

Pilgrim Icon Program Indiana Knights of Columbus

Subject: Pilgrim Icon Program Underway!

Worthy Brothers,

The St. Joseph Icon has arrived in our jurisdiction and the Pilgrim Icon Program is now underway. This program offers the perfect opportunity for our members and parish communities to devote themselves to St. Joseph and pray for the courage to stand up and carry out our mission of protecting, defending, and raising future generations.

The original icon (shown below) is housed at St. Joseph's Oratory in Montréal, Canada's preeminent Shrine to St. Joseph, founded by St. André Bessette. The icon was prayerfully painted by Elizabeth Bergeron, from a drawing by famed iconographer Alexandre Sobolev. In the image, St. Joseph stands with his eyes cast humbly down, but with a determined strength in his face. In his covered arm he bears the Child Jesus, whose own hand is raised, blessing the world. In his right arm, St. Joseph holds a flowering staff, a sign that he was chosen by God. The white lilies of the staff signify his purity and chastity. Taken together, the icon provides a window into the life and mission of this courageous father, a man who was one of us and yet called to a mission of incomparable significance.



Icon by the hand of Elizabeth Bergeron.
Based on a drawing by Alexandre Sobolev. *Photograph by GrapheStudio*

Resources for the program including a guide sheet, prayer service booklet, prayer card, promotional posters, and news release can be found through kofc.org/pilgrimicon. Please review these materials to learn more about the program.

Councils should report their participation in the program through the online [Fraternal Programs Report Form](#) (#10784). In addition, accompanying each icon is an icon tag and QR code which is linked to the online #10784. A member hosting the icon can hover over the QR code with his phone's camera and click on the link that appears. Then, after entering his last name and member number, he can enter data into the #10784 form (n.b. This will only work on iPhones and certain Android devices).

Our world desperately needs men and women of courage. But in a particular way, it needs courageous fathers — men willing to stand up and to carry out their own mission of protecting, defending and raising future generations. It needs men willing to risk it all, in order to offer the world Jesus. In short, our world needs men in the model of St. Joseph. To learn more about how your council can participate in the Pilgrim Icon Program, please contact [Larry Kunkel at life@indianakofc.org](mailto:Larry.Kunkel@indianakofc.org).