

# New Featured Faith Programs

## Viva Cristo Rey!

The ¡Viva Cristo Rey! program honors the sanctity and courage of the Mexican Martyrs, many of whom were members of the Knights of Columbus, who sacrificed their lives for their faith during the period of religious persecution by the Mexican government in the early 20th century. This era, marked by the events of “La Cristiada” or the “Cristero War,” saw priests, missionaries, and religious orders expelled from Mexico. As a result, more than a million Mexicans sought refuge in the United States, while others organized in defense against government oppression—some choosing peaceful resistance and others bearing arms under the banner “Cristo Rey y Santa María de Guadalupe” (“Christ the King and Holy Mary of Guadalupe”).

Councils are encouraged to seek the intercession of the Mexican Martyrs by attending Mass, praying the novena leading up to their feast days, and fostering devotion to these saints and blessed within their communities. Key feast days associated with this program include the May 21 feast of the Mexican Martyrs (Optional Memorial of Saint Christopher Magallanes, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs), the Solemnity of Christ the King, and, in some dioceses on November 20, the commemorative feast for Knights of Columbus Bl. José Trinidad Rangel Montaño, Bl. Andrés Solá y Molist, and Bl. Leonardo Pérez Larios.

## Imitating Saint Juan Diego

The Imitating Saint Juan Diego program invites councils to cultivate devotion to St. Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe. As Knights of Columbus, whose patroness is Our Lady of Guadalupe, members are called to be her messengers, following the example set by St. Juan Diego throughout his life.

The apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe to St. Juan Diego led to the conversion of millions of indigenous people to the Catholic Faith and continues to inspire evangelization to this day. Councils are encouraged to educate others about the lives of both Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego, emphasizing their powerful intercession. Suggested activities include organizing a traveling image of Our Lady of Guadalupe to be shared among families, promoting acts of popular piety, and distributing devotional materials to members and parish communities.

The recommended timeframe for this program is early December, which aligns with St. Juan Diego’s feast day on December 9 and Our Lady of Guadalupe’s feast day on December 12.

Alternatively, councils may conclude the program on these dates and host a celebration in honor of St. Juan Diego's feast day.