

MID-YEAR MEETING OF STATE DEPUTIES

IDEAS FORUM – NOVEMBER 3, 2018

Hispanic Growth & Outreach

Identifying an effective Hispanic Coordinator

In Brief:

The Hispanic Catholic population continues to grow throughout the United States and Canada and our brother Catholics are seeking to become involved in their parishes. We as the leaders of the Knights of Columbus must be open and welcoming to our Hispanic Catholics within our parishes.

Hispanic and Ethnic membership growth must be a part of every jurisdiction's strategic plan and each jurisdiction must be committed to grow this segment of our Catholic population. Every jurisdiction in the United States and some provinces in Canada have Hispanic and Ethnic recruitment opportunities. Each jurisdiction can review their parish diocesan listing as a guide to parishes with ethnic masses. In addition, each district deputy should review the parishes within his district for ethnic opportunities.

The Hispanic Membership Growth Department at the Supreme Office will continue to promote Hispanic membership growth to all jurisdictions and provide them with their diocesan listing identifying parishes with Ethnic Masses. We must work with the jurisdiction leaders to assure that they have embraced the opportunities that are available to their jurisdictions.

Our department will assist jurisdictions in identifying Hispanic and Ethnic opportunities as well as providing support and training. We will guide jurisdictions and councils to utilize the Spanish fraternal training portal and webinars that are available to assist with training. We will also focus on key jurisdictions in developing teams that we can train so that they can become self-sufficient in their efforts.

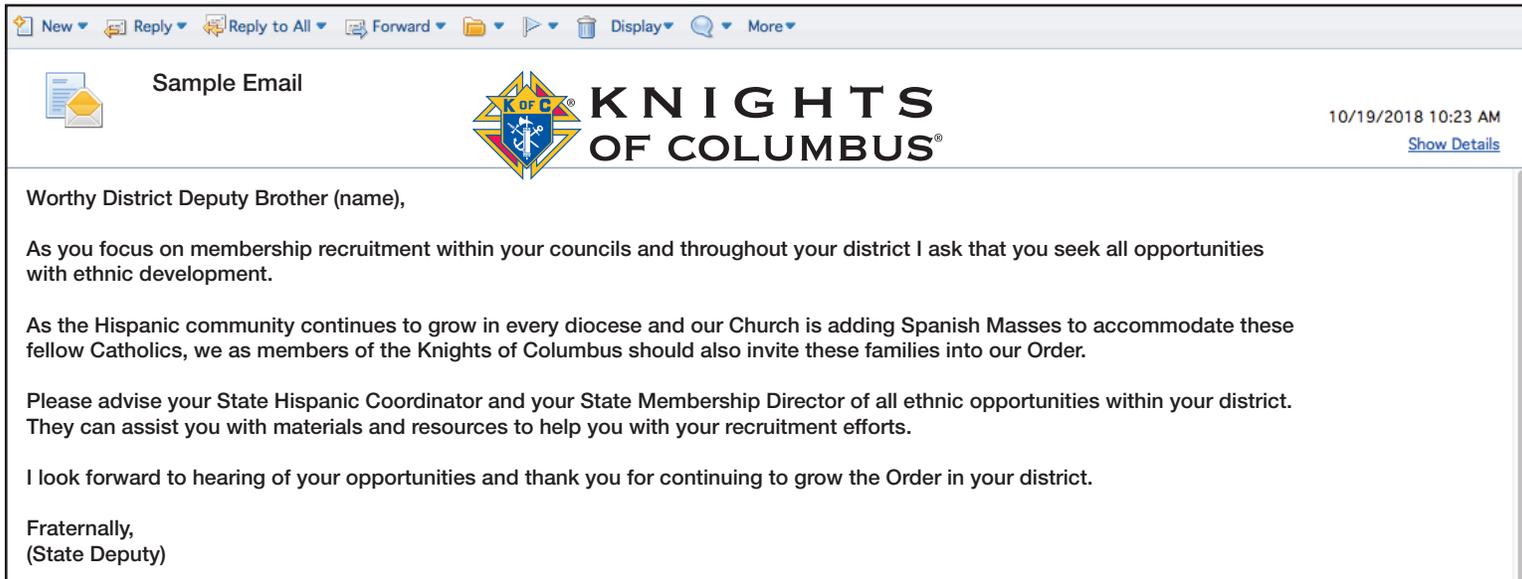
Our ultimate goal is to promote Hispanic membership growth, grow the number of Spanish council and reactivate the suspended Spanish councils. In addition, establish a firm foundation of training to assure sustainability of all the Spanish councils.

Take Action: Hispanic Growth

1. State Deputy to identify or replace their Hispanic Coordinator by November 16th. Provide contact information of member selected to the department of Hispanic Growth.
2. Ask all district deputies to canvass their districts and their communities for new Hispanic recruitment opportunities at parishes that offer Spanish Masses.
3. The supreme council will hold a conference call in December for all Hispanic Coordinators to discuss their role in their jurisdiction and to provide support to all their recruitment efforts.
4. The state deputy and Hispanic coordinator should meet and discuss all Hispanic recruitment opportunities and assign district deputies as the point of contact by December 31st. This information should be communicated to the department of Hispanic growth.



Sample Email



Hispanic Outreach Program

What is it? — Hispanic outreach simply means to reach out to Hispanic Catholic men by offering them membership in the Knights of Columbus through a Spanish speaking council or round table. It is geared mainly at men who either do not speak English or feel more comfortable in an environment in which Spanish is the predominant language. It also provides bilingual members an opportunity to utilize their Spanish language skills and their leadership skills in guiding and directing members of a Spanish speaking council or round table.

How can Hispanic Outreach benefit your jurisdiction? — Hispanic Catholic's represent 60% of the US catholic growth. It is predicted that in 20 to 30 years, the largest ethnic group comprising the Catholic Church in America, will be the Hispanic population; meanwhile today, it is the largest minority in the entire country. Also, in many parts of the Southeast, our protestant brothers and sisters are aggressively targeting our immigrant Hispanic brothers. Mind you, over 70% of Hispanic immigrants are already catholic; we are just attempting to retain them.

How is this to be done?— Through diocesan listings, local knowledge, and assistance from your district deputies, you can identify potential parishes where Spanish masses are offered and after getting the pastor's approval decide whether a council or round table would be suitable. Generally, if there is no council in the parish and its size is greater than 150 families, a council is appropriate. If there is already a council in the parish and if the pastor does not want two councils or the parish size is under 150 families, then a round table is appropriate.

Is there information and brochures in Spanish available? — Yes, virtually all recruitment brochures, posters, videos and all forms for running the council are available in Spanish. The Hispanic Development Field Coordinator can assist with training and in facilitating membership drives, information sessions, and 1st degrees in Spanish.

Must I be able to speak Spanish to work with this effort? — No. It certainly helps to know Spanish but your leadership and organizational skills as a state leader or district deputy are more critical and important at this stage for you to be successful in this effort.

How do I get started? — First, talk to the pastor of the parish you have identified. If he approves, then contact your chain of command, the State Hispanic Coordinator and the Supreme Hispanic Department to proceed forward.

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