



THIS REPORTING FORM MUST BE COMPLETED BY EACH COUNCIL AND FORWARDED TO THE STATE COUNCIL.
(A SEPARATE REPORTING FORM SHOULD BE COMPLETED FOR EACH PROGRAM CATEGORY.)

CATEGORY (MARK ONE): **CHURCH** **FAMILY**
 COMMUNITY **CULTURE OF LIFE**
 COUNCIL **YOUTH**

FROM: GRAND KNIGHT: John Piazza **TELEPHONE NUMBER:** 601-218-3318
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COUNCIL NAME Vicksburg **NUMBER:** 898
LOCATION: Vicksburg MS
(TOWN OR CITY) (STATE OR PROVINCE)

Project Title: Six Dates for Catholic Couples
Date Project Conducted: 02/01/2017

Purpose of Activity: (In the space provided below, describe in one sentence the purpose of this activity. This section must be completed.)
The purpose of this activity was to provide a platform for married couples to reconnect, relearn communications skills and help the couple remember why they got married

Number of council members participating in project: 12
Percentage of council members participating in project: 0 %
Number of man hours expended in project: 12

Chairman's Name: Charles Hahn **Telephone Number:** 601-831-1057
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(continued on reverse)

MAIL ORIGINAL TO: State Deputy or State Program Director
COPY TO: Council File
Available in electronic format at www.kofc.org

Describe project in detail. Use additional paper if necessary. Supplementary material may be submitted along with the nomination. Accompanying materials can include letters, testimonials, news clippings, photographs, pamphlets, etc. Do not submit tapes, videocassettes, DVD'S, display materials, films, etc., as they will not be considered in judging the nomination.

The council decided in late summer 2016 to sponsor a marriage enrichment program for the parishes it served. The parish priests all agreed that this was a needed program in the area and could be very beneficial to strengthening the domestic church. The chairman first contacted the diocesan office and learned that it had no programs available. The chairman then searched for potential programs on the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops website. The Six Dates program was selected because it covered several topics to help couples reconnect in their marriages, required a minimal time commitment from the participants (approximately 30 minutes per meeting), and looked like it would be fun for the participants. It also appeared to require minimal training for a facilitator and minimal support from parish priests. It also looked to be fairly inexpensive for the council so that the council would be able to provide the program freely to the participants. This program was discussed with each of the three parish priests to determine the suitability of the program and to obtain their support for the program. The initial meeting was held on February 1st at the council home. Fourteen couples attended that first session. The couples viewed a video to help them remember their own marriage story from the time of their meeting to the current time. A short handout with items to discuss was provided to the couples as well as an accompanying book titled "Happy Together - The Catholic Blueprint for a Loving Marriage" by John Bosio. The couples were directed to read one of the chapters from the book, then proceed on their date. The only instructions provided to the couples regarding their dates, was that they were only to discuss the items in the handout and not bring up any other issues in their marriages, such as children or finances. The couples meet weekly at the council home to view another video and receive another handout prior to departing for another date. The couples were asked to read a portion of the book prior to each meeting.

As mentioned the topic for the first date was "Once upon a time ...", the topic for the second date was "Marriage is ...", other topics include "What keeps you together?", "What about me?", "The Blueprint of Love", and "Where do I find the courage?". Between eight and fifteen couples attended each week, many commenting on the fun they had had the week before. A suggestion has been made to have a group gathering at the end.

ATTEST: _____
(State Deputy)

Signed:  _____
(Grand Knight)

DO NOT SUBMIT THIS REPORT FORM TO SUPREME COUNCIL

**ENTRY MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE STATE COUNCIL
TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE COMPETITION**

For more information on the Service Program Awards go to www.kofc.org/service and click on the left-hand "Council" link.



Participants viewing the video



Program participants watching the video



Program Video