

Building the Domestic Church through Council Programs

Growth, Engagement & Evangelization



Our Mission To Build the Domestic Church and Strengthen Parish Life

“Today, the Knights of Columbus is providentially positioned to play a key role in the new alliance between the Church and the family... But for us to do so requires that we adopt new methods.”



What is *Building the Domestic Church*?

- A Guide to council programming
- A vision that appeals to younger men and family men – towards a “family friendly” council and parish
- Advances the goals of the parish – renewal of parish life
- Programs that form our members and strengthen the family



Growth, Engagement & Evangelization

Membership Growth – Lead with Faith

- Young men and young families need this support
- Our prospects want these types of programs

Member & Parish Engagement – Family centered programs

- We are called to lead a renewed relationship between the Church and the family

Charity that Evangelizes – Our Mission

- As Catholic leaders, our service must be more relevant and effective for parishes



What Does This Mean for Councils?

- Increased opportunities for Faith Formation for members and their families
- Engagement with Family Life activities that engage the whole family together in the home and in the parish
- Community programs that engage our families and the Catholic community



What Does This Mean for Councils?

- NOT a replacement for successful current council initiatives
 - We are called to do more, not less
- NOT just a program option to consider
 - We must choose between what is good and what is BETTER
- NOT just a collection of programs
 - We have a mission to strengthen Catholic men, families and parishes



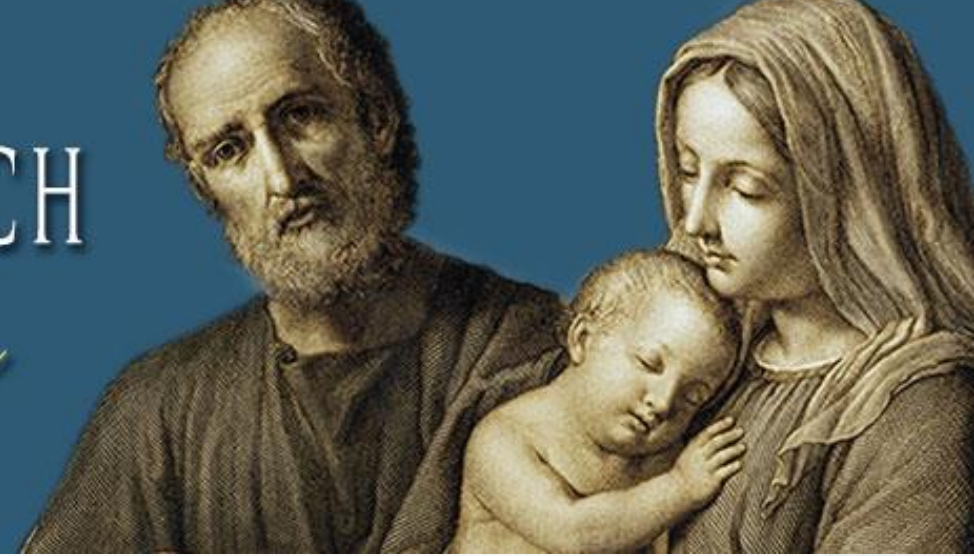
Getting Councils Started

1. Meet with your pastor.
2. Read or watch the Supreme Knight's address.
3. Explore the Domestic Church web pages.
 - kofc.org/DomesticChurch
4. Promote the Family Fully Alive program.
5. Start an “Into the Breach” study group.



BUILDING THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

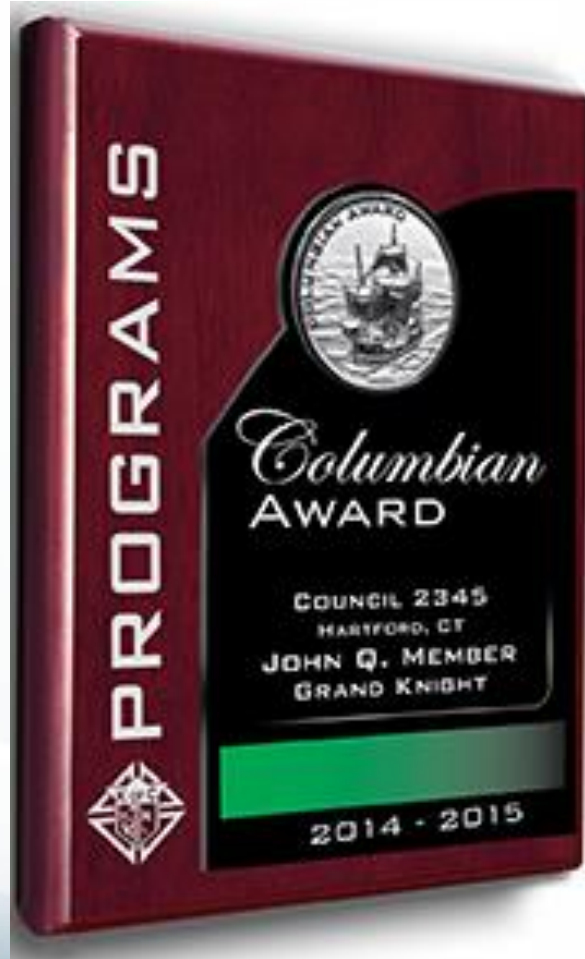
While Strengthening Our Parish



- Family Rosary Program
- Holy Family Consecration
- Family Fully Alive
- Affirmation of Wedding Vows
- Family Week Celebration
- Journey to the Inn
- Keep Christ in Christmas
- Spiritual Formation Groups
- Into the Breach
- Building the Domestic Church Series
- Holy Family Prayer Program
- Food for Families



Columbian Award Requirements



- Form SP-7 due **June 30th**
- Must list 4 major programs in each of six program categories
- Domestic Church Activities



BUILDING THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

Council Action Plan

- Special council award for 2017/18
- Action plan for becoming a “Domestic Church” council
- Participating councils will receive a commemorative Holy Family icon as recognition for their commitment and dedication to “*Building the Domestic Church and Strengthening our Parishes*”



BUILDING THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

Council Action Plan

- Organize at least **TWO activities** from each of these **four areas**
 - Member Activities for faith formation
 - Family Activities for strengthening home life
 - Parish Activities for Church renewal
 - Community Activities



Participating councils receive a commemorative Holy Family icon

Programs as Membership Opportunities



RECRUITMENT

- Invite a prospect (and his family) to take part in an impactful council program
- Show him the good that the council does in the parish and community...and that you have fun doing it
- **INVITE HIM TO JOIN THE COUNCIL**



RETENTION

- When recruiting a man to join, we promise him the opportunity to make a positive difference in the parish and community
- Programs allow us to keep that promise



ENGAGEMENT

- Solicit and welcome the input of members, parishioners and the community at-large
- Give all the opportunity to be vested in the council's success



PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Engage your parish community
- Build up our families
- Seek to strengthen parish life
- Serve the greatest needs
- Engage the entire family
- Open council “doors” to all parish men



VISION & MISSION

- A well-rounded slate of impactful outreach programs
 - Makes a positive difference in the lives of people in need in the parish and community
 - Demonstrates to men (and their families) that there is a place for them within the KofC
 - Engages council members and strengthens membership experiences



PRIORITY PROGRAMS

- Domestic Church Activities
 - RSVP
 - Coats for Kids
 - Food for Families
 - Ultrasound Initiative
 - Christian Refugee Relief
- Serve to **Recruit, Retain and Engage**
 - Rooted in our principles of **Charity, Unity & Fraternity**
 - Committed service to our **Families, Parishes & Communities**



COUNCIL BEST PRACTICES

- Meet regularly with your pastor
- Conduct programs consistent with parish goals
- Solicit input from a wide variety of sources
- Plan with the parish and community calendar, not against



COUNCIL BEST PRACTICES

- Visit kofc.org and state council website
- Tabulate the “measurables”
 - Dollars donated
 - Hours worked
- Identify your best programs
- Evaluate every program



Workshop Review

1. Building the Domestic Church Activities
 - Fraternity & faith formation for Catholic men
 - Mutual support for our Catholic families
 - Strengthening and renewing our parishes
2. Programs as membership engagement and recruitment
3. Councils should collaborate with their pastors and parishes to work in support of Catholic family and parish life.



Our Mission to Build the Domestic Church and Strengthen Parish Life

“The ‘content’ of the Knights of Columbus has not changed. What will change is the ‘expression’ of that service so that our work may become even more relevant and effective.”

