

# Executive Summary – 9 Days Of Prayer / Novena For Life 2023



**January 2023** – Faith Moves Mountains! *As we begin a new year, we turn our focus with intention of life as we look forward to the annual Marches and Walks for Life (both state and national). In the turbulent times we live in, the battle for life must be waged on all levels of society, and prayer is our most potent weapon.*

## **Background:**

In the middle of the pandemic, when churches remained closed and pro-life marches were being canceled, the California State Knights of Columbus refused the temptation to sit back and do nothing. Instead, they launched a state-wide initiative – 9 Days of Prayer – which was live-streamed nightly and led by the California State Deputy and State Chaplain.

Back then, Supreme’s Program Manager for Life, Drew Dillingham, stated frankly, “We really need an order-wide initiative,” and the Knights in State of California couldn’t have agreed more. We have always said that “As California goes, so goes the country,” and that is a dynamic which proves itself true time and time again. In the 2021 beta roll-out, other state councils such as Indiana, Florida, and Maryland participated in the unifying force of prayer: the Novena for Life.

## **The New Reality:**

We all know that last November’s Prop 1 succeeded in making California the country’s most radical state for the practice and promotion of abortion. Our governor wants to turn California into what he calls an *abortion sanctuary state*. We all have reason to fear this new reality as the literal “worst case scenario” of the culture of death.

That is why our state council has partnered this year with the California Catholic Conference (CCC) and many other pro-life and pro-family organizations to promote the 9 Days of Prayer. Our Lord said that “faith moves mountains,” (Mt 17:20), and we believe Him! Faith expresses itself through prayer, and we trust that the force of our united prayer will speak to this mountain of abortion and cast it into the sea!

Following this Novena, it is not our intention to slow down in building a culture of life either, so stay-tuned in the coming months, and for the foreseeable future, as we focus on other life priorities such as our youth, the family, the sick, suffering, and dying and much more.

## **Program Initiative:**

The 9 Days of Prayer program is comprehensive, customized, and user-friendly, providing the Knights an opportunity to:

- Easily join and roll out across their states, chapters, and councils with informative daily messages, promotional collateral, pulpit and bulletin announcements, etc.
- Lead their faith communities in a pro-active Novena for Life, *not only* as men of action, but as men of prayer and men of faith!
- Educate Brother Knights with a 360° view of the dynamics in society that affect life issues as well as indications of progress made and focuses on where work still needs to be done.
- Systematically raise awareness with all Knights and their families as well as clergy and parishioners about the Knights' multiple Life Programs by featuring one program each day of the novena within a prayerful and reflective context.

## **The Tools:**

The KofC branded [Novena for Life 2023](#) combines with the official Prayers in the Pew™ [Pro-Life Edition](#) companion prayer card – which gets a 100% open-rate as a handout at walks or at parishes – to provide a high evangelization or fundraising engagement device for parishes, local chapters, and councils.

This year we have established a website – [9DaysOfPrayer.com](http://9DaysOfPrayer.com) – to assist the Brothers with quick information and needed resources for the promotion of the Novena. We even have [one section of the site](#) specifically dedicated to equipping the Knights of Columbus with the resources for the promotion and execution of the Novena.

Altogether, this program provides ample opportunity to recruit men who share the values of the Knights by equipping them to become intercessory prayer warriors. It makes the Knights a front-line organization, to (a) defend life from conception to natural death, (b) pray for an end to the radicalized abortion situation in our state, and (c) support Knights' and others groups' cultural of life outreach initiatives.

## **2023 Planning Actions:**

1. Review the 2023 Novena for Life State of California branded version. (See attached.)
2. Visit the [9 Days of Prayer](#) website and check out all the resources.
3. Ramp up our enthusiasm to involve the entire order in the 2023 roll-out. As needed, we can send out an invitation to officers of each state.
4. Plan to join a Novena for Life conference call for a deep dive into the support and roll out their states strategy. Suggested attendees: State Deputies, State Chaplains, Life Directors, Program Directors, Membership Directors.

Worthy Brothers – Let's Go!

*Always Forward, Never Go Back!*

*James Aitchison and Anthony DeBellis*

Co-Architects of the 9 Days for Life / Novena for Life  
4<sup>th</sup> Degree, Knights of Columbus