

Introduction

Message from the USA Council Programs Vice-president

Your USA Council Program Committee believes you will find these suggested program themes interesting, easy to use, timely, and of value for increasing member awareness. The richness of their Catholic heritage can add to their personal sanctification and encourage advocacy for vocations. Questions, comments and program theme ideas are welcome. Please address them to the Programs Vice-president in care of the USA Council Chicago office.

In this index, you will find each club program in Portable Document Format (PDF). This format allows you to view the program electronically on most computers. The Adobe Acrobat reader is required to view and print PDF files and it is free. The first program in this index outlines the Program Process.

These suggested club programs are designed to help the club Programs Vice-president, together with the club Chaplain, in planning the club programs. For many, the theme alone will suffice; for others, the program process will assist the presenter in organizing the meeting — be it priest, deacon, religious order member, or Serran. Choose what suits your needs.

Program Outline

This outline sheet serves as your companion in planning. Each section provides information and support to help create your own program.

To get the most benefit from this format, we suggest you take a few moments to think about the experience that you want your club to have. This will help reinforce the material and provide an opportunity for designing a solid program that is enjoyable, worthwhile and challenging to club members.

Option 1: For Group Reflection and Discussion

Decide how you will present the topic for the program.

You may wish to have a member of your local club introduce the program and facilitate the process, or invite a speaker to give the program.

Opening Prayer

After the meal, if a meal is served, the program begins with a prayer related to the topic. Each club is encouraged to design a prayer based on local tradition, or use the simple prayer that is included with the program.

Scripture

Read aloud the text from Scripture, allowing a thoughtful and meditative pause.

Introduction

The program chair explains the importance of the University of Christian Principles in the life of the Serran and introduces the topic and format of the meeting. After briefly setting the context for the significance and relevance of the topic to Serrans, the introduction may be read or paraphrased.

Documentary Tradition

Someone — speaker, chaplain, club member, or guest — can provide a brief reflection based on the information in this section, or it can be read as it is written.

Discussion Questions

Invite participants to discuss one or several of these questions.

Closing Reflection

The program chair closes the program by reading or summarizing this section and thanking those in attendance.

Option 2: For Private Reflection

The greatest experience of adult learning and faith development occurs when people come together to share their faith experiences, pray about their learning and observe how it impacts their life. If this is not possible or if a Serran wishes to further his or her exploration of a topic, we recommend using these programs for private reflection.

The suggested format is:

- begin with prayer
- meditate on the Scripture passage
- read the introduction
- use the Documentary Tradition to gain a broader understanding of the topic
- take time to answer the discussion questions
- share your insights through daily action or a journal of personal reflections.

Option 3: Have External Speaker Use This Format

When contacting a speaker, the program handout can be given to him or her in order to focus the presentation on the requested topic. Speakers will have their own comfort level, style and interpretation of the topic, so be flexible. The actual program may be used as is, or the speaker may create a variation. We suggest that the speaker utilize the discussion questions, if possible. If the speaker only gives the input, the club chair can facilitate the discussion questions. Involve as many members as possible in the discussion.