

# OUR OBJECTIVE:

## BUILDING PARISH VITALITY BY SERVING GOD THROUGH CHRIST IN HIS PRIESTS

### CREATING A PASTORAL PARTNERSHIP

As Knights we are all called to serve God our Father, Lord Jesus Christ, Holy Mother Church and our parish homes. Today we must also turn our attention toward the challenges facing our Church and address them head on. As Knights we must unite to defend the faith and help grow the Church by providing her with our full support.

For over 136 years the charitable works of our Order have been seen and felt around the world. But even with our past achievements we are burdened by a growing apathy among Catholics regarding their faith. Today less than 25% of Catholics attend Mass and far fewer Catholics actively participate in the living works of Christ found in discipleship and charitable action. Additionally, we are living on the edge of disaster as new religious vocations continue to struggle and our priests are stretched ever thinner to deliver sacramental salvation to those who seek it.

As an Order we must unite with our bishops and priests to help bring the lost flock home to our Lord Jesus Christ and remove all toxic indifference from our pews. It has never been more important that we align our KofC events and activities to help strengthen the front lines of our parish homes. *Every Council in Tennessee must work throughout the upcoming fraternal year to implement programs and promote activities that will increase parish vitality and lighten the burden carried by our pastors.* Let us all work to strengthen our parish homes by accomplishing our fraternal mission and by following these steps...

1

### SERVE GOD BY PARTNERING WITH YOUR PASTOR:

- Meet with your Pastor and align your council's agenda with his plans and needs.
  - a. Discuss the goals and planned activities for your council's fraternal year.
  - b. Ask for pastoral guidance to ensure your council remains on sound spiritual footing.
  - c. Ask what your council can do to help support his pastoral work and then LISTEN!
  - d. Check in monthly to review your progress and adjust your plans based on the parish's evolving needs.



#### LEADERSHIP TIP

Be prepared! Don't waste your time or your pastor's time. Use an agenda and share your plan for a successful fraternal year. *Remember running the council is your job not his.* You are seeking his guidance and should always work to ensure your goals are aligned with his pastoral plans and needs for the parish.

2

### ANCHOR YOUR COUNCIL AND PARISH IN THE SACRAMENTS:

- Implement programs that teach and promote the sustaining gift of God's sacraments
  - a. Regularly sponsor talks and help lead formation studies on the sacraments.
  - b. Gather the council to celebrate the Eucharist in a corporate communion service.
  - c. Regularly "clean house spiritually" with council penance services.
  - d. Celebrate the sacraments by sponsoring gifts for those being baptized and confirmed.



#### LEADERSHIP TIP

Don't reinvent the wheel when it comes to educational materials on the sacraments. Utilize materials already available through Supreme, Word on Fire, Symbolon, your Parish DRE and your diocese faith formation department. Above all, always review your programs with your Pastor before implementing them!

3

### EMBRACE OUR COMMON PRIESTHOOD:

- Implement programs that teach and promote our common priesthood
  - a. Hold vocational workshops throughout year to help form men in their faith.
  - b. Hold open houses and special events to evangelize the church in the community.
  - c. Work side by side with your priest to perform works of charity in the community.
  - d. Volunteer to aid Father in his pastoral work and go wherever he points you!



#### LEADERSHIP TIP

Ask Father to help explain the common priesthood to your council and how through baptism and confirmation we are called to serve the Lord as priest, prophet and king. Remember to help your council embrace their vocations!

4

### HELP FOSTER A POSITIVE IMAGE OF OUR PRIESTS:

- Promote a positive image of our priests in the parish, in the home and in the community
  - a. Replace the complaint box with a thank you note jar!
  - b. Host an appreciation dinner for a priest in the home.
  - c. Promote obtaining a blessing or enthronement for the home.
  - d. Encourage others to invite their priest to special events and family celebrations.



#### LEADERSHIP TIP

Visible demonstrations of respect for our priests is a long-standing tradition of our Order. Don't be lax when it comes to showing your council's respect for your priests and Chaplain. Stand up for your priests. Physically rise when they enter the room and defend them verbally should others speak poorly of them.

**TURN TO GOD FOR HIS HELP THROUGH PRAYER:**

- Commit yourself and your Council to pray for our priest and for new vocations
- Recite a prayer for priests and vocations at each business meeting for 2018-2019.
  - Hold regular rosary before Mass for priests and new vocations.
  - Hold regular holy hour of Eucharistic adoration dedicated to Christ in his Priests.
  - Join the Handmaids of the Precious Blood in prayer each day and ask God for the protection and sanctification of his priests across the world. (See below)

**LEADERSHIP TIP**

Lead by example and with prayer in your Council, parish and home. Remember prayer and worship are vital to every aspect of our mortal existence. As the prayerful voice of our Order grows, so too will the number of new vocations and sanctified priests around the world.

*“Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” Matthew 7:7-8.*

**WITH HELP FROM OUR SISTERS AND FROM HEAVEN ABOVE!****A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS**

Eternal God please protect, sanctify and bless our priests who represent you on this earth.

Keep them humble by the grace you deliver through them when they minister the Sacraments.

Help them to fall more deeply in love with you after each and every Mass they celebrate.

Strengthen our priests who shepherd your flock that they may be shining examples of your truth and love.

We ask these things of you our Father and eternal priest.  
Amen.

*Let us not forget the words of Saint John Paul II.*

**“There is no Church without the Eucharist and there is no Eucharist without the Priest”.**

We are not alone in our commitment to protect and serve our priests around the world. Here in Tennessee, we are fortunate to be home to The Handmaids of the Precious Blood, a community of cloistered contemplative nuns. The Handmaids' founding charism is directed primarily toward strengthening priests in their sublime but demanding vocation.

Giving themselves totally to Almighty God and to his Church forever, these amazing prayer warriors ask our Lord through Eucharistic Adoration, prayer and sacrifice to extend his grace and protection for our priests. The Sisters have organized through their international prayer associations over 30,000 individuals to pray and sacrifice daily for a particularly designated priest, and the number of committed coworkers continues to increase.

Aware of the ability of the Knights of Columbus to promote a growing awareness of the laity's role of cooperation with their priests for the new evangelization and development of the domestic church, the Handmaids will join with us through prayer for the Knights as we strive to protect and serve Christ in his priests. We encourage you to learn more about our unified mission with the Handmaids by visiting [www.wepayforpriests.org](http://www.wepayforpriests.org).

# STRENGTHENING OUR PARISH HOME



**2018 to 2019  
STATE OF  
TENNESSEE  
FRATERNAL  
MISSION  
PROGRAM**