

# FAITH IN ACTION

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

On April 6, 2018, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson announced the introduction of the *Faith in Action* program model. Although *Surge...with Service* has served us well through the years, this replacement model is being implemented in order to simplify our program structure and better align programs under main priority areas.

Below is a list of questions and answers that can be shared with the jurisdictions and local councils. If you have additional questions or would like clarification of an answer, please contact the Fraternal Mission Department.

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### Overall *Faith in Action* Model:

#### Q: What is *Faith in Action*?

A: *Faith in Action* will be the new umbrella for all Supreme Council-recommended programs, replacing *Surge...with Service*.

#### Q: Why the need for the change?

A: *Surge...with Service* has provided a strong foundation for Knights of Columbus programming over the nearly five decades of its life cycle. During that time we have added and removed various programs. While our mission remains unchanged, it has evolved to meet a changing world. With the announcement of the *Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening Our Parishes* initiative we committed to evaluating our service to parishes and families so that our work might become even more relevant and effective.

*Faith in Action* reflects this shift with a strong call to action and a focus on quality faith-filled family programs. It simplifies the requirements and gives a home to all of our Supreme Council-recommended programs.

#### Q: What happened to *Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening Our Parish*?

A: *Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening Our Parish* remains and is foundational to the vision and ongoing strategy for creating strong and dynamic parish-based councils. This will include resources for spiritual renewal and the integration of family, council and parish life in a complementary relationship. *The Faith in Action* program model is an evolution of the *Building the Domestic Church* initiative and focuses on the most direct way a council can impact its parish community – activities. All of the programs included in *Building the Domestic Church* have now been integrated into the *Faith in Action* model or retired. There is now only one model that encompasses all Supreme-recommended programs and it is *Faith in Action*.



**Categories:****Q: What are the program categories?**

A: The new program categories are Faith, Family, Community, and Life. We have reduced the number of categories from six to four and eliminated the Youth and Council categories.

**Q: What happened to the Youth category?**

A: The Youth category is consolidated into the Community category to better align all community outreach programs including those involving youth and their families.

**Q: Do I need to assign a council youth director?**

A: No, there is no need to assign a council youth director. The program responsibilities have moved under the Community program category.

**Q: With no Youth Category, where do we record our activity for Columbian Squires?**

A: If your council is involved with a Columbian Squires program, which should now be sponsored by your parish, you can record that activity in the Community category. However, Columbian Squires is no longer a featured program within the *Faith in Action* model.

**Q: What happened to the Council category?**

A: The Council category is consolidated into the Faith and Family categories. Council programs that involve fraternity should include both faith-based activities and family activities. These programs offer opportunities for Knights to come together in shared purpose to foster unity and spirituality.

**Q: Why were these four categories chosen: Faith, Family, Community, and Life?**

A: These four categories represent our main priorities as an Order. This model by no means seeks to eliminate the need for Knights to serve youth or foster fraternity; rather, it seeks to expand on these in a more holistic way.

- **Faith:** Our goal is to strengthen our men and their families in the faith. When we entered the Order, we were reminded to constantly inform ourselves in the Catholic faith. This formation goes beyond mere facts or religious practice to an authentic connection with a loving God and his son Jesus Christ.
- **Family:** Father Michael J. McGivney sought to strengthen the familial bond of father to mother and children to parents. 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.
- **Community:** As Knights of Columbus, we are called to serve our family and our God. Our first principle is Charity, at home with our families or in our communities. This is a critical part of our Knights of Columbus mission.
- **Life:** The urgency of the threat to a culture of life cannot be misunderstood. Respect for the dignity of life demands a commitment to human rights across a broad spectrum. Both as Knights of Columbus and as followers of Christ, “Catholics must be committed to the defense of life in all its stages and in every condition” (Saint John Paul II, 1995).

**Programs:**

**Q: How many programs are required to fulfill Columbian Award requirements for each category?**

A: Four (4) in each category are required to earn the Columbian Award. This has not changed. In fact, to earn the Columbian Award, the council is required to complete a maximum of sixteen (16) programs instead of the twenty-four (24) that were required in the *Surge...with Service* model.

**Q: Are there still featured programs?**

A: Yes, the featured programs have remained. They are: RSVP, Food for Families, Coats for Kids, Global Wheelchair Mission, Habitat for Humanity, March for Life, Special Olympics, and Ultrasound Program. Note, however, that Columbian Squires is no longer a featured program.

**Q: What are the Supreme-recommended programs?**

A:

FAITH	COMMUNITY
<b>RSVP</b>	<b>Coats for Kids</b>
Into the Breach	<b>Global Wheelchair Mission</b>
Marian Icon Prayer Program	<b>Habitat for Humanity</b>
Building the Domestic Church Kiosk	Disaster Preparedness
Rosary Program	Free Throw Championship
Spiritual Reflection Program <b>New</b>	Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest
Holy Hour <b>New</b>	Soccer Challenge
Sacramental Gifts <b>New</b>	Helping Hands <b>New</b>
FAMILY	LIFE
<b>Food for Families</b>	<b>Marches for Life</b>
Family of the Month/Year	<b>Special Olympics</b>
Keep Christ in Christmas (Posada, Poster Contest, etc.)	<b>Ultrasound Program</b>
Family Fully Alive	Christian Refugee Relief
Family Week	Silver Rose
Consecration to the Holy Family	Mass for People with Special Needs <b>New</b>
Family Prayer Night <b>New</b>	Pregnancy Center Support <b>New</b>
Good Friday Family Promotion <b>New</b>	Novena for Life <b>New</b>

**Bold** denotes Featured Programs

**Q: Will the council still receive four credits, or full credit, per category for a featured program?**

A: No. The council will only receive two credits, or half credit, per category for a featured program. While we realize that this may seem like a penalty, we are encouraging councils to enhance their fraternal and parish life with a variety of enriched programs available in the new *Faith in Action* model or programs uniquely their own.

**Q: Are there required programs?**

A: Yes. In each category, in order to earn the Columbian Award, we ask that each council conduct one essential program. The vast majority of councils are already doing one or more of these types of programs. These programs were designed to enrich the spiritual life of the council, family and community and are incredibly simple to implement, often complementing other activities the council is already doing.

**Q: What are the required programs?**

A: These programs are:

- Faith: Spiritual Reflection Program
- Family: Consecration to the Holy Family
- Community: Helping Hands
- Life: Novena for Life

**Q: Are there any new Supreme-recommended programs?**

A: Yes. In an effort to provide symmetry to the program model, we introduced the “four programs in four categories” model. Each category then has eight programs. This facilitated the need to add programs to some categories – programs that we found many councils are doing already.

**Q: What are the new programs?**

A:

<b>FAITH</b>	<b>COMMUNITY</b>
Spiritual Reflection Program Holy Hour Sacramental Gifts	Helping Hands
<b>FAMILY</b>	<b>LIFE</b>
Family Prayer Night Good Friday Family Promotion	Mass for People with Special Needs Pregnancy Center Support Novena for Life

**Q: What is the Spiritual Reflection Program?**

A: Many Catholic young people can attest that religious retreats are radically rejuvenating spiritual events that often leave a lasting impact on participants’ relationship to their faith. Yet, so often, retreats seem only open to students and youth. In conjunction with pastors, councils and jurisdictions can hold low-cost retreats of their own. These events might be open only to council members or men of the parish – or may be open to entire families. If councils are unable to organize events themselves, they could go as a group and attend a retreat in their area to satisfy the requirement.

**Q: What is the Holy Hour Program?**

A: In our First Degree, we exhort: “In times past a Knight would spend the evening before his Knighting in a church, on his knees, placing his Shield and Sword before his Lord and his God. Our Sword is prayer, our shield, Good Works informed by faith.” The chivalric character of the Knights of Columbus and the Church’s long tradition of spiritual combat resonates with men today, especially as threats from the world and the devil are so keenly felt. Eucharistic adoration in the form of a regularly scheduled Holy Hour is a simple, direct, and meaningful way to address these needs. It is familiar to many, easy to set up, and something all can participate in together regardless of age, vocation, stage of life, or membership status.

Councils should work with their pastors to organize regular Holy Hours of Eucharistic adoration. A Knights of Columbus Holy Hour could be specifically prepared for men, complete with a reflection, communal rosary, and prayers for intercession by Venerable Father McGivney, St. Joseph, or other saints as chosen by the council.

**Q: May men who are not Knights attend Holy Hour?**

A: Yes, and they should be encouraged to attend! A Holy Hour is a wonderful recruiting opportunity and a time for non-members to see, firsthand, how central a role faith plays in the lives of Knights of Columbus.

**Q: How many Holy Hours do we have to organize?**

A: To satisfy the requirement, Holy Hours should be organized at least four times per year (quarterly). However, councils are encouraged to hold them on a more regular basis.

**Q: What is the Sacramental Gifts Program?**

A: In the fullness of the *Building the Domestic Church* initiative, the Knights of Columbus will be present for the most important events in the life of the domestic church: the sacraments. Our councils can play an integral role in these important spiritual events by supporting families, and the whole parish community, through prayer and the presentation of symbolic gifts.

The sacraments stand as the most significant events in the life of our families, the domestic church. The Knights of Columbus will be there for our parish families to support and embrace them at these important moments of encounters with Christ. Becoming more integrated with parish life means that a family and child should know that the Knights of Columbus will always be present in a tangible and meaningful way, regardless of who else is there.

**Q: What is the Family Prayer Night Program?**

A: All councils need an opportunity to gather regularly as a fraternal family. This program provides an opportunity for families of council members, as well as other Catholic families, to come together regularly for prayer, dinner, and fellowship.

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/or to raise our children in the faith when there is such limited exposure. Put plainly, the majority of our time is easily spent in secular circles unless we intentionally create ways to live the domestic church.

Family Prayer Night is an excellent opportunity for families to come together for prayer, dinner, and fellowship. If needed, more than one group may be formed and families are welcome to rotate throughout these groups. It is encouraged for the location to rotate. The host family leads the prayer and all bring a dish to share.

**Q: What is the Good Friday Family Promotion Program?**

A: Councils should lead the promotion of attendance at the Good Friday liturgy and education of parish families about the plight of Christians in the Holy Land. This initiative is also intended to bring families closer to their parish while practicing their Catholic faith. Knights of Columbus councils implement this program by attending the Good Friday liturgy with their families and working with their pastor to encourage increased parishioner attendance.

**Q: What is the Helping Hands Program?**

A: Pope Francis writes in *Evangelii Gaudium*, “Our faith in Christ, who became poor, and was always close to the poor and the outcast, is the basis of our concern for the integral development of society’s most neglected members” [186]. He goes on to say, “In this context we can understand Jesus’ command to his disciples: ‘You yourselves give them something to eat!’ (Mark 6:37): It means working to eliminate the structural causes of poverty and to promote the integral development of the poor, as well as small daily acts of solidarity in meeting the real needs which we encounter” [188].

This program is designed to recognize the important work many councils already do to care for the most disadvantaged members of our communities – the homeless, the addicted, refugees, the elderly who feel isolated and abandoned, and many others. With this program, councils will aid the needy through activities they feel best suit their community, such as serving at or running a soup kitchen, repairing the facilities of a local service organization, or something entirely unique. The requirements for this program are very broad to allow councils to serve their community in whatever way is most needed.

We remember too that our commitment does not consist exclusively in activities or programs. The great majority of the poor have a special openness to the faith; they need God and we must not fail to offer them His friendship, His blessing, His word, the celebration of the sacraments and a journey of growth and maturity in the faith.

**Q: What is the Mass for People with Special Needs Program?**

A: Culture of Life is not simply about the beginning stages of life; it is a commitment to affirm and defend life in all its stages and in every condition. A Knights of Columbus-sponsored Mass, conducted annually for people with special needs, is an opportunity to welcome individuals or families who might not normally feel comfortable attending regularly scheduled Mass.

Those with special needs are living icons of the love of Christ in the world and must be welcomed fully into a parish community. Physical or social barriers may dissuade some people from attending Mass. Family member anxiety may keep them from bringing a loved one out of concerns of disrupting the Mass or, unfortunately, even because they may not feel welcome.

A dedicated Mass may be the first of many steps toward integrating people with special needs into weekly or even daily Mass as well as sacraments and other aspects of parish life. Holding this Mass sends the message that all of God’s children are welcome under the parish roof and that every person is an integral part of the parish family.

**Q: What is the Pregnancy Center Support Program?**

A: Over 3,000 pro-life pregnancy centers now operate in jurisdictions throughout the Order. By the very nature of our founding, Knights of Columbus are called to care for the widow and orphan. We can change the hearts and minds of society about abortion by showing that we love them both – mother and child – before and after birth. Councils can provide material, financial, labor and other support to pro-life pregnancy centers that assist women during pregnancy and following the birth of their children. Note that this is different from the Ultrasound Program. Councils are encouraged to do both programs but fundraising for ultrasound machines do not also count toward the Pregnancy Center Support program.

**Q: What is the Novena for Life Program?**

A: The Knights will come together through both public and private acts of prayer to lead their communities in the spiritual battle to establish a culture of life in our nations. The protection of life is a sustained prayer intention of the Church and, in particular, of the Knights of Columbus. At set times of the year, a council can promote a novena, which is nine days of sustained prayer, to build up a culture of life in our parishes, in our homes, and in the wider community via communal gatherings and promotional efforts. These novenas could precede or end major feast days or pro-life events.

**Q: What happened to the Columbian Squires?**

A: The Columbian Squires program is still a program of the Knights of Columbus, and a council may choose to continue to support the program within their parish. However, all Columbian Squires programs (in the United States and Canada) should have transferred their sponsorship to the local parish. Councils may continue to support and gain a credit in the Community category for this program.

**Q: What happened to the Affirmation of Wedding Vows program?**

A: There were several issues with this program that lend themselves to fall outside the norms of the Roman Catholic Church. This may create confusion in the liturgy and place our bishops and priests in a very challenging situation. In light of this, Affirmation of Wedding Vows will no longer be part of the updated program model.

**Q: What happened to the Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest?**

A: While popular in some areas, this program had very low participation rates. As with all things, our programs must evolve to make room for other programs that have more involvement and engagement. With that in mind, the choice was made to remove this program as a Supreme-recommended program. However, this does not prevent councils from continuing to promote the program or its intent to our youth.

**Catholic Information Service:****Q: What role does the Catholic Information Service (CIS) play in the new *Faith in Action* program model?**

A: CIS will continue to provide the same resources it has in the past. As always, councils are strongly encouraged to order booklets that will supplement the *Faith in Action* Programs.

**Safe Environment Program:**

Under *Faith in Action*, certain state and council officers/chairmen are required to take safe environment training and may also be required to provide authorization for a background check. Some positions also have access to Praesidium's ARMATUS Administration dashboard to view member compliance within their council or jurisdiction.

Safe Environment Program Training and Background Check Requirements – Table 1

ROLES	TRAINING	BACKGROUND CHECK	ARMATUS ADMINISTRATION
<b>State Council</b>			
State Deputy	✓		✓
State Advocate	✓		✓
State Program Director	✓		✓
State Youth Director	✓	✓	✓
State Family Director	✓	✓	✓
State Community Director	✓	✓	✓
State Squire Chairman	✓	✓	✓
<b>Subordinate Council</b>			
Grand Knight	✓		✓
Faithful Navigator	✓		
Program Director	✓		✓
Family Director	✓	✓	
Community Director	✓	✓	
Chief Counsellor	✓	✓	
Adult Counsellor	✓	✓	

If members in certain positions are not compliant within thirty (30) days of notification, they are subject to removal from those positions.

As the *Service Program Personnel Report* (#365) is being completed, ensure that all member email addresses are accurate. Praesidium, the Knights of Columbus' safe environment partner, will use these email addresses to send email notifications to the program directors and chairs required to complete safe environment training and to provide authorization for a background check. Directors and chairs should look for email notifications from Praesidium in their inbox or spam folder for their assigned username and password to complete the required training and the link necessary to provide their background check authorization. Knights of Columbus covers all costs associated with these requirements.

Email notifications are unique to each recipient and cannot be forwarded or used by another director or chair, and are also time sensitive. The recipient must complete the training and background check authorization within thirty (30) days of notification.

#### Website Support:

**Q: Will the [kofc.org](http://kofc.org) website be updated to reflect the new program model?**

A: Yes, we are planning to roll out a completely refreshed and updated version of the programs section of [kofc.org](http://kofc.org). This will streamline the categories and programs into easy-to-find information, resources, video, etc.

**Q: Will the *Building the Domestic Church* (BDC) section of the website go away?**

A: No. *Building the Domestic Church* will continue to live on as part of its original intent to provide members and their families with resources to build up the family and the Church. All BDC programs will now be listed only on the *Faith in Action* page of the Knights of Columbus website, as *Building the Domestic Church* is foundational to the new program model and no longer has a separate program component.

#### Forms:

**Q: Will the *Columbian Award Application* (SP-7) Form be updated to support the new model?**

A: Yes, the *Columbian Award Application* (SP-7) will be updated to support the model, although it might not be available at the beginning of the 2018-2019 fraternal year.