



Knights of Columbus – Mississippi Jurisdiction Award Entry Form – Best Council of the Year

Instructions:

Complete the following areas and submit it to the State Programs Chairman before March 31 of each state year. Additional paper may be used if space is not sufficient. You may also attach photographs, newspaper clippings, and letters of accommodation or other special items for consideration of your council.

Council Name: Oxford St John's Council Number: 10901 Council Size: Large

Explain why your council should be selected as this year's Best Council of the Year:

This council has been an important auxiliary to its Parish's life. Its program has excelled in charity to the council's Parish and community while providing the opportunity for unity and fraternity for its members and families. This council should be considered for the best council award.

The Parish with which this council is affiliated has recently finished the construction of a new building for worship and a new multi-purpose building. The council held multiple fundraisers to help raise money to alleviate the Parish's construction debt. To raise money, members of the council parked cars on a vacant lot for Ole Miss football games and held Lenten Fish Fries every Friday during Lent. These two fundraisers produced over \$55,000 income for the Parish's building construction fund. The council used some of the money raised from this event to purchase chalices, patens and hymnals for the Parish. The council also routinely cleaned and maintained Parish facility's new kitchen.

The council's programs benefited the life of the Parish with which it is affiliated. Members of the council served as Eucharist Ministers, Lectors, Ushers and members of the choir for the weekend Masses. Several members of our council distributed Communion to shut-ins, sick and elderly Parishioners who were living at local nursing homes or retirement communities. Our council is represented on our Parish's finance council, Parish council and liturgical ministry. Our members also were very active in our Parish's RCIA and Adult Faith Formation programs. Members of our council organized and cooked food for the Parish's time and talent drive. Members of our council served as team leaders for Parish's Why Catholic? program. The council cooked a dinner for the Parish's Why Catholic? program's social. Members of our council served as leaders for a Monday morning Men's Prayer Group and Sunday morning Catholicism Study. Members of our council served as leaders and worked the Parish's Draw Down Benefit. The council purchased an umbrella stand and a coat rack for the Parish's church building. Members of our council organized and took the photos for the Parish's photo directory.

The council was also active in the spiritual aspects of the Parish as well. The council also held a Marian Hour of Prayer service, held a Silver Rose of our Lady of Guadalupe service and led the Parish's Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament service on Holy Thursday. The council also sponsored a Red Mass for the Saint Thomas More Catholic Legal Society. The council gave Rosaries to the children receiving their First Communions. The council provided doughnuts or beignets between the Sunday morning Masses. The council also cooked breakfast once a month as fundraisers for various causes in the Parish or community. The council also helped support Seminarians by participating in the RSVP program and donating to the Bishop Gerow fund.

Submitted By: Jacob Eftink Position: Chancellor

(Attach additional pages as needed)



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Council Name: Oxford St John's Council Number: 10901 Council Size: Large

Explain why your council should be selected as this year's Best Council of the Year:

The council did several programs aimed at the younger population of their Parish. Members coached youth soccer, softball and basketball teams. A member of our council served as a leader for a local Cub Scout troop and encouraged local Cub Scouts to earn their Emblems of Faith and Porvuli Dei badges. Members of the council served as Sunday school teachers for the youth of the Parish. The council also cooked food for the Parish's hayride in the fall and cooked dinner for the Parish's youth group meeting. The council also cooked pancakes for a youth fundraiser. The council sponsored a Parish Marti Gras party which helped to fund the Parish's youth to attend the Steubenville, Missouri youth retreat. The council co-sponsored the sale of Keep Christ in Christmas cards for fundraisers to fund the youth of our Parish to attend the Steubenville Mid America retreat this summer. The council honored Parish's Alter servers with a Christmas card containing a coupon for a free catfish dinner during Lent.

The council was also vibrant in their community. Members of the council held leadership roles at the local university. In August when students of a local university moved into their dormitories, members of the council sat at tables and provided them water. That weekend, other members of the council distributed Tootsie Rolls to raise \$1,772 for the Knights of Columbus Foundation and the Scott Center, a local school for mentally handicapped children. The council also provided winter coats for students at the Scott Center. Our council also donated money to the Clayton Stevens fund, a local fund for community assistance. A member of the council was active in the Parish's social concerns committee. The council also participated in a "Coats for Kids" program which provided thirty coats to students at Lafayette County and Oxford middle school.

The council donated fish dinners to participants in the Parish's blood drive and to the local fire department. The council cooked food and donated supplies once a month to help with a local More-than-a-Meal program. The council donated both time and supplies to a local food pantry. Several members of this council spoke at the local university's Catholic Student Association's meetings and cooked spaghetti for local college students after the student Mass. The night before Thanksgiving, our council held a dinner for local international college students and our local Parish. The council also donated some turkey dinners to some low income families. During Advent our council gave \$1000 worth of Wal Mart gift cards to several needy families in our Parish. A member of this council also volunteered to participate in the Mississippi Knights of Columbus Second Responders program.

Submitted By: Jacob Eftink Position: Chancellor

(Attach additional pages as needed)



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Explain why your council should be selected as this year's Best Council of the Year:

A member of our council and his spouse served on the local Pro-Life board of directors. The council also purchased an advertisement for a local SaveALife sponsored dinner. Members also were active in organizing and working this dinner. The council also sponsored a youth fundraiser for this SaveALife organization. Members of this council also volunteered at the local SaveALife center. The council donated money to the Knights of Columbus "Ultrasound Initiative" program. Members of our council helped renovate a local Pregnancy Test Center.

Members of this council participated in End Alzheimer's 5K run walk and Buddy Walk for Down Syndrome as well as the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge. The council participated in "Traveling Baby Basinette" program for local Pregnancy Test Center. Members of the council drove a fellow Parishoner daily to Memphis, Tennessee to receive cancer treatment.

The council also took time to function as a fraternity through prayer and fellowship. The council prayed Rosary before every business meeting and before the early Sunday morning Masses. They also conducted a Marion Hour of Prayer service. They recognized the mothers of their Parish by distributing roses to them on Mother's Day. The council also recognized the widows of form members by giving them a Christmas Basket of Cheer.

The council itself was able add some solid new Knights too our Order's rank. The council initiated the candidates with their certified first degree team and have members certified on a second and third degree team. Members hosted poker knights as a membership recruiting drive. Each Brother Knight that enters our council is mentored by one of the council's officers. The council also honored several deceased Brother Knights this year. The council also held several socials in a member's condo which was attended by most members of the council and their spouses. The council did a deer hunt raffle fundraiser which raised \$2,300 for council funds.

The council had a productive year in charity, unity and fraternity. It has benefited the Parish in which it is affiliated and its members and their families. Please consider this council for the best council award.

Submitted By: Jacob Eftink Position: Chancellor

(Attach additional pages as needed)