



Simply put, programs in this category are developed for families, by families. Father McGivney sought to strengthen the familial bond of father to mother and children to parents. Catholics often struggle with the reality that they do not

have the opportunity to socialize and/or pray with other faith-filled Catholic families. It can be quite a challenge to continue to ground ourselves and raise our children in the faith when there is such limited exposure.

Our family programs are an evolution and response to a society that seeks to weaken the bonds of family. We must make it clear that society should value a family that is faithful to God and each other. Father McGivney's vision for family life was not only financial and material aid but also spiritual strength, as holiness is the calling of all baptized Christians. Put plainly, the majority of our time is easily spent in secular circles unless we intentionally create ways to live the domestic church. These programs help us to live this call.



Food for Families

Help end hunger in communities across North America and around the globe.

The goal of Food for Families is to ensure that as few as possible go to bed hungry each night. Many in our communities are struggling through hardship and unable to provide food for their families. Knights of Columbus are committed to helping end hunger through the Food for Families program which has donated millions of dollars and millions of pounds of food toward this end.

A featured program, Food for Families counts for two credits toward the Columbian award. Council and parish families will raise funds to support their local food pantries, food banks and soup kitchens. For every \$500 or 1,000 pounds of food donated, the supreme Council will refund \$100 back to the council—up to a maximum of \$500 per council per fraternal year. Though in-kind donation of food is valuable, leaders of hunger-relief organizations often comment that financial contributions can be stretched even further and allow nonprofits to procure the exact items needed by the organization and its clients.

Family of the Month/Year

Promote and support the development of strong and vibrant families.

Each month, the council Family of the Month committee selects one parish family that models Christian family values and visibly lives them every day. Each council establishes a committee to recognize a deserving Family of the Month and Family of the Year with potential for recognition on the international level. Once a year, each participating council also selects one of the previous twelve Family of the Month winners to represent the council/parish as the potential international Family of the Year. The Knights of Columbus Family of the Year is chosen by the supreme Council and recognized each year at the annual supreme Convention.

Keep Christ in Christmas

Promote the true spirit of Christmas in our homes, schools, parishes and communities.

Councils will evangelize society through their faithful acts, celebrations and a variety of activities. The Knights

Family

of Columbus offers multiple activities that promote Christmas and the season of advent in their proper context: Journey to the inn, Light up for Christ, Crèche or advent wreath Blessing, and the Christmas Poster Contest. These programs are centered on the example of the Holy Family and the nativity of our Lord and savior, Jesus Christ.

The new Keep Christ in Christmas (KCIC) program brings all KCiC activities together under one umbrella. it encourages councils to compel 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.

Family Fully alive

During his visit to the Philippines, Pope Francis cited the need for “holy and loving families to protect the beauty and truth of the family in god’s plan and to be an example for other families” (address to Families at the ftall of asia arena, 2015). The Family Fully alive monthly devotions are concrete ways that Knights of Columbus, in solidarity with Pope Francis, can support the growth of holy and loving families in the Church.

The Family Fully alive program asks families to invite god into their homes and cultivates each family as a miniature domestic church. using the *Family Fully Alive Booklet* as a devotional guide, this program provides monthly themes, reflections, meditations and group



projects. Through prayer and reflection, each family has the opportunity to grow in holiness together. This is a flexible program that can be started at any time of the year and continues year-round. Councils will order booklets to distribute or direct parish families to program resources on kofc.org, all available at no cost.

Family week

Help families place god and the Catholic faith at the center of their lives, year-round.

Knights of Columbus councils will dedicate a special week of the year for their parish to recognize the vital importance of families as the foundation of our domestic church and to promote Catholic family values. activities presented in this program seek strengthen the parish community and affirm the central importance of Catholic family life.

when choosing a week, councils should consider factors that might affect parishioner schedules such as school vacations, holidays and other local events. Though traditionally celebrated in the summer to commemorate the birth and death of our founder, Father ftcgivney, this program can take place anytime during the year.

consecration to the Holy Family

strengthen families and revitalize our parishes.

to help families live out the joy of Christ, supreme Chaplain archbishop william Lori has composed a prayer through which families will come together to consecrate themselves under the protection of the Holy Family. in this prayer, we ask for the aid or intercession of the perfect son Jesus Christ, ftary the perfect mother, and Joseph who is a model for every father.

seeking to strengthen families and revitalize our parishes, councils will guide their parishes and community to understand and offer this important and impactful prayer. Preparing for the Consecration to the Holy Family is not a single event. it is choosing a way of life for your family. Through this consecration, each participant is consciously choosing to be a beacon of god’s love through his Church. Council participation in Consecration to the Holy Family is required to qualify for the Columbian award.



Family Prayer night

strengthen the bonds within our parishes and build faith-filled families.

Catholics often struggle with the reality that they do not have the opportunity to socialize and/or pray with other faith-filled Catholic families. It can be quite a challenge to raise our children in the faith when their only exposure comes from Mom and Dad. Family Prayer night is an opportunity for children to be exposed to regular people living their faith in a casual setting. This is an opportunity for council members, their families, and the whole parish community to come together once a month for an evening of prayer, dinner and fellowship.

Families of council members, as well as other Catholic families within the parish and community, will gather for prayer, dinner and fellowship. Multiple groups can be formed and families are encouraged to rotate between these groups.