

# VIRTUAL TRAINING SESSION COMMUNITY PROGRAM

## LEAVE NO NEIGHBOR BEHIND

JULY 11, 2020

Knights of Columbus are called to step into the breach and leave no neighbor behind – especially in this time of crisis.

As the coronavirus pandemic continues, our duty is to lead our families, protect our parishes, and serve our communities, remembering always that where there's a need, there's a Knight. Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson has challenged Knights to take this moment as an opportunity to “deepen our commitment to the very principles which define us: charity, unity and fraternity.”

Knights of Columbus Orderwide are encouraged to serve and sacrifice for those around us. Many, including in our own councils and parishes, are isolated and alone in quarantine. Food banks, blood centers, and other essential services have been depleted of their vital supplies. There are many people and places that require urgent help.

Knights are encouraged to engage in these types of service activities:

- 1. Support Your Brother Knights** - No council should leave a Brother Knight behind. You are encouraged to create a “phone tree” to make personal contact with every man in your council to ensure that members are safe, healthy and cared for. Consider enacting a “Buddy System” in which two Brother Knights check in with each other daily, fostering socialization and gauging health concerns for themselves and their families. As members of your council face challenges, ensure they have the support and resources they need
- 2. Support Your Parish** - Council officers should request to speak with their pastor *as soon as possible*. (Given the nature of the ongoing Coronavirus, in-person meetings are strongly discouraged.)
  - Arrange a phone call or video conference call.
  - Let him know that you want to discuss using the full arsenal of his Knights of Columbus council to support the parish in any way possible.

During the conversation, the council should ask about – and be prepared to deliver on – the requests of the pastor and the needs of the parish community, as well as offer creative ideas for support.

- Be prepared to address needs, both charitable and spiritual, ranging from reduced access to the sacraments to support for vulnerable parishioners.
- Creative ideas can include but are not limited to:
  - Hosting a video or conference call rosary or daily devotional.
  - Assessing and providing resources for parishioners in need.
  - Using parish and council phone trees to check on the elderly of the parish.
- Council leadership should be communicating in lockstep with the pastor – ensuring all actions of the council are inline with his desires, and that he is kept up to date on all support measures to his parish.

### **3. Support Your Community - Action Steps**

1. Contact leaders from local nonprofit organizations to identify areas of need and discuss how the council can best assist in their work.
2. Encourage council members to reach out to their neighbors, assess the needs of their immediate neighborhood community and identify ways to help.
3. Call people who are isolated in assisted living facilities.
4. Shop for those unable to leave their house when you do your own shopping.
5. Ask your pastor for support with these initiatives.

**4. Feed the Hungry** - Contact a local food bank or food pantry to ask their immediate needs. Build on existing relationships from past programs.

1. Tell your pastor about the needs of local food banks and pantries. Ask for his permission to share this initiative with the entire parish through parish communication channels.
2. Prioritize giving cash or gift cards directly to local food banks and pantries so they can purchase items they need most.
3. If collecting food, make sure to take appropriate precautions and minimize contact with those driving up and dropping off.
4. Coordinate with the partner food bank or food pantry concerning their desired method of delivery for food or funds. Adhere to all relevant coronavirus precautions and guidelines.