

MARIAN ICON PRAYER

OUR LADY HELP OF PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

A Higher Purpose

Spread devotion to Our Lady and pray for our brothers and sisters of faith who are at risk around the world through the Marian Icon Prayer Program. As the new Marian Icon is brought on pilgrimage through the jurisdiction, councils will host the Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians Icon for a prayer service at their parish.

Overview

The 2018-2019 Marian Icon Prayer Program presents the 18th Marian Icon sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Like its predecessors, the program features a Marian image, this time of Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians. Each Knights of Columbus jurisdiction receives several Marian images, which serve as the centerpieces for prayer services conducted in churches and council meeting places throughout the Order for the duration of the initiative. This year, the prayer service is intended to raise awareness of the plight of Christians persecuted for their faith and to stand in prayerful solidarity with them.

Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Work with your pastor and the jurisdiction Marian Icon Prayer Program chairman to obtain their recommendations and to plan for the event.
- Identify council and parish members to fulfill the various roles required in the service.
- Order supplies through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online.
- Promote the event!
- Ensure that the Icon is successfully received by your council and handed to the next council.
- In partnership with your council Christian Refugee Relief chairman, consider planning an event in conjunction with your prayer service.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

Action Steps

Planning:

1. Working with your pastor, obtain his permission and recommendations on conducting a Marian Icon Prayer Service with the Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians Icon.
2. Working with your jurisdiction Marian Icon Prayer Program chairman, coordinate when your council is scheduled to receive the Icon.
3. Identify council and parish members to fulfill the various roles required in the service.
4. If not enough booklets remain from previous services, order additional copies of the *Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians Prayer Program Booklet* (#5050) and *Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians Prayer Card* (#10683) through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online.
5. Prior to the Marian Icon Prayer Service, use the Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians sample press release as a model to create and distribute a tailored release to local media.



6. Build public interest for the event! Promote the Marian Icon Prayer Service with the Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians Icon in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
 - Prominently display promotional posters (which can be ordered through Supplies Online)
 - Bulletin announcements
 - Pulpit announcements
 - Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages

Action:

1. Representatives of your council should attend the prayer service at the council from which you will receive the Icon and bring it to your council or parish.
2. Hold your Marian Icon Prayer Service with the following guidelines in mind:
 - If possible, the choir leader should review the hymns with the congregation before the service
 - Advise the readers and congregation to recite the prayers at a moderate pace to ensure the service is truly reverent
 - Throughout the evening, be ever mindful of Christians who are persecuted for their faith throughout the world, past and present
 - No money should be collected at the service itself
3. At the close of the prayer service, formally present the Icon to the next host council. Also collect all *Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians Prayer Program Booklets* (#5050), to be sent along with the Icon in the *Marian Icon Kit* (#10684) to the next council.
4. After the service, the grand knight or council Marian Icon chairman should record information about the council's *Marian Icon Prayer Service in the Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians Log Book* (#10685) that accompanies the Icon.
5. Strongly consider hosting a dinner or other social event in conjunction with the prayer service. This is a perfect opportunity for your council to participate in the Christian Refugee Relief Program and raise awareness and much-needed financial support for Christians at risk. Although the Marian Icon Prayer Program cannot be double-counted for the Christian Refugee Relief Program, a fundraiser after the service could help satisfy the Christian Refugee Relief Program. Visit www.kofc.org/christianrelief for more information and ideas.
6. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.