

State Council Program Awards

Entry Form

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): Faith Family Community Life



COUNCIL INFORMATION:

1 Council Number: 8848 Total Council Members: 90
Grand Knight: Calvin Dotson E-Mail: lewdotson@yahoo.com

PROGRAM INFORMATION (complete all sections):

2 Program Title: Men's Retreat Program Date: 11/18/2022

Participation: $\frac{20}{\text{Members}} + \frac{20}{\text{Non Members}} = \frac{40}{\text{Total Participants}}$ $\frac{40}{\text{Total Participants}} \times \frac{48}{\text{Hours}} = \frac{1920}{\text{Total Volunteer Hours}}$

Program Planning: $\frac{300}{\text{Costs}}$ & $\frac{800}{\text{Time}}$ Members Recruited: 0 Donations: 0
Local Currency

3 Describe program 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.

3a) In the space provided below, briefly describe the purpose and goals of this program. This section must be completed.

To provide a retreat for the men of our community to get together to worship and to reset. The retreat is located in Cullman Alabama at a monastery. This backdrop makes for a wonderful retreat setting and allows an individual to concentrate on his relationship with God. This past retreat the guest speakers were actually fellow Knights that lead our group in an array of biblical discussing. The attendees were also able to attend the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrement and have Mass. This retreat serves as a highlight for anyone that attends and helps shape their life.

DO NOT SUBMIT THIS REPORT FORM TO SUPREME COUNCIL

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

MAIL ORIGINAL TO: State Deputy or State Program Director

COPY TO: Council File

Available in electronic format at www.kofc.org



(continued on reverse)

3b) Whom does this program benefit?

Not only does it benefit the men who attend but their families, Parish and the entire community. The entire Parish is benefitted by the retreat as it assists in making better men of the Parish and we all return home better husbands, fathers, sons, siblings, whatever we might be, for having attended.

3c) What problem or need did this program resolve?

Each person that attends is facing different hardships. This allows for a time of worship and clarity on how to deal with those hardships. It slows life down and allows each participant to worship intensely.

3d) Why did the council select this program?

In 1992, a goal of the new Grand Knight was to create and sponsor a retreat for the council members. There had never been a retreat for men, ever, in the Parish. The first order of business with the Grand Knight and the church committee chairman was to find a retreat master and a place to host the retreat. We chose St Bernard's Abbey in Cullman, AL because of member's close ties and recommendation. Due to his national work, the church committee chairman found a Priest out of Baltimore to lead the retreat. A Legionnaires of Christ fellow. The council flew him into Birmingham and he was picked him up. That first retreat had around 15-20 men. It was the first, and only retreat that was "silent" as we weren't allowed to speak to anyone except at meals. This year will mark 30 consecutive years. For the first time since 1992, the church committee chairman is coming back to lead our retreat. The Grand Knight made contact with the few remaining members who were on the first retreat and many are coming for the first time since 1992. This is the single most lasting and defining thing the Grand Knight of 1992 ever did and the credit belongs to the Holy Spirit who convicted me to put this together as my first order of business. The retreats have been a wonderful source of fellowship and encounters with God on a deeply personal level. It has become a transformative event in the lives of many men.

3e) Describe the success of the program:

Each person that attends is facing different hardships. This allows for a time of worship and clarity on how to deal with those hardships. It slows life down and allows each participant to worship intensely. It hasn't been a silent retreat since the first year, but like mentioned above, we all feel like better guys after going and certainly closer to God. This is Retreat we also feel is unique in that it brings together doctors and lawyers beside men who do factory and shift work that might not ever cross paths together on a level playing field and everyone's room is the same. Some of the best religious conversation and even debate many of us have experienced occurred while in the foothills of the Appalachians over in Cullman. It gives many of these men a moment to disconnect and some have even mentioned that during the free-time on Saturday is annually the most at peace they are for the entire year. Spouses have also testified that they love when their husbands go to the retreat because they always return better.

Attest: Guy J. Heying
State Deputy

Signed: Calvin Dotson
Grand Knight

3/7/23
Date