



## Iowa State Council Knights of Columbus

Wednesday, September 12, 2007

District Deputies, Diocesan Directors and Grand Knights:

During the 125<sup>th</sup> Supreme Convention in Nashville last month, a new Marian Prayer Program was initiated. This latest in a series of programs inaugurated in 1979, will focus on Our Lady of Charity and will run for one year, concluding on September 9, 2008.

Our Lady of Charity has special significance to our Order, given our first principal of Charity, which was also the theme of Pope Benedict's XVI's first encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est*. Therefore, although the Virgin of Charity has her origins in Cuba, devotion to her is altogether appropriate for Knights of Columbus everywhere. Additionally as a sign of spiritual solidarity with Pope Benedict, the Holy Father and his intentions will be remembered during each prayer service. See the September 2007 issue of *Columbia* magazine or visit the K of C website for more details.

[http://www.kofc.org/un/eb/en/leadership\\_institute/surge\\_with\\_service/church\\_activities/marian\\_image\\_program/index.html](http://www.kofc.org/un/eb/en/leadership_institute/surge_with_service/church_activities/marian_image_program/index.html)

Two framed icons will simultaneously travel throughout Iowa from September 15, 2007 through September 6, 2008, in roughly the Eastern and Western halves of the state.

District Deputies, Diocesan Directors and Grand Knights.....you are the point men in coordinating the prayer service in your area, and for the necessary promotion to make this project successful. Attached are instructions to use in the planning and coordination of the prayer service. The attached schedule details when to expect the icon in your area. Remember that while this is a Knights of Columbus sponsored event, it is not just for Knights of Columbus members. Invite and involve your local parish and religious communities.

Contact me with any questions.

Vivat Jesus.

Fraternally yours,

Kenneth J. Bauer  
Church Activities Chairman

## Instructions for Marian Prayer Program

The key to success of the Marian prayer program is your enthusiasm and planning ahead.

### Diocesan Director / Regional Coordinator

1. Contact the Deans of each Deanery or equivalent official. Describe the program and inform them when the Icon will be traveling through the Deanery. Encourage them to contact the local priests for their support and to encourage parish participation. Be open to suggestions but firm in sticking to the published schedule.
2. Publicize the prayer program. Provide the schedule of when the icon will be in the area and details of local Council services to the diocesan newspaper. Work with appointed regional Marian prayer program coordinator on publicity, scheduling and coordination. In the case of special requests contact Ken Bauer, State Church Director.
3. Quarterly, send copies of this material to Grand Knights as the program moves into their area. Call to confirm receipt and understand of same.

### District Deputy / Grand Knight

1. Contact Council Chaplain and/or the local pastor inviting them to participate and to arrange a date. Some councils may be able to integrate the prayer service with a regularly scheduled Mass to increase participation. The prayer service should be held in a church if possible.
2. The Prayer Service is not to be scheduled on Holy Days, during the last week of Advent, or the Christmas season, during Holy Week or during the K of C State Convention. Refer to the schedule for details.
3. 500 booklets (supplied by Supreme, #2053) with a special prayer service to Our Lady of Charity will accompany each icon as it moves from Council to Council. These booklets are not to be kept by participants. Additional booklets can be ordered free-of-charge through the Department of Fraternal Services (203-752-4247) or the website referenced in the letter accompanying these instructions. An electronic version (PDF file) can be downloaded from this website. Contact Ken Bauer if booklets are missing or worn beyond use.
4. 2500 prayer cards (supplied by Supreme, #E4746) will accompany each icon and may be handed out to participants as a keepsake. Additional prayer cards can be ordered free-of-charge through the Department of Fraternal Services. Contact Ken Bauer if the supply traveling with the icon is less than 250 remaining when the icon arrives in your district.
5. Make arrangements for music at the service (the prayer booklet contains an Opening & Closing hymn). Invite a Fourth Degree Honor Guard.
6. A suitable stand or a tripod will need to be procured for the icon so that it is visible to all during the service.
7. Following each service, ensure the Log Book is completed and kept with the rest of the prayer service materials.
8. Make arrangements with the next District Deputy to coordinate the pickup and hand-off of the icon, prayer booklets, prayer cards, Log book. You must keep the prayer service and icon moving through the districts on the dates scheduled. The icon must arrive on time and leave on time.
9. Publicize the prayer service in the parish bulletin. Take pictures. Send copies and details of the Council service to your diocesan newspaper, the State K of C paper *The Knight Today* and *Columbia* magazine.