



Columbian Squires of Ontario

THE SQUIRES COMPASS

FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL 2020

— Personal Growth Leads To Circle Growth —

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SAVE THE DATE

**COLUMBIAN SQUIRES 66th ANNUAL ONTARIO PROVINCIAL CONVENTION
JUNE 5-7, 2020 at Burlington Holiday Inn**



2019-2020 ONTARIO PROVINCIAL BOARD

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Provincial Board News

What Can You Offer Your Circle?

With half of the fraternal year behind us, we are well into the second half which means we must re-evaluate how our circles are operating. Traditionally, the beginning of a new calendar year is also a time where many people will set new goals to achieve. Ask yourself the following two questions: (1) Is my circle operating the way I want it to? and (2) Is my circle hosting events that I want to attend? If your answer is no to these questions then you must honestly ask yourself: (1) Am I attending events and meetings? and (2) Am I putting my ideas forward for new events and new activities? If we, as Squires, want to see an event or activity happen in our circle we cannot simply sit around and wait for someone else to think of the idea or plan the event. We must put forward our ideas with excitement! Do not be afraid about not knowing how to organize an event, there are many other Squires and Counsellors in your circle who are more than willing to help you. All you have to do is ask!

This second-half of the fraternal year can be one of potential and new growth, but that growth must start within yourself by personal prayer and reaching out to others and asking for assistance when needed. If you do this, your personal growth will be transformed and you will grow your circle!

In addition to the many conference calls that the Provincial Board has, the Provincial Board will be meeting in the upcoming months to continue planning the upcoming Columbian Squires Provincial Convention which we began many months ago. We have many new exciting things happening at the Convention this year to look forward to! The date and location can be found on the first page of this newsletter. More information regarding registration, pricing, award form applications and all other details will be sent in the coming months to all circles by email.

As we begin the Lenten season with Ash Wednesday on February 26, we walk with Jesus and strengthen our spiritual prayer lives as we prepare for Holy Week. During this week, we commemorate the Passion and Death of Jesus but we look forward to the celebration of that Great Feast of Easter where we rejoice in the Resurrection! It is my prayer for you that this time be a fruitful spiritual journey.

Success is only possible if we reach out for help when it is needed. If your circle requires extra support from your local Area Chairman, please do not hesitate to ask them for it. They will be more than willing to assist you and your circle where needed. As always, I am more than willing to speak with you, either by phone or email if you have any questions for myself or the Provincial Board. Thank you for all you do for your circle and community.

Esto Dignus,

Matthew Ducharme
Ontario Provincial Chief Squire



The Service Pillar

This pillar employs all to play a role in their community and bring the Word of God to those in need, both inside and outside of the Church.

Matthew Dekold
Provincial Service Chairman

FEBRUARY

GRAVESITE CLEANUP

Your circle can meet at a local cemetery in your community. You can begin by cleaning off the deceased Knights of Columbus member's graves and the family members of the Squires. Spread out and try to clean all of them by washing them and removing any weeds that have grown over them. This is a great way to serve your community and honour the lives of those who have passed away.

MARCH

CAR WASH VOLUNTEERING

Meet up at the chosen destination and set up with whatever you like. Go the day before and get supplies like a canopy, and a barbecue if you want. Make sure to have arranged for hoses, buckets, sponges, and car wash soap. If you decided to give hotdogs and other refreshments, prepare with these items as well. Wash cars for a donation and then donate the money to a chosen charity.

April

PLAYGROUND CLEANING

Have everyone meet at a very popular playground. You can spread out and clean the playground so the kids who use the playground have a safer experience. You could wash it with soap and water or a power washer. Be sure to pick up any garbage as well throughout the playground. Many families and children will appreciate this service to the local community.



The Circle Pillar

This pillar focuses on unity within the circle. Events in this pillar are designed to encourage fraternity, brotherhood, and most of all, be fun.

Kurtis Dale
Provincial Circle Chairman

FEBRUARY

WINTER EVENTS FUN DAY

Get outside and enjoy a day of tobogganing, snowboarding, skiing, or skating. If you do not have a ski hill nearby there are always local rinks that have free public skating at designated times. Check online for these times. This is a great way to get out and spend some time with our brothers and have fun at the same time while enjoying the winter.

MARCH

HOCKEY EVENT

Plan or attend a hockey event. Book a rink or ice pad (indoor or outdoor) for a couple hours and have a fun game of hockey. Be sure to include friends and family to attend. You may want to challenge another local circle to a game of hockey and split the cost of the rink. Don't forget to bring the hot chocolate. If this is not possible, you can always attend a hockey game of a team in your local community together as a circle.

APRIL

EASTER EGG HUNT AND BAKE SALE

Consider having your Squires Circle volunteer to assist with a local Easter egg hunt or Easter Sunday School activities. Possibly do a bake sale where money is donated back to your local parish. This is a great way to give back to the community that supports your local Circle. Enjoy all your brothers, family and fun all in one event.



The Membership Pillar

This pillar places importance on recruiting new Squires to maintain the life of the circle. It is vital to recruit young members to replace the old.

Nathan Nambiar
Provincial Membership Chairman

FEBRUARY

VALENTINE'S DAY CARD MAKING

The month of February is centred around Valentine's Day, and there's no better way to expand your circle than to invite others to join you in celebrating festivities. The weekend before Valentine's Day, organize a meeting with your members and have them invite any friends who are interested in joining the Squires program. Spend the meeting creating Valentine's cards to distribute to those in your parish, and talk to those who are interested in joining the Squires program. This event is the perfect way to increase membership while spreading some love to those in your Church.

MARCH

CHURCH CLEAN-UP

A great event to boost membership is a monthly Church clean-up. Even though we all go to Church each weekend, after Mass we rarely stay behind to help clean up the mess. Before a meeting, gather your members and any who want to join the program and help clean your Church. After the clean-up, offer snacks and drinks and discuss the pillars of the Squires program. Not only will you gain new members, but you will have the opportunity to give back to your Church.

APRIL

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

This event is a great way for the Squires and prospective members in your parish to celebrate an important religious occasion and give back to your Church. Before Good Friday, consult with your priest and find out if it is possible to conduct a Stations of the Cross, or help to organize any existing ones. This event has a lot of room for opportunity, as your circle can decide to help out with readings, conduct a live performance of the Stations of the Cross, and more. The Stations of the Cross is a perfect event for your circle to conduct in order to increase membership whilst participating in one of the most important religious occasions.



The Spiritual Pillar

This pillar is the core of the Squires, and it is through this that we deepen our relationship with Christ, represented by the letter “C” in our logo.

Paul Jezierski
Provincial Spiritual Chairman

FEBRUARY

ATTEND PRAYER GROUPS

Join one of the prayer groups in your parish for a Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet. This is a great way to show the presence of the Squires and to grow in brotherhood through prayer. It is through prayer groups that you have the opportunity to build relationships with other parish members outside of your circle, pray for specific intentions, as well as strengthen your own relationship with Christ.

MARCH

ORGANIZE A LENTEN JOURNEY

Exodus 90 is a spiritual journey through prayer, asceticism and fraternity. Not only is it good for your spiritual health, but it is also good for your physical health. During these 90 days, men will strive to detach themselves from bad habits and grow deeper in their faith and in brotherhood. Squire circles are a perfect place to organize a “fraternity” of young adults. Read more at Exodus90.com. Of course, during Lent, you can also increase prayer and health through your own efforts if this program is not an option for you to participate in.

APRIL

ALTAR SERVING

Altar-serving is a good way to serve God and your parish while attending the Holy Mass. Contact your priest at your church and organize an altar-server training with experienced servers, deacons, and/or priests. The new servers can take turns serving every other Sunday if there are enough servers. It's a fun time serving the Lord with your friends, it is also a different way to actively participate in the Mass, through which you can see the Mass from another perspective.