

FAMILY of the YEAR



Entry Form

Jurisdiction: Mississippi

Date: March 29, 2018

Instructions

Local Councils: To enter your "Family of the Year" into state/provincial competition, complete this form and forward it to the state deputy. Additional paper may be used if space allocated is not sufficient. Photographs, news clippings, letters of commendation or other special exhibits may be included. **Note: individual jurisdictions set their own deadlines for state/provincial competitions, so watch for deadline dates or contact the state deputy.**

State Council: Select one entry to honor as state/provincial "Family of the Year." Submit that entry form, with the state deputy's signature and all collateral material, to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Services by **June** for consideration in the International "Family of the Year" competition.

A. Personal Data

Member's Name: Scottie R. Cuevas

03127162

Membership Number

Wife's Name: April

Children/Ages:

Children/Ages:

Amanda Vinnedge/32

Joshua Cuevas/29

Meghan D'Angelo/27

Home Address: 10266 Lacey Niolet Road Pass Christian, MS 39571

Home Telephone: 228-860-0156

Business Telephone: 228-860-0156

Parish: Most Holy Trinity

Pastor: Father Paddy Mockler

Address: 9062 Kiln-Delisle Road Pass Christian, MS 39571

Telephone: 228-255-1294

B. Knights of Columbus Data

Family nominated by Council 11995
(Number)

Pass Christian, MS

(Location)

For how many years has husband/father been a member of the Knights of Columbus?

25 years

Positions (offices/program directorships/chairmanships/committee assignments) held:

Fund-Raising Chairman, Community Chairman, Youth Chairman, Pro-Life Chairman, Church Chairman, Council Chairman, Family Chairman, Program Director, Admissions Committee, Retention Committee, Lenten Fish Fry Coordinator, Bingo Concessions Coordinator, Outside Guard, Inside Guard, Warden, Advocate, Treasurer, Recorder, Chancellor, Deputy Grand Knight

Explain the entire family's involvement within the Knights of Columbus:

See attached

FAMILY
of the
YEAR

C. Family Involvement

Explain the entire family's involvement within the Church:

See attached



Explain the entire family's involvement within the community:

See attached

Explain why this family was chosen as the "model" family in your jurisdiction. Why does this family deserve the distinction of being named "Knights of Columbus Family of the Year"?

See attached

For State Council Use Only:

This family has been chosen state/provincial "Family of the Year."

Attest: _____
(State Deputy)

NOTE: Submit winning entry to Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Services, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510-3326.
All entries must reach the Supreme Council office by June 10 to qualify.

Explain the Entire family's involvement within the Knights of Columbus:

This family of 5 is very active within the Knights of Columbus. He has held almost every position within the Council. He is a charter member of the council and has been the Community Chairman, Youth Chairman, Pro-Life Chairman, Church Chairman, Community Chairman, Program Director, Outside Guard, Inside Guard, warden, Advocate, Treasurer, Recorder, Chancellor, and Deputy Grand Knight. He currently serves as the Fund-Raising Chairman, Lenten fish Fry Coordinator, Bingo concessions Coordinator, and Retention Committee Chairman. She is also a charter member and is past Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary and is currently serving as the Lenten Fish Fry Coordinator, Bingo Concessions Coordinator and President of the Ladies' Auxiliary. Their son is also a member of the Knights of Columbus. They have performed a number of vital functions for our Council. They are instrumental in finding locations and setting up for our annual Christmas parties. They research local restaurants for quality of food and ability to handle a large group of people. Once a site is selected, they coordinate the setup and decorations with the venue and make sure space is available for our Dirty Santa Gift Exchange and other games. They also ensure all members are welcomed and they have an enjoyable evening. They are beacons for our fund-raising activities as well. They instigated and coordinate our two largest fund-raisers – the Lenten Fish Fry and Bingo Concessions. They assisted with the Keep Christ in Christmas card sales which helped us raise over \$1,800 in the past three years for the Bishop Gerow Fund. They were selected as our Family of the Month for January, 2018 for their actions!

He always volunteers to help set up, cook, and clean up after our annual Mother's Day Breakfast – a tradition going on eleven years now and she started up the Father's Day Meal three years ago. Both programs have been extremely successful and presented to a well-deserving group of people – parents! They are instrumental in the success of the Lenten Fish Fry program. They coordinate the food with our local grocery, coordinate cooking and serving teams, prepare the fish, serve a delicious meal, clean up afterwards and then complete an inventory to determine the amount of food sold and the profit made from the council's efforts. Their efforts are appreciated, as the Parish members get to enjoy a quality Lenten meal and fantastic fellowship, not to mention helping the organizations raise approximately \$15,000 over the past four years.

Last year, they approached their respective organizations about taking over the bingo concessions program at the church. The group currently running the program no longer wished to continue running the concessions due to failing health. They worked behind the scenes for two months to encourage enough members to participate so their task would not be so arduous. They created seven five-person teams, for a total of 35 people that would work about 4 hours once every seven weeks. This made it possible to efficiently run the program without everyone getting burned out. They plan weekly meals and have standard items on the menu. They set up the kitchen EVERY WEEK to make sure things are easy as possible for the workers. They complete a weekly inventory to ensure the kitchen is stocked. Altogether, they spend on average 10 hours a week coordinating the concessions. Their efforts have helped the organizations raise approximately \$12,000 in our first year of running bingo concessions!

He volunteered to activate and be the Retention Committee Chairman. This program was inactive for a number of years and their work was treacherous. Most of the inactive members felt as if they had lost touch with the council and were neglected. These sensitive subjects have to be dealt with in a sensitive and respectful manner. He and his team of three other members of the committee have worked tirelessly to explain our condolences and offered sincere apologies to those members and requested the Grand Knight to contact each member personally as well. Their efforts have encouraged 15 members to return to the fraternity. This reduced the number of inactive members from 49 to 34 and they continue to work diligently with the other inactive members.

She led the Ladies Auxiliary to start a new program called Backpack Buddies. This program helps provide healthy meals/snacks for children who may not have access to quality food/snacks during the weekend. This program is coordinated through the local elementary school systems. They provide over \$200 of items each week towards his program. She has helped pick out the new design, helped their members get appropriate sizes and ordered the new shirts. This action was completed so their shirts would reflect the new name of our organization – Most Holy Trinity – which was changed last year. They also purchased the binders for our annual scrapbook projects which capture the history of our organizations events throughout the year.

They assist with the annual "Tootsie Roll Drive", helping the Council raise over \$2,000 over the past four years for the South Mississippi Regional Center. They take active roles in our Corporate Masses every quarter, making sure funds are

collected and the gifts are prepared for the Mass. They partake in the Corporate Communion with our families and assist with awards presentations during Mass.

Explain the entire family's involvement within the Church:

This family participates in the life of the Parish by serving in a number of areas. He is on the Pastoral Council and helps coordinate activities between the various church organizations and the Parish. Both are members of the Bereavement Committee and help set up for funerals and provide finger foods after the end of Funeral Masses. They serve as Extra-Ordinary Ministers, providing the Body and Blood of Christ to those attending Mass and take communion weekly to our local elderly and shut-ins. Both assisted with serving our youth as CCD teachers and CYO leaders.

They were integral players in the formation of our Parish when three smaller parishes were combined into one parish in 2011. All three parish representatives brought their own ideas of how the new parish should be formed. Even though they had strong beliefs as well, they helped form the integration committee and listened to everyone and guided the parish to a consensus of how the church would be built and how the three churches would come together as one body. His guidance was fundamental in helping the members from the three combining parishes interlace, creating a harmonious body in our new Parish.

They are weekly supporters of the Parish Bingo program which has raised over \$200,000 in the past four years for the new building fund. Not only do they donate their time, but they also donate monetarily as well. They make monthly donations to the Right to Life organizations to support the Unborn and reversing Roe V Wade. They help keep the church clean as well. Every week, they help clean the parish to ensure it is presentable for Mass. While working in the kitchen, they noticed that the circuit breakers would keep popping every time more than four items were plugged into the outlets. They worked with a local electrician to provide an estimate for parts and labor to fix the issue. After the estimate of \$900 was received, they worked with the parish Building Committee to concur with the suggested plan and requested funds from the Knights of Columbus to pay for the upgrade to the electrical system. Now that the electrical upgrade has been completed, the circuit breakers no longer trip and food preparation is not interrupted.

She created and supported a Valentine's Day coloring contest sponsored by the Ladies' Auxiliary. They selected and presented prizes to each CCD class member.

Explain the entire family's involvement within the Community:

Their dedication to our community is outstanding. They spend quality time visiting the elderly in their homes and when they are in the hospital. If and when the time comes, they spend times consoling a grieving family and are present during their wakes and Funeral Masses. They work hard with the local CYO to help raise funds and obtain jackets and coats during their annual Coat Drive for the homeless on the Gulf coast. She coordinate the Backpack Buddies program with the local elementary schools to ensure needy children have some quality food/snacks during the weekends. They are both member of the West Harrison County Volunteer Fire Department, protecting their neighbors' properties. They volunteer with the State Fire Marshall's office to train local groups and schools on how to best protect themselves thru fire prevention and reaction if a fire occurs. They are also charter members of the local girls' league for sports. They encourage young ladies to play baseball, softball, basketball, and soccer. Playing teams sports helps build long-lasting friendships and teaches children how to work with a group.

When a fellow Knight suffered an injury at home that left him partially paralyzed, they immediately offered their support. He kept the Council abreast of his situation and when monetary support was needed. After three months of the Council providing approximately \$800 in support, sobering news was delivered to the council. Due to an unfortunate timing issue, the Knight has just switched jobs a month or so prior to the accident, which left him unqualified for long-term care or for disability insurance. They rallied the council and Ladies' Auxiliary to hold a benefit dinner/dance to raise funds to help reduce his debt. They immediately took to coordinating the event. Using their connections within the community, they secured a large hall to hold the dinner/dance, persuaded a local band to play the event for free, convinced a professional cooking team to create a menu and cook it at NO CHARGE, organized a huge cache of items for a silent auction, created advertisement signs and tickets, and coordinated with a locally owned market to provide the food at-cost. They worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the event and predicted that we would be able to raise approximately \$10,000. At the end of the evening, it was announced that almost \$14,000 was raised! What an amazing feat! Then the owner of market that provided the food announced that he was donating the cost of the food for the event to help his friend - that was a gift of over \$5,000! When the doors were finally closed and

everything tallied, the event raised just under \$20,000! Everyone was overwhelmed at the support of our community. They have proven time and time again their love for community, neighbors, and friends.

He has an infectious passion to serve his community. While talking with a group of friends, one suggested that he should run for the State Senate, as he had a number of great ideas on how to improve the community. Understanding that this type of commitment would affect his entire family, they discussed the idea for weeks. After they decided to commit, he entered the race and was elected. He would serve two terms in the Senate and served on the following committees: Economic Development and Tourism; Fees, Salaries, and Administration; Highways and Transportation; Judiciary Division A; Ports and Marine Resources and Wildlife; and Fisheries and Parks.

Explain why this family was chosen as the “model” family in your jurisdiction. Why does this family deserve the distinction of being named “Knights of Columbus Family of the Year”?

This family is an unassuming pillar in our community and the Knights of Columbus. They represent a model of what a Knight of Columbus member and family should strive to emulate – the constant practice of charity. They are either setting up or attending every function the Knights of Columbus attends or are a part of. They are not overly wealthy in cash, but their hearts are overflowing with love for each other and their fellow man. They understand, practice, and teach their children the awesome responsibility of charity in their everyday lives. From working with the Knights of Columbus, to their involvement in the Parish, to their actions within the community at large, they demonstrate that charity starts at home and should be a part of our lives. When they see a need, they do not hesitate to help and, as with all persons with a charitable mindset, they do not look for compensation or recognition. This family is the epitome of what a Family of the Knights of Columbus should be – charitable, unifying, fraternal, and patriotic: exactly what Father McGivney envisioned when he formed the Knights of Columbus.