



Membership through programs
Knights of Columbus DD's
December 2021 meeting

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ONTARIO STATE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Membership through programs

- ▶ You are Knights of Columbus leaders.
- ▶ Your role is to work with the councils and help to renew our councils and our membership.
- ▶ This is a big task. Our goal is to provide you with the resources to help make this possible.
- ▶ The key focus for accomplishing our goals is leadership, unity and (fraternity) relationships.

Membership through programs.

- ▶ Ontario was shut down longer than any other jurisdiction in North America.
- ▶ Our Churches continue to have stringent restrictions.
- ▶ Many people have returned to Church, some people have not returned to Church.
- ▶ Many councils are having meetings, some councils have yet to have a meeting.

Membership through programs

- ▶ Reality Check:
- ▶ Many Knights of Columbus councils have been dormant or semi-dormant since the Covid began.
- ▶ Supreme didn't charge per-capita and State charged 50% of per-capita, therefore many councils did not collect dues.
- ▶ In the past two years, most councils have not gained a new member.

Membership through programs

- ▶ Where do go:
- ▶ This situation I have described is not a problem but rather it is an opportunity. We can be instrumental in renewing our councils and our membership.
- ▶ We need to focus on how our programs enable councils to build their membership.
- ▶ I am convinced that a successful plan must focus on (fraternity) relationships.

Membership through programs

- ▶ Councils must invite people back. We need to invite new members and re-activate our older members.
- ▶ **Relationship** is the way two or more people are connected, or the way they behave toward each other.
- ▶ We are made to be in relationship with one another.

Membership through programs

- ▶ We need to focus on programs that build relationships with the parish community.
- ▶ We need to focus on programs will help to renew the councils and our membership.
- ▶ The first and most important relationship is with the pastors the parish.
- ▶ Speak to your priest and create a plan.

Membership through programs

- ▶ Programs that achieve our goals. (These are only suggestions)
- ▶ 1. Organize a free parish pot luck dinner. The council organizes the event and provides the meat (main dishes). Each person who attends brings a favourite side-dish (salads, etc) or dessert.
- ▶ The timing for such an event is based on whether Covid restrictions will allow it.

Membership through programs

- ▶ Make sure that key council members speak to every current member to ask them to renew involvement in the council. The key members need to speak to every non-member and enthusiastically ask them to join the council to serve the community.
- ▶ This is a council event for the parish. We renew relationships and our council membership.

Membership through programs

- ▶ Another relationship oriented program:
- ▶ Organize a special mass for those who were affected by Covid. This should be a Sunday mass.
- ▶ The mass is organized by the Knights of Columbus. Everyone in the parish is encouraged to attend.
- ▶ This program brings parishioners back to Church and enables us to seek new members.

Membership through programs

- ▶ Once again key council members would speak to every member who attends and asks them to renew their involvement in the council. The same key members enthusiastically invite non-members to join the council to serve the parish community.
- ▶ This is a council event for the parish. We renew relationships and our council membership.

Membership through programs

- ▶ There are many similar programs that can be implemented. The formula is simple.
- ▶ Organize a parish/community social event.
- ▶ Assign key members (Grand Knight, Past Grand Knights, Financial Secretary) to speak with everyone who attends the event.

Membership through programs

- ▶ Greet your existing members to renew their involvement.
- ▶ Greet prospective members and enthusiastically ask them to join the council.
- ▶ Parish event, council event, renew relationships, renew membership.

Membership through programs

- ▶ Think about your human experience.
- ▶ Everything we do is in relationship with others.
- ▶ God (Prayer), Family (Marriage, children), Community (Knights of Columbus).
- ▶ **What events/programs does your council do or can do to build relationship - renewing our parish, our council and our membership?**

Covid Recovery Plan and Membership renewal

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