner, a prayer service or other activities that will promote and highlight both family interaction and the family focus of the Order. These programs should be fun and enjoyable for all, but also meaningful in their message. Our celebration of the family shouldn't be a private matter. Open it to nonmembers, prospects, parishioners, friends, priests, religious and everyone else in your community.

La Posada or Journey to the Inn

The Posada or [Journey to the Inn](#) is a traditional Christmas celebration that Franciscan missionaries developed in America with the goal of introducing the faith. It continues to be popular throughout the southwestern United States and all of Latin America and is a rich tradition for Knights and their families to share. If your Council is not familiar with the Christmas Posada, the Supreme Council invites you to join this ancient observance that will open for you the deeper meaning of a joyful season. [The Posada: An Advent & Christmas Celebration](#) #9898, or in digital format at kofc.org, is available to help Councils understand the tradition. This booklet provides all that is needed to conduct a Christmas Posada with Councils or your family.

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 help families live out this joy of Christ, Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori has

composed a new prayer through which families may come together to consecrate themselves under the protection of the Holy Family. Every Council should invite families of their parish to offer this prayer of [Consecration to the Holy Family](#) at all Masses on the first Sunday after Christmas, the Feast of the Holy Family.

The [Holy Family Prayer Program order of service](#) #5050 is available digitally at kofc.org or from the Supply Department for \$10 per 100. The [Consecration to the Holy Family prayer card](#) #10371 is also available free of charge for the first 100, and \$3 per subsequent 100.

Renewal of Wedding Vows

Father's Day is an important time to celebrate the role of fatherhood within the Christian family and is an ideal day for fathers to [celebrate and honor their marriage vows](#). Annually sponsoring an event on the third Sunday of June will serve to make Councils to the parish communities and show their support for all fathers and husbands. During these events, Knights and their wives — along with all the married couples of the parish — have an opportunity to affirm their commitment to their wedding vows. After the event, Councils could host a reception where they can congratulate each couple and thank them for their witness. Working together with pastors, Councils are encouraged to provide the opportunity for married couples to recall and affirm their wedding vows together with a special blessing during or after the Sunday liturgy.



Two different orders of service are available digitally or from the Supply Department. The [Affirmation of Wedding Vows](#) #30003 includes a prayer composed by the Holy Father and a blessing from the Roman Missal. The [Renewal of Wedding Vows](#) #30001 contains a more conventional recitation of "I Do's" followed by the same blessing.



Several years ago, the Knights commissioned a program called Fathers for Good specifically to support not only brother Knights, but all Catholic men wanting to be better fathers and better husbands. As Knights, we believe that there is a role only a father can fill and gifts only a father can give. In a culture that often does not favor fatherhood or masculine virtue, we wish to highlight the unique contributions of men, husbands and fathers. The world would be lacking without them.

At the Fathers for Good website, www.fathersforgood.org, there is a multitude of resources to help a seasoned dad, a new dad, a dad to be, or a single guy wanting to know more about fatherhood. Content is updated regularly. Included are inspirational stories of courageous dads, topical resources (for example, "The Father-Daughter Factor," yikes,) and the St. Joseph Series booklets. The booklets are written in a similar format to the familiar Catholic Information Service tracts, on topics of interest to dads, including the latest title, [The Gift of Fatherhood](#). All nine titles are available for free download.