

Caballeros,

Thank you for your dedication to the Knights of Columbus, and for being Our Brother's Keeper.

The response to form family-oriented Spanish speaking round tables is overwhelming! Archbishop Peter Sartain, Bishop Carlos Sevilla, Chaplain, Rev. Jaime Chacon, SD McBride and all visited pastors have been impressed with our effort of reaching out to the Hispanic culture. Hispanics bring beauty of faith, family, dedication to Our Lady of Guadalupe, and the willingness to work within parishes whenever asked. This is why we are forming Mesas Redondas de Caballeros de Colon where the Hispanic faith exists.

I have visited parishes in Woodland, Lacy, Sumner, South Seattle, Marysville, Mt. Vernon (Burlington), Renton and Grandview. Each pastor had nothing but praise for the Knights of Columbus and their efforts in reaching out to a culture that is in a similar situation to the Irish, when the Venerable Fr. Michael J. McGivney founded the Knights 120 years ago.

There are approximately 46 Spanish Masses being celebrated in Western Washington. Our council has tremendous growth potential that could possibly place most councils in the "star award" category. This is an attainable goal that we believe can happen this year. All District Deputies or Grand Knights needing assistance making a presentation to Spanish speaking faithful should arrange a date and time (with permission of the pastor), and I will personally make every effort to assist. Please be sure that all handout materials suggested to you are on hand. If you do not have the list of suggested materials, contact me.

At Fr. Pat McDermott's invitation, I spoke before a prayer group in Lacy, Washington. From this platform, we can encourage young men to get more involved in building the great Kingdom of God. By involving young men as Squires or encouraging them to pursue seminary studies, they can see firsthand the grace and goodness of the Church and how they can serve God in the present and future. Whether as a faithful Catholic, a Knight or a seminary student, we can be a guiding influence to young men and women.

The Hispanic Round Table members count as part of your council. At St. John the Evangelist, pot luck meetings are scheduled after the 1 p.m. Spanish mass, where interested parties are always invited to stop in and visit, enjoy our company and share in our food. Each week, we call upon a family to lead the opening prayer. This provides a sense of belonging as their prayer is spread amongst the group. A Pledge of Allegiance to the flag follows.

Meetings are casual and designed to make everyone feel as if their contribution is important. We discuss the agenda which is full of information of coming activities; how to improve the Round Table and increase participation; and any special subjects. As members, we discuss the need to set an example by wearing our council badge; to attend functions, speak with everyone, and not just those that speak to us.

Let us all shoot for the stars by contacting your pastor on your willingness to form Mesas Redondas in parishes where Spanish mass is celebrated.

Please pass along, to me, your stories and successes. As we share information, we learn how to work together for the greater good of the Glory of God.

The last words heard from our martyred Mexican priests, brother Knights.

Viva Cristo Rey, Viva la Virgin de Guadalupe,

Mike Calderon/Hispanic membership