GSK Membership Message #1

Four Ways to Start the Columbian Year Right!

1. **Annual Meeting with the Pastor** – As soon as possible after your Council elections, arrange for a formal meeting between the new Grand Knight and the Pastor. The purpose of this meeting is to show support for the Pastor and for the parish. Bring along an Accomplishments List showing the events, activities, and donations supported over the past year or two by your Knights of Columbus Council. You can also print out this [Partial Menu of Services Knights Councils Can Do for Pastors and their Parishes](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tSkWyI6QEmuILOh1IbOyhGd5b7Xkja78/view?usp=sharing)  as a guide. Ask your pastor what he wants the Council to continue and find out if he has any special projects or events he would like. Try to make your Pastor feel supported by offering help whenever possible.
2. **Set Your Council Calendar** – Look over all of the events, activities, donations, etc. done by the Council last year. Pencil in onto your Columbian Year Calendar those events and activities you are likely to repeat. Try to add something new! Be sure to schedule the entire year ASAP then Review and Revise it at every Council Officers’ Meeting. Ask your Service Program Chairs to begin planning major events AT LEAST three months in advance. Your Service Program Chairs should always have a brief report detailing the progress on upcoming events and the results of completed activities.
3. **Set Your Recruitment and Ceremonials Dates** – Once again, schedule in advance and calendarize your Membership Drives, Information Session Dates/Times, and your monthly or bi-monthly Ceremonial Degrees.
   1. **Try a Quarterly Membership Drive -** Review this link of [2018-2019 CA Membership Drives](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1u67mk4KLCLedh88ZC64MDAAphekvlf1R/view?usp=sharing) to plan your entire year of recruiting. Set your sights to attain 25% or more of the Council Goal each and every Quarter.
   2. **Set a Schedule for Information Sessions –** Once you have your Membership Drive dates set, plan to host one or more Information Sessions within days of each Drive.
   3. **Plan a Monthly (or bi-monthly) Admissions Degree –** Set the dates for your Degrees to b within one week of your Information Sessions. Or, you could hold a half hour Information Session followed by an Admissions Degree for those who are ready.
4. **Focus on Building the Domestic Church –** Your Council should measure the time and effort spent on projects and focus on activities and events that are Christ-centered. Will your events deepen the spirituality of our Brothers and others? Will your activities help families to show kids (and others) that God is with them always and especially in their homes? Building the Domestic Church is accomplished when Christ becomes the foundation and keystone of the life of the family at home. Then the Church is truly in the home. If we show men that this is our focus, more and more will choose to join us and follow our lead!

Yours in Service,

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