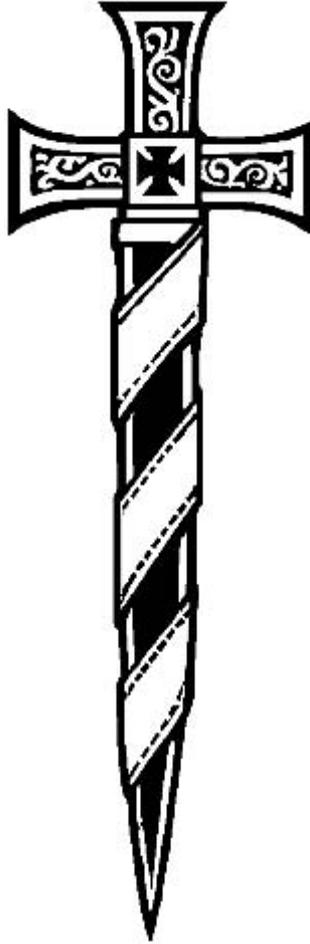


HOW TO LAUNCH THE EUCHARISTIC CRUSADE IN YOUR PARISH





How to Launch the Eucharistic Crusade In Your Parish
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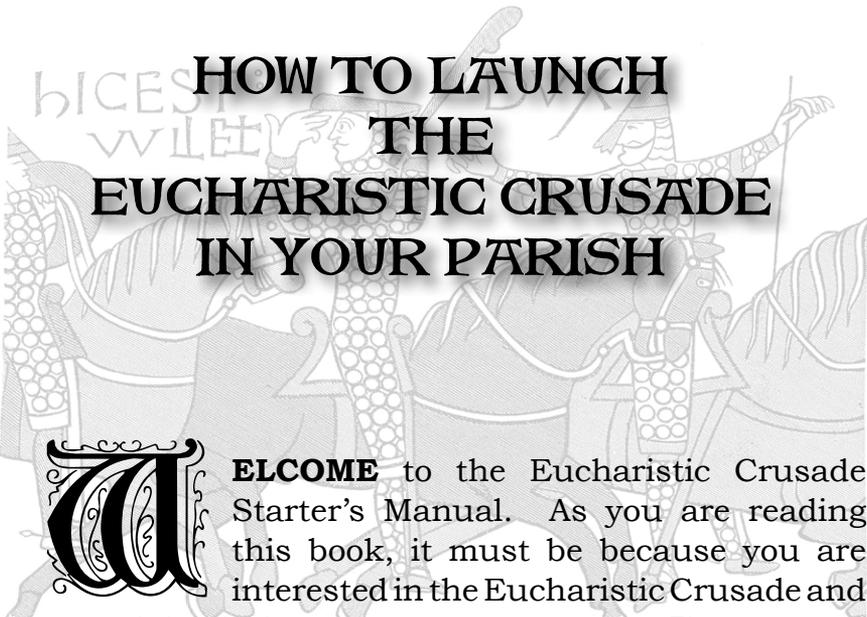


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HOW TO LAUNCH THE EUCHARISTIC CRUSADE IN YOUR PARISH

WELCOME to the Eucharistic Crusade Starter's Manual. As you are reading this book, it must be because you are interested in the Eucharistic Crusade and the possibility of having it in your parish. This manual will help you understand the kind of work entailed in running the Eucharistic Crusade, and to discern what steps to take to get the Eucharistic Crusade up-and-running in your parish.

Basic Mechanics

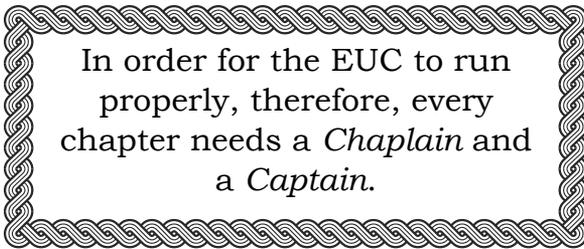
The Eucharistic Crusade (EUC) is fundamentally a union of children led by a priest to routinely perform acts of virtue and devotion. The children keep track of their works on a special "Treasure Sheet" which they submit to their Chaplain at the end of every month. At the District level, the EUC is a union of EUC chapters headed by a District Chaplain who coordinates all the chapters and directs them to a common goal.

The Chaplain and the Captain

In every parish that hosts the EUC, there is a *Chaplain* - a priest who is head of the chapter and leads

the Crusaders - without the priest there is no chapter. Usually the Chaplain appoints a helper, who receives the title of *Captain*. The Captain is primarily Father's EUC secretary, but may also assist in any other EUC-related function that may arise. In larger chapters, the Captain also has certain of the older Crusaders to assist in collecting and calculating the Treasure Sheets.

The Chaplain is responsible for the spirit and morale of his Crusaders. It is his words that keeps them in the spiritual mindset that they are REALLY doing a work for Our Lord and Lady. If the Chaplain gives little attention, usually the chapter is lukewarm to mediocre; if the Chaplain gives them his heart, the virtues of the Crusaders will lift the entire parish. The Chaplain also plans the enrollment and promotion ceremonies for the Crusaders.



The Captain is in charge of all the “practical” aspects. The Captain collects the treasure sheets every month, adds them up and sends the tallies to the District EUC Chaplain. The Captain also keeps track of how many members there are, what their ranks are, and watches to see if the time approaches for any of them to be promoted. The Captain figures Hostia subscriptions, makes sure they are renewed from year to year, and engages in the works necessary to purchase supplies in time for ceremonies.

Together, the Chaplain and Captain will host, at least once or twice a month, the EUC meeting where the Chaplain will give an inspirational talk, and the Captain may provide some games and refreshments, and perhaps organize some events. These meetings should require the attendance of every Crusader who is able to attend. In the case of very large chapters, the meetings should be divided into an older and younger group.

Crusaders

The children may join the EUC after they have received their First Holy Communion, and remain in the Crusade until their 16th birthday (whence they move on to more advanced apostolates). They must be made to understand that they are promising to fulfill a commitment (please see the EUC Handbook for details), and be willing to do the work. They are free to leave at any time as long as they inform their Chaplain. We only want children who are willing and able and desirous of doing the work. The EUC should never become a convention or a “school activity”, and should always be open to all children.

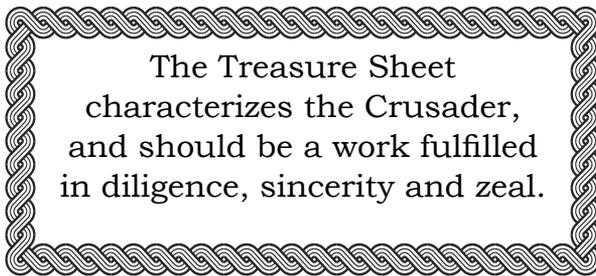
Children begin as Postulants, where for several months they labour like a Crusader and fill out their Treasure Sheets in order to prove themselves. If they perform well, and are willing, they may be formally enrolled via ceremony to the rank of Page.

Crusaders move through the three ranks of: Page, Crusader, and Knight or Handmaid (see the EUC Handbook for details) based on how well they perform their charge. Good Crusaders move at a reasonable speed, excellent Crusaders move quickly,

and poor Crusaders may remain a Page even till their 16th birthday! Children are promoted according to performance and spirit, not according to age.

Treasure Sheets

The Treasure Sheet is the work par excellence of the Crusader. It is the summary of all his works. The Treasure Sheet must always be turned in by the Crusader (not his parents!), and it may be by hand or mail or by a special Crusader Deposit Box which some Captains keep in an accessible place. The Crusader should fill out his Treasure Sheet every evening, faithfully recording all his good works. They should be taught to do this as



part of a daily examination of conscience. Turning in the Treasure Sheet teaches the Crusader responsibility and honesty. This work is so important, that if the Crusader does not turn in their Treasure Sheet for two months in a row, they are to be put on probation. If they fail their probation they are to be released from the Crusade. This keeps our Crusade pure and elite.

Hostia Magazine

The *Hostia* magazine is the mainstay of the Crusade - the thing that every Crusader in the District shares with every other Crusader. The *Hostia* is a

monthly publication which is mailed directly to the Captain who distributes it. The Hostia contains stories, games, meditations and prayers, as well as news about the various chapters, the *Monthly Intention*, and contests. All of these things are resources which the chapter leaders may exploit to the benefit of the members. Every Crusader family must receive the *Hostia*; however, if there are many Crusaders in the same family, the District EUC Headquarters also distributes the *Crusader Games*, which is a photocopy-ready pamphlet of the Crusader Games section from the *Hostia*. This way, a Crusader family with 5 members would get one *Hostia* and five *Crusader Games* pamphlets.



When a chapter orders *Hostia* subscriptions, the Chaplain and Captain both receive their copy for free.

Subscriptions are for 12 issues, and the rate is about \$20.00 per year, depending on how many you order. All costs of the Crusade are the business of the chapter, who may, with Father's permission, pay for it by parish funds, donations, solicitations, bake sales, etc. To the Crusader and their family there is no formal cost.

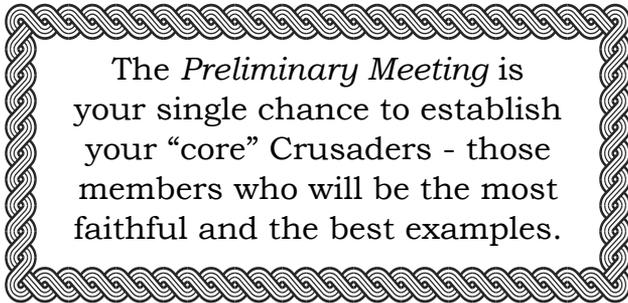
How To Begin

The first thing that is necessary is that the pastor of the chapel be willing to have the EUC in his parish.

Next, there must be a priest willing to be the Chaplain. Then the Chaplain should appoint a capable Captain to assist him. Once the Chaplain and Captain understand the details of the EUC (that is, have read the EUC Handbook!), you are ready to recruit.

The Preliminary Meeting

A meeting of all the children of the parish should be planned. Several weeks (or even months) before this meeting, the Captain should draw up some promotional works, such as pamphlets and posters, as well as advertisements in the Sunday bulletin. Father Chaplain



should mention it in his sermons, teachers should mention it in their classrooms. The more you talk it up, the more the children and parents will be interested in that preliminary meeting. You want to have as many people as possible to attend your preliminary meeting.

The Preliminary Meeting should be so attractive and so well-planned that the parents all positively WANT their children in the new Eucharistic Crusade. The children should all become so inspired and so fired up that they would pledge their lives to you. In fact, they will be pledging a significant portion of their lives, so this meeting will set the scene for your successful Crusade.

At the end of the meeting, most of the children, as well as the parents should prove willing and interested, and so you should take down their names and information and send them away with a date for their first real EUC meeting where you announce your plan to accept the children as Postulants. You should also send everybody home with pamphlets such as *The Rebirth of the Eucharistic Crusade*, and *What is the Eucharistic Crusade?* - both pamphlets which you can acquire from the District EUC Headquarters. Finally, any parties who weren't sure should be invited to think about things and get back to you before the first meeting.

The First Eucharistic Crusade Meeting

This meeting should be well-planned, because it is here that you are going to create your "backbone" Crusaders - those Crusaders who are going to stick with you through the coming times. These are going to be your core crew who will set the example for the newcomers and assist you in instilling that all-important Crusading spirit. Any time and energy you spend on this crew is a prize investment which you won't have any other chance to attain later.

At this meeting, the Chaplain will instruct the children on the ins-and-outs of the Eucharistic Crusade and express its spirit so clearly that the children can't keep in their seats for the want of desire to do something for Our Lord. The first Treasure Sheets will be distributed, as well as the first Hostia Magazines. The Chaplain will solemnly explain how to use the Treasure Sheets, what becomes of their Treasure and their works, and other sundry details of Crusading (please read the EUC Handbook!). He will explain that they are now on a mission to "prove themselves worthy," and after the 2

(or 3 or 4 - it can vary) month probationary test period is over, they will become formal Pages in the Eucharistic Crusade. They should understand that they do not have to proceed if they choose not to, but that great honour and grace awaits them if they choose to go on.



The Captain may then explain to the children the system of Treasure Sheets - how and when to turn them in, as well as how and when to get their next Hostia Magazine.

At the end of this first meeting, the Captain should have a count of the new Postulants as well as a count of how many Hostia subscriptions to order from District EUC Headquarters. This information should be communicated to the District Chaplain.

The First Meeting should, as with all EUC meetings, end with several hymns and a blessing. And, well, the Eucharistic Crusade is now in place! In the name of God, proceed well and win much honour for Our Divine Lord and Our Blessed Lady!

What Next?

Well! Now that you have your EUC Chapter formally established and have accepted your first postulants, you need to do two things. First, you should monitor your postulants to see how they are doing, and second, you should plan for the first Engagement Ceremonies to be held in two or three months (after their probationary period has elapsed). For this, there must be enough Ceremonials for all the chapter members to have a copy during the ceremony: one for the Chaplain, one for the Captain, and one for each of the Crusaders. You also need enough Page pins to supply for your new recruits.

In order for any EUC chapter to run well, there must needs be at the least, one or two meetings with all the Crusaders every month. These meetings are your chance to assure that your Crusaders are working hard and are in good spirit. It is a “regrouping” and “fortification” time. If you neglect these meetings your chapter will be, at the very best mediocre or lukewarm.

Thus, you should establish a “Chapter Hall” where all of your meetings will be held. The room should be decorated appropriately with posters and images to attract the imagination of your warriors.

Lastly, once you have gotten your first Pages, you should decide on a chapter title and develop a custom coat-of-arms to use on your banners and bulletin boards. Each Title and Coat-of-Arms must be unique, so you must consult with the District EUC Chaplain to make sure your Title and Design are not already used by another chapter.

Now you are ready! Proceed with Courage!

EUC Resources

At the District EUC Headquarters we have many resources available for your use. Only the Chaplain or Captain may request or order these resources. Most of them are free, but some of them must be purchased. Here we will give you a short catalogue.

EUC Newsletter. This is a monthly newsletter for Chaplains and Captains with notes, ideas and announcements. A printed copy ships to the Captain with every package of Hostias.

Eucharistic Crusade Handbook. This book is absolutely required reading for both the Chaplain and the Captain, as well as for any other recruited helpers. It contains all the information and rules necessary for running and maintaining the Eucharistic Crusade.

What is the Eucharistic Crusade? The EUC's introductory pamphlet. Make sure all of your parents have a copy of this important pamphlet. Print lots of these and make them available at your fund-raisers. It not only makes the EUC more well known and understood, but may also win you a benefactor.

The Rebirth of the Eucharistic Crusade. An inspirational pamphlet written by those Society priests who first re-instituted the EUC in the Society of Saint Pius X. It is a brief history full of zeal and purpose. This is another pamphlet to have handy at your fund-raiding table.

Eucharistic Crusade Ceremonial. The rites of enrollment and promotion for the different ranks of the Crusaders. It also has the annual Renewal of Consecration Prayer. This booklet is necessary to every chapter. Make sure

to buy a stock of them for your chapter's reuse.

EUC Certificates. Whenever a child becomes a Page or is promoted to Crusader, Knight or Handmaid, they receive a special colour certificate to commemorate the event.

The Hostia Magazine. This is THE magazine of the Eucharistic Crusade. Written expressly for the Crusaders themselves, it is chocked full of stories, games, meditations, tips, contest and pictures. Current issues are around two dollars per copy and back issues are a dollar a peice.

Treasure Sheet Template. This is a single page 8 1/2 x 11 inch sheet of paper printed front to back with two Treasure Sheets in print format. It is intended to be photocopied, cut and distributed.

EUC Supply Sheet. A small catalogue of items for sale by the EUC District Headquarters, along with their current pricing and order form.

TreasureCalc. This is a lightweight computer program for Windows-based computers (will work on Linux if Wine is installed), which enables you to quickly tally up Treasure Sheet totals. You can get it at <http://www.sspxusa.org/euc/treasurecalc.aspx>

Eucharistic Crusade Portal. Essentially a website for our EUC leaders only, these webpages have most of the resources listed above in digital format which you can simply download and print for free. There is also a catalogue of old Hostias in PDF format, as well as back-issues of the EUC Newsletter and the Crusader Games. You need a special account from the District EUC Chaplain before you can log in.

Checklist

1. Father Pastor willing to have EUC in his chapel.
2. Chaplain in place.
3. Captain appointed, contact information delivered to the District EUC Chaplain.
4. Announcements, posters, advertisements prepared a month ahead of time, along with date of Preliminary Meeting.
5. Preliminary Meeting Held. First Postulants accepted, Treasure Sheets distributed and First Meeting Announced.
6. Chapter Hall designated. (Decoration of this important place will be an ongoing event for the members, but you should have a few basics already in order before the First Meeting).
7. First EUC Meeting held. Member Count collected and sent to District EUC Chaplain along with a request for Hostia subscriptions.
8. Supplies ordered for the upcoming first Engagement Ceremony. (Ceremonials and Page pins)
9. After the Probationary Period of the Postulants has elapsed, and they prove worthy, the First Engagement Ceremony may be held. The Ceremonial has all the details.
10. You now have a running, active Eucharistic Crusade chapter!



