

## MESSAGE FOR OCTOBER

Fraternal Mission sent out this message last August 31. It is Worthwhile for you to click on the Guidebook to know more about the latest in the area of programs as well as other Supreme concerns.

“At the 141st Supreme Convention earlier this month, Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly called on Knights throughout the world to strive to be “First in Faith and Charity.” He further said that strengthening Catholic men as followers of Christ must be the Order’s top priority.

In order to help you and your council live out this bold Directive, we have prepared a “Post-Convention Toolkit.” We Encourage you to take full advantage of this critical Resource as it will help you unpack the key messages and And themes of the Convention as well as participate in key initiatives during this fraternal year.

The attached [Guidebook](#) discusses the various resources that are available for download on the Online Supply Store accessed through [Officers Online](#). The online resources found in the toolkit include materials for Cor, ASAP, Ukraine Solidarity support, membership recruitment and Fraternal Benefit Events.”



**Hector C. Poblete**  
**State Programs Director**

### **UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

#### **1. State Program for October - Family Rosary**

The Rosary Program encourages councils to schedule rosary prayer services with the pastor’s permission. When planning a Rosary prayer service, councils should personally invite each family of the parish, and offer each attending family a copy of Catholic Information Service’s **A Scriptural Rosary for the Family booklet**. Encourage families to read it and learn how their faith can be strengthened through a devotion to Our Lady, while praying at home regularly as a family.

#### **2. Soccer Challenge**

The Soccer Challenge is a great way for councils to engage in their communities with an athletic event for youth (age groups 9 to 14, boys and girls). The program encourages the values of sportsmanship and healthy competition. The program is also a way to introduce the Order to your community and recruit faithful family men of service.

Early October - District Championship

October 28 - Regional (Chapter) Championship

#### **3. Annual Campaign for People With Intellectual Disabilities**

The official dates for the drive this year are **October 20, 21 and 22, 2023** (although councils are free to schedule and hold a fundraiser benefiting organizations serving people with intellectual disabilities at any time during the year).

For more information, simply link the ID Foundation website at [www.columbian-foundation.org](http://www.columbian-foundation.org).

#### **4. Christmas is less than 3 months to go. Please consider participating in the following programs.**

**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.

This worthy program includes religious Christmas Card and other items such as Our Lady of Guadalupe Pins during the Christmas Season vs. the secular cards. It is the #1 Evangelization tool we have during this Season. Cutoff date for the discounted Assortment for English and Spanish cards has been extended from Sept 26 until Oct 26, 2023.

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

### **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.

## **5. Free Throw Championship**

Since 1972, councils have sponsored the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship for boys and girls from the ages of 9 to 14 to provide an athletic outlet and encourage the values of sportsmanship and healthy competition. Kids compete within their own gender and age and progress from local level to district, regional and state/province competitions. This program is a great way to introduce the Order to your community and recruit faithful family men of service.

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**

October - Family Rosary - FAITH  
November - Helping Hands (Required) - COMMUNITY  
December - Consecration to the Holy Family (Required) - FAMILY  
January - Novena for Life (Required) - LIFE  
February - Mass for People with Special Needs - LIFE  
March - Spiritual Reflection (Required)(Featured) - 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**

Please continue to submit Form 10784 ( ***Fraternal Program Report Form***) immediately after completion of the event. This can be done by online form submission. Councils can use this link to report program activity

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

For **August**, there were 81 forms submitted by **34** councils. We need to continue improving on this, especially since we have **730** councils in our State.

### **FORM STSP**

Form STSP is used for the State Council Program Awards. You can access this in our state website [www.californiaknights.org](http://www.californiaknights.org) under council forms.

### **FORM 10784 INCENTIVE**

For August, the winner is Council 4438 under District 98, Southern California Chapter.