

## Best Extra Large Council

We believe that our council is the best extra large council in Mississippi for many reasons. We are extremely active in all program areas. We are one of the top membership councils in the state. We are always willing to volunteer our council for the good of the state and other councils.

We are very active in all areas (church, community, council, family, youth and pro-life) of the council program. We have participated in a minimum of 8 activities in each area. We have sponsored or taken part in over 80 activities in the past year. That calculates to about 1 activity every 4-5 days.

Some of our unique programs are the following:

1. We cooked and served free Lenten meals every Friday after Stations of the Cross during lent.
2. We painted the entire inside of our parish Family Life Center.
3. Organized a First Degree team and conducted a First Degree.
4. Organized a St Joseph Alter at our parish.
5. Sponsored and worked the Confirmation retreat at our parish.
6. Continued the Grilling for Life project by raising \$2000 for pro-life activities by cooking and selling barbeque at our local May Day festival.

Although we are an extremely busy council, it is rare for us to have the problem of getting volunteers for our projects. We are so busy because we have many motivated members. Because we are such an active council we have many members of our parish approach our council members about joining the Knights of Columbus. This year we have added 23 members and will exceed our membership quota. We have achieved Top Gun status and have met our insurance quota. Combined with our programs we have also attained Stellar Council. This has become the norm for our council. We have also met the requirements to win the Star Council Award from Supreme more than 2 months before the end of the Supreme year. Besides gaining new 1<sup>st</sup> degree members for our council, we also hosted several 1<sup>st</sup> degree ceremonies that helped other councils gain new members and several members received the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degrees of our order this year. Including a 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degree that we hosted at our council.

Many of our members are active on the State level. We had at least three members attend the School of Columbianism and the Mid Winter Meeting. One of our members is a State Officer. We also took up the mantle and continued Grilling for Life in a new form this year. Besides our 2 delegates, we will have several more members and their wives attend the State Convention.

Some of our other projects that we participate in include hosting an annual Priest Appreciation Dinner that was attended by more than 20 priests and 2 bishops, pray the rosary before every meeting, host many council socials including Christmas Party and Super Bowl Party, raised and donated over \$8000 for the Tootsie Roll Drive, organize a parish blood drive that covers our entire parish should anyone need blood, an organized program to confidentially assist our brothers with cash and other assistance when they fall on hard times due to health or employment issues, members of our council lead all of the preparation teams for the Sacraments at our parish (i.e. First Communion teachers, Confirmation teachers, Marriage Prep facilitators, Baptism preparation, RCIA), organized a Paint Ball trip for our youth, provide internet service to Birthright. We could fill more pages with all that we do. This is just a sample.

Because of all the reasons that we have included in this report and the many projects and activities that aren't listed, we believe that we are the best extra large council in Mississippi.