



## Knights of Columbus – Mississippi Jurisdiction Award

### Entry Form – Best Council of the Year (Attach additional pages as needed)

**Instructions:** Complete the following areas and submit it to the State Programs Chairman before March 31 of each state year. Additional paper may be used if space is not sufficient. You may also attach photographs, newspaper clippings, and letters of accommodation or other special items for consideration of your council.

Council Name: St. Richard Council Number: 15131 Council Size: SMALL

Explain why your council should be selected as this year's Best Council of the Year:

During the reporting year the Council membership increased from 70 to 83 members or approx. 15.6%. The fraternal dollar contributions for the period were \$16,256.00, and the service hours 2,299 hours. All reports have been submitted and financial obligations met.

The Council has been very active in pro-life events, charitable/service works, and vocations.

A few examples of the pro-life sector would be the support of the "Biking for Babies". This consists of a group of young adults who bicycle from New Orleans to Chicago. St Richard is one of their stops along the route where a parish dinner is served and donations solicited. Another noteworthy project was, the Father's Day Walk for Life. St Richard's Council sponsors a parish wide walk to the Jackson abortion clinic where there is a prayer service. Upon return to St Richard the Council provides a breakfast.

In the area of charitable/service works, the Council provided funds and labor to Habitat for Humanity, Funds and materials to Why Not Now Mississippi, and Catholic Charities. Our Chaplin Padre Juan presented a case for a single mother in need during the holidays. The Council responded with a donation. The Council also assisted a Brother in need.

Council 15131 consistently and vigorously supports vocations and the clergy. It ranges from the parish wide Msgr Glynn brunch from which all proceeds go to the Bishop Gerow Fund, to writing a check to our RSVP seminarian as congratulations on being approved for the Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Ordination. The Council is also providing the seminarian with a KoC Deacon stole upon his Ordination this summer. Upon short notice the Council provided a parish wide brunch, approx. 100 people, as a going away/retirement party for brother knight Fr. Carroll. This event also raised over \$200.00 for him. We are in the midst of preparing for the going away brunch for Fr. Mike O'Brien. One of the gifts the Council has purchased is a KoC chasuble and stole. This event has been scheduled for mid-April.

One of the most informative vocations events of this reporting period was Women and Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America, inaugural meeting and luncheon presented in Foley Hall on January 17, 2015. This day long program was to honor the sisters who serve now, and have served in Mississippi. Sister Helen Garvey, BVM, presented the documentary narrating this virtually untold story of women religious to over 80 Sisters. This CD, along with 20 others was purchased by Council #15131 for the Sister's to distribute and discuss at High Schools and Colleges throughout the State

In conclusion, this represents only a snapshot of Council 15131's activities. There are many other smaller, but just as important, programs that raise the parish awareness, and , make the Council the "go to" organization for program assistance

Respectfully Submitted

David Fisher SK

Grand Knight

Council 15131