

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.cm

PROGRAM INFORMATION (complete all sections):

2 Program Title: Crosses of the Innocent Program Date: 1/14/2023
Participation: $\frac{20}{\text{Members}} + \frac{1}{\text{Non Members}} = \frac{21}{\text{Total Participants}}$ $\frac{21}{\text{Total Participants}} \times \frac{20}{\text{Hours}} = \frac{420}{\text{Total Volunteer Hours}}$
Program Planning: $\frac{0}{\text{Costs}}$ & $\frac{420}{\text{Time}}$ Members Recruited: 0 Donations: $\frac{0}{\text{Local Currency}}$

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 put out crosses symbolizing how many babies are murdered by abortion each year. St. James is at a prime location where many people in the community can see this and read the banner associated with it. This has had a major impact on the community.

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?

The program benefits the entire community and spreading the message that abortion is not the answer. Women that may have thought of abortion, or themselves have may have had an abortion when younger, have testified to Brother knights that this scene has had a profound impact on their lives. Also, even if this project makes one family think better of their situation and saves an unborn fetus, it is worth our efforts.

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

Benefits the entire community and spreading the message that abortion is not the answer. These crosses were seen from the busiest street in the city. The youth of the Parish participated in this event, so lessons were taught.

3d) Why did the council select this program?

In 1992, two lawyer members of the council were sent all over the country defending those who marched at abortion clinics. On one such trip they saw a small display of crosses near a church. They asked the Grand Knight if the council could do something like that. To get the support of our the Parish Priest, several influential Knights took the Priest to lunch. We outlined what we wanted to do on the front lawn and he immediately approved. That started a 30 consecutive year effort to stand up for the innocen children slaughtered by abortionists. That November 1, the first crosses went up. 680+. That' s how many babies were slaughtered in Mississippi every month. The council has never seen anything that has touched and moved more people than those crosses every January. Over the years verbiage has changed somewhat on the banners for clarity, but the effect hasn't changed. The back story about the making of the crosses...the sheer magnitude of making, painting, and assembling 1400 pieces of wood into those crosses in the dead of winter, is an amazing story by itself.

For the 30th consecutive year, the Tupelo Knights of Columbus, Council 8848 and Assembly 2131, on the front lawn of St. James Catholic Church, displayed hundreds of small crosses that represent the unborn. From the historical record we originally named the project "The Crosses of the Innocent". We' ve changed that a little to add clarity. It's now "The Crosses of the Unborn". Many people helped today, including church youth. We will never know how many lives these crosses have touched, or how many women chose life for their baby after seeing the representation of infant graves. What we do know is that we stand against the horrors of abortion and always will. We also pray for women who made both choices.

3e) Describe the success of the program:

The project illustrates the council's views on abortion to the city. It also involved the youth of the Parish in a prolife project. This project was done in a yard facing one of the busiest streets in north Mississippi, so the council, Parish and their beliefs were widely seen by many people.

Attest: _____
State Deputy

Signed: Calvin Dotson
Grand Knight

3/7/23
Date