

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
1 COLUMBUS PLAZA
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06510-3326

TO: STATE DEPUTIES
CC: STATE CHAPLAINS
FROM: SUPREME KNIGHT CARL A. ANDERSON
DATE: AUGUST 21, 2007
RE: OUR LADY OF CHARITY
NEW MARIAN PRAYER PROGRAM



During the 125th Supreme Convention in Nashville earlier this month, we inaugurated the next Marian Prayer Program, which will focus on Our Lady of Charity. At this time, I write to provide additional details about the program so that state-level preparations can begin. This Marian Prayer Program will run for one year, beginning September 8, 2007, and concluding on September 8, 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 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 XVI, the Holy Father and his intentions will be remembered during each prayer service.

An important first step for state-level preparations is to appoint a Marian Prayer Program chairman for your jurisdiction. Traditionally, that role is filled by the Church Activities Director, but you may appoint whoever is best suited for the responsibility in your jurisdiction. Special consideration should be given to brother Knights with past experience in organizing similar prayer programs like the Divine Mercy program. This chairman should be charged with scheduling the movement of the framed image(s) and related materials throughout your jurisdiction. Please use the attached form to indicate who you have appointed as chairman.

This week, the framed images used during the convention will be shipped to state deputies. Jurisdictions with more than 100 councils will receive additional framed images (e.g. jurisdictions with 1-100 councils will receive one framed image, jurisdictions with 101-200 councils will receive two framed images, etc.).

Please provide contact names, addresses, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers for where the additional framed images should be sent, if applicable, unless they should all be shipped to your attention.

A supply of 500 booklets with a special prayer service for Our Lady of Charity will soon be sent to accompany each image as it moves from council to council. Although the booklets are not to be kept by participants, special prayer cards will be printed and these prayer cards can be given to participants to keep after the services. A supply of 2,500 prayer cards will be shipped for each image, and additional prayer cards can be requested through the Department of Fraternal Services and will be provided at no charge.

A log book will also be sent from the Supreme Council for each jurisdiction to keep a record of the number of prayer services held and the approximate number of participants. Councils are encouraged to hold prayer services in a church, with the pastor's permission, and to invite all the people of the parish to take part. It is also possible to host a prayer service in a council hall or meeting place.

State councils will be asked to file reports quarterly on the number of councils and individuals participating in the prayer program. At the conclusion of the program, the Supreme Council will compile the reports from all jurisdictions and include them in a "spiritual bouquet" for His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI.

This Marian Prayer Program will be administered by the Department of Fraternal Services, and the primary point of contact is Philip Gaudet. He can be reached at (203) 752-4154 or philip.gaudet.iii@kofc.org. Please e-mail Brother Gaudet with information on your Marian Prayer Program chairman and for the shipment of additional framed images, if applicable.

I know that in the great tradition of our Order, all Knights will work together to make this Marian Hour of Prayer a great success, in honor of Our Lady of Charity, and for the intentions of our Holy Father.