



On July 4th, you may behold a group of Knights of Columbus in the traditional civic parade in your town. Or you may attend a civic program sponsored by the local KC council.

After a destructive fire or a violent typhoon, you may see the same group distributing food, clothes, medicines and other relief goods to the victims.

At the solemn procession for Christ the King in October, you may also be treated to the sight of colorfully uniformed Fourth Degree Knights marching solemnly with the throng.

Or at Christmas time, you may find them visiting your home to solicit contributions

members and stirs up their desire to join the Order.

The first point in the program is Catholic Activity. As with the other five points, the implementation of the projects in this field falls under the charge of a group — the Catholic Activity Group. The Group is in turn divided into five committees: Charity, Devotion, Education, Family and Catholic Contact, each charged with undertaking a set of projects and activities pertaining to its scope.

The Catholic Activity Group in its projects and activities aims to furnish the opportunity for members to practice their Catholic duties in the fields of charity, devotion and education and to enable the individual Knight to set constant and worthy

What Makes A KC Council Tick ?

It points up to the soul of the KC apostolate.

for some charity drive or for a yule program which they are arranging for the indigent.

For the most part, these activities that you witness are not the outcome of spontaneous inspirations. They take place as a result of a long established, carefully prepared plan of action, which KC councils all over the world are asked uniformly to carry out in their respective communities.

As in an organism, this action plan, called the Six-Point-Program, is the heart that pumps the vital lifeblood which makes the KC council buzz with activity. It injects coherence into the activity of the members.

As the term suggests, the Six-Point-Program is divided into six distinct fields of endeavor. It is designed to include the widest variety of interests. As a result, it invites and impells action that grips the attention of the members, draws them to meetings, gives them challenging outlets for their energies and makes them proud to belong to their KC council. At the same time, it also captures the interest of prospective

example as an ideal Catholic to his family, his community and his fellow members.

Towards this end, the proper committees sponsor fund drives for charitable causes, conduct annual retreats for the members, organize catechetical classes, promote family devotions such as family rosary, and honor members of the clergy.

The main burden of keeping the members interested in the KC council falls heavily on the Six-Point-Program. Likewise, it is divided into committees for Entertainment, Athletics, Civic Affairs, Cultural Affairs and Social Affairs. These committees separately fulfill the duty of the group to provide a varied program of activities which will furnish enjoyment, entertainment, and benefit to the members of the KC council and their families and friends, at the same time enabling them to contribute the constructive advantages of their many talents and abilities to the program.

Fraternity is frequently in the mind of anyone who hears mention of the Knights

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WHAT MAKES....

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of Columbus. And it is not surprising, because it is one of the essences of our Order. Father Michael J. McGivney had it in mind, when he first conceived the Knights of Columbus.

The third group of the Six-Point-Program, the Fraternal Activity Group, has the task of maintaining a strong brotherly bond among the members. Birthday celebrants among the Knights are greeted and honored. Sick members are visited. The dead are remembered with Masses and spiritual bouquets.

The five committees under this group are the Personal Acknowledgment, Blood Donors, Relief and Welfare, Sick and Memorial committees.

The fourth group is the Membership-Insurance Group. In the Philippines, KC councils so far have only been able to carry out activities concerning membership in this field. Because of dollar restrictions, the KC insurance system in the United States has not been extended here. However, if the proposed operation of a local KC insurance system will be pushed through this group in the various KC councils may soon function completely.

It is the duty of the Membership-Insurance Group to maintain membership in the council at a level which will guarantee the effectiveness of its work and will make Columbianism a potent and worthwhile factor in Catholic, community, and national life. The task is carried out by the Prospects, Admission, Enrollment, Conservation and Readmission committees.

Although it has been almost a tradition among our Knights to work without fanfare, still the need for some publicity exists for the purpose of gaining sympathy for our Order, especially from those who are misinformed about us, and encouraging the members and the other KC groups to activity. The adoption of THE CROSS Magazine as the national organ of our Order affords us a bigger local outlet for publicity. The other media, of course, are the metropolitan and community newspapers and magazines and the national and local radio stations. The Publicity Group with its assisting committees handles this work.

Lately, a lot of rumpus has been raised in several quarters about the widespread delinquency of youth. This issue is not

HE CAME BACK....

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could not have spoken the words that greatly comforted him, the gentle words commending Him to the Blessed Mother. As I spoke of the love and mercy of the heavenly Father in the Sacred Heart of His Son, he cried in repentance for his sins; and he began to confess how wicked a son he was to the heavenly Father, how he worked to help in destroying the Church of the Divine Savior. And that bright Sunday morning, he expressed the desire to give up all connections with "this diabolical secret society fighting the Son of God Himself." While he spoke of abjuring his membership, I still believe that there was a distinct smell of burnt sulphur suffusing the air in the sick-room.

A few days later, before the Christmas of the Marian Year 1954, he confessed to a young priest (a veritable lover of Mary) and a great peace of soul descended upon him. Beholding him thus turned to a new living saint of God, I felt that the brief interior happiness in my soul had turned to a sudden interior desolation. Little did I guess that I

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bandied about emptily. The problem is real, starkly real in some places. This currency of the problem may be seized upon by our KC councils to step up their youth work.

The last group in the KC Six-Point-Program is the Youth Activity Group. Many KC councils are active in this field. They sponsor Boy Scouts troops, organize summer athletic leagues, make available to the youth attractive recreational facilities, and conduct catechetical classes.

Our Order has its own youth organization in the Columbian Squires. The Squires are recruited usually from among the sons of members and the children of other Catholic middle class families. For the less privileged children, the KC councils may form other groups such as the Catholic Youth Organization.

The committees under this group are Columbian Squires, Leadership-Services, Religious, Social-Recreation and Welfare.

The Six-Point-Program is a well-balanced and extensive action plan. It is what makes a KC council tick. But it also requires the right leaders (group and committee chairmen) and careful and thorough planning and implementation to keep it ticking.