

CATHOLIC ORDER OF FORESTERS

Fraternal Outreach Planning Guide

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

– Matthew 25:35-36

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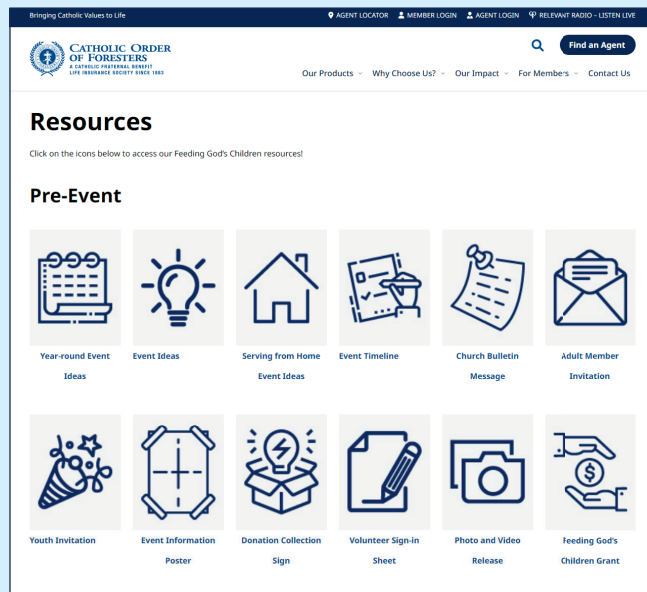
FEEDING GOD'S CHILDREN



Where to Start?

Planning Resources

People are the most important resource, so the Fraternal Outreach Team is here to support you and your event! Do you have a question or concern about planning or your event? Call or email us! Additionally, you'll find resources and helpful tips at catholicforester.org/fraternal-outreach/feeding-gods-children/resources/



Questions to Get You Thinking

- Who needs help in your community?
- What events do you currently host?
- What organizations are you passionate about?
- Why should children be introduced to volunteering?



Keys to Success

It's important to have a solid team of volunteers in place to ensure the success of your event. Whether you take on all of these responsibilities yourself or delegate them, don't forget to:

- Register the event.
- Check in with fellow volunteers prior to the event.
- Reserve a venue if necessary.
- Order T-shirts (if you'd like).
- Promote the event on your local court's website, on social media, and in the parish bulletin.
- Track planning hours and event hours performed by everyone involved.
- Submit the event wrap-up form, photos, and video to the Fraternal Outreach Team once your event concludes.

Remember

- Any member or agent may organize a Feeding God's Children (FGC) event. You don't have to be a court officer.
- Members, agents, and local courts may host as many FGC events in one year as they'd like, in fact it's encouraged.
- T-shirts are provided at no cost to you!
- All FGC events must be registered with the Fraternal Outreach Team. Registering prior to your event lets the team know about the event.

What We Offer

Immerse yourself in the media we produce and the learning opportunities we offer!

Website

COF's public website, catholicforester.org, has a lot of valuable resources for planning events and learning more about all COF offers. Members have access to an enhanced experience when they create an account online – it's free and simple! Creating an account will give you the ability to register for local court events and view policy information and, if you're a court officer, view essential tools for leading your court. Want to familiarize yourself with this great tool? Let us know!

Videos

Visit our YouTube page for a variety of videos all available online for you to watch and share.

Magazine

Catholic Forester, the magazine Catholic Order of Foresters (COF) publishes six times a year, is a resource for event ideas and inspiration. You'll read about service event ideas, members involved in their communities and other exciting content. Fun fact: *Catholic Forester* magazine has been published since the 1880's!

Social Media

Stay connected with us 24/7! For event ideas, inspiration from events around the country, shareable and engaging content, and more, find us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Jurisdiction Facebook pages and YouTube!



“I share the information the Fraternal Outreach team shares with youth members in my court. It is easy to copy a link and text it to someone, or just communicate with others so they become aware of all the opportunities provided by COF.”

– Sharon Mack, South Dakota

Fraternal Outreach Opportunities

Feeding God's Children

Easy. Beneficial. Impactful. Joy. Feeding God's Children also known as FGC, is Catholic Order of Foresters' response to the call to service in Matthew 25. Members and agents are encouraged to organize the events, but anyone may participate in them. These events can be large or small, and can last an hour or a month! The two primary goals of any FGC event are to engage members, non-members, and serve people in need whether it be your local community or across the globe. For more information on organizing an event, turn to the last page of this guide or visit catholicforester.org/fraternal-outreach/feeding-gods-children/



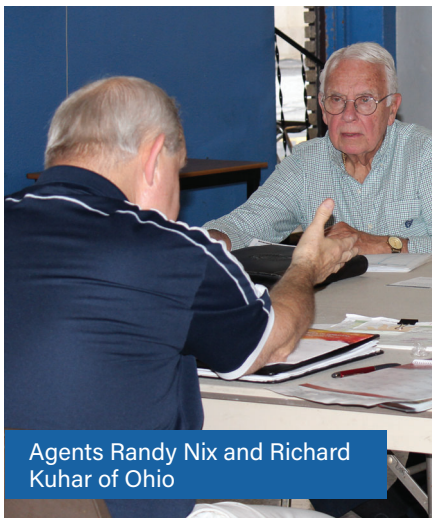
Fraternal Outreach Workshops

Do you want to plan an event but are feeling overwhelmed? Are you looking for service hours? Contact the Fraternal Outreach Team to arrange a Fraternal Outreach Workshop! We'll come to your area and meet with you and a small group of fellow court members who are interested in a Feeding God's Children event. Together, before the workshop ends, we'll plan a Feeding God's Children event, determining logistics such as the date, time, location, and promotional strategy.



Spirituality Tap-in

These events are designed for people in their 20s and 30s, but some events have seen a wider age range of attendees. A speaker (often a priest) will discuss a faith-related topic as attendees enjoy a drink in a relaxed atmosphere. The Fraternal Outreach Team works with local agents to plan these events, but members and non-members are welcome to attend! More information, including upcoming events, is on our website: catholicforester.org/fraternal-outreach/spirituality-tap-in/



Alternative Breaks

Ready for a once in a lifetime experience? Commit to one of our alternative breaks! As a spiritual journey, these breaks provide the opportunity to grow stronger in your faith and meet people from around the country while serving people in need through a variety of projects including construction. (No experience needed!) More information, including the option to reserve your spot for an upcoming trip, is available at catholicforester.org/fraternal-outreach/ready-for-a-once-in-a-lifetime-experience/



“God works through us with his love so we can do work like this.”

– Helena Kaelin, Kentucky

Event Ideas

Here are some ideas to get you started. You aren't limited to these events!

Toy Drive



Is the toy bin getting too full? There are always places looking for new or used toys. Whether it's for the holidays or you feel the pull to donate, there are kids who will appreciate it.

Supply Drive

Donate classroom supplies to teachers or host a fundraiser so they can purchase items for their classrooms.

Birthday Bags



Collect birthday party supplies such as boxes of cake mix, candles, decorations and paper plates. Pack birthday bags and donate to your local food pantry so every child can celebrate his or her birthday!

Hygiene Drive

Assemble a group to collect personal hygiene items and donate them to a local organization. This provides basic necessities of life to those who do not have it.

Sweet Tooth



Practice some family dessert recipes together! Sell the treats and donate the proceeds to a local organization.

Church in the Park

Clean up a local park and have an outdoor Mass after. Consider inviting the elderly or homebound to attend the Mass with you.

Church Clean-up

Get in contact with your local parish or parish schools and see if there is anything you and your group can tidy up! How great it is to help keep our places of worship clean.

Superhero Kits



Create capes and masks for children in hospitals receiving treatment and deliver the kits to them.

Highway Clean-up

Have you seen extra trash lying around the roads? Grab a group of members and non-members to (safely) walk around and pick up trash along the highways!

Need to Read



Ask students to bring in gently used (or even new) Bibles, spiritual books or other books. As a group, do a read-a-thon at a local hospital or nursing home. Then, donate the books to the patients or residents.

Support Our Troops

Create welcome home signs for soldiers returning home. Ask soldiers to share their stories, if they're comfortable speaking about their experiences.

Paws for a Cause



Our furry friends can always use some love. Find a local shelter and see how you can help!

Diaper Drive

Collect as many boxes of diapers as possible and donate them to a local crisis pregnancy center.

Food Shelter

Shelters that serve food to those in need might need a couple more helping hands as the winter season approaches. It will be sure to fill the stomachs and hearts of those in need.

Timeline

Follow this checklist to ensure your event is a success.

6 Weeks Prior (Fraternal Outreach Workshop) Date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Choose an event. <input type="checkbox"/> Choose the location. <input type="checkbox"/> Choose the date. <input type="checkbox"/> Register the event on catholicforester.org/fraternal-outreach/feeding-gods-children/
5 Weeks Prior Date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Reserve the location or venue.
4 Weeks Prior Date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Build your team. <input type="checkbox"/> Recruit volunteers. Invite members, family and neighbors to participate. <input type="checkbox"/> Order T-shirts if you'd like T-shirts for your event.
3 Weeks Prior Date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Submit church bulletin announcement to your parish. <input type="checkbox"/> Promote the event via social media and your local court's website. <input type="checkbox"/> Post fliers at your church and school.
2 Weeks Prior Date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Confirm event venue. <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with your team to review the project, logistics, and day-of event plan.
1 Week Prior Date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Communicate up-to-date information to volunteers. <input type="checkbox"/> Post reminder on social media.
Day of the Event Date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrive early to welcome volunteers and set up. <input type="checkbox"/> Ask everyone to sign in. <input type="checkbox"/> Take photos and post to social media. <input type="checkbox"/> Thank all volunteers. <input type="checkbox"/> Clean up.
Post-event Date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Send thank you notes to volunteers, partners and donors. <input type="checkbox"/> Submit form, photos, and video footage to the Home Office.

Notes

“**Thank You** for Your divine Word. You have called the church to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. I pray Your church does not just bring people to You, but I pray that we keep them in Your presence. Pray that we never become content with our outreach mission, but let us continuously strive to do better, **Amen.**”
– Matthew 28:19

Call, text, or email the Fraternal Outreach Team today to arrange a Fraternal Outreach Workshop or if you have any questions.



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