

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: 1522 Total Council Members: _____
Grand Knight: Christopher Trapani E-Mail: trapanic@eaganins.com

PROGRAM INFORMATION (complete all sections):

2 Program Title: Novena for the Unborn / March for Life Program Date: Jan 12-20 & Jan 20

Participation: $\frac{20}{\text{Members}} + \frac{400}{\text{Non Members}} = \frac{420}{\text{Total Participants}}$ $\frac{420}{\text{Total Participants}} \times \frac{1.5}{\text{Hours}} = \frac{630}{\text{Total Volunteer Hours}}$

Program Planning: $\frac{0}{\text{Costs}}$ & $\frac{30}{\text{Time}}$ 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.

The purpose of this program is to offer the daily Novena prayers of the council and the parishioners of Our Lady of the Gulf parish asking for God's intervention for the protection of the unborn and for spiritual healing of those who have participated in an abortion. These nine days of prayer culminated in a March for Life through the historic downtown district of Bay St. Louis, Mississippi on 20 January 2023. Its purpose is for pro-life supporters to peacefully gather in great numbers to oppose abortion and to pray in support of pregnant women and their unborn children.

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 Catholics as well as Christian denominations of the local Hancock County community in an active display for protection of life and support for alternatives to abortion. It enables women in child-bearing years and those currently pregnant to learn about local programs and supporting alternatives that are pro-life. The emotional and spiritual scars that parents incur making the decision to kill their unborn child often stays with them for the rest of their lives. A large number of Parish Catholic School Students and our Catholic Home School Community came out and participated in the March through town. Several local businessowners in shops and restaurants to quietly observe the march of our over 400 participants reciting the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

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

Since abortion is still legally available in many states in our nation, the efforts of this project act as a statement of solidarity within the council membership and the parish community that we want abortion to stop and that we continue to seek God's intervention and the intercession of our Blessed Mother to do so. This faith-in-action program provides an annual event that publicly displays Catholic values in support for all life. Life remains a sacred gift from God and from birth to natural death hearts will be converted. The nine days of sustained prayer occurred daily just prior to the beginning of morning Mass from January 12 - 20, 2023 and helped to elevate the awareness that abortion remains a grave sin upon our nation.

3d) Why did the council select this program?

Knight of our council and the church community at OLG parish are very strongly pro-life in our convictions. We believe an urgency exists to take up the struggle within the larger public community to raise awareness of the gravity of the sin of abortion and to lobby political leaders to take the necessary steps to bring legalized abortions to an end in all states in our nation. The Novena and March for Life allows us to take a stand in the streets of our community and outside of our church campus.

3e) Describe the success of the program:

Participation was 400 in the local 2023 March for Life - Faith support programs such as this one have culminated in changing legal precedence that was in place since 22 January 1973. The Novena for the Protection of the Unborn has been well received and supported by the participation of many brother Knights, a large cotillion of our Ladies Auxiliary, students and OLG parishioners carrying 200+ signs provided by our council. The continuous prayers recited for the nine-day Novena sparked discussions among believers of how sacred life is and supporting programs to protect it and pregnant mothers, Additionally, the significant involvement of our Catholic School students, grades 4 - 12, and the Home-schooled families of OLG parish swelled our numbers in our local March for Life held on 20 January 2023. It is estimated that over 400 participated in this year's March, up from last year's participation. Our OLG brother Knight and priest, Fr. James Smith led the marchers in the Divine Mercy Chaplet on the parade route with a megaphone via golf cart. The 4th Degree Assembly, dressed in full regalia, were at the head of the March with a full color guard right behind. The March concluded with all marchers gathered in prayer surrounding the headstone dedicated to the Unborn located on church grounds. Another profound Novena and March for Life in Bay St. Louis.

Attest: _____ Signed: Christopher Trapani 2/8/23
State Deputy Grand Knight Date