

State Council Service 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: 11898 Total Council Members: 244
Grand Knight: Herman Stewart Jr. E-Mail: grandknight11898@gmail.com

Project Information (complete all sections):

2 Project Title: Leave No Neighbor Behind Project Date: April 2020-March 2021
Participation: $\frac{30}{\text{Members}} + \frac{20}{\text{Non Members}} = \frac{50}{\text{Total Participants}}$ $\frac{50}{\text{Total Participants}} \times \frac{12}{\text{Hours}} = \frac{600}{\text{Total Volunteer Hours}}$
Program Planning: $\frac{\$100}{\text{Costs}} \& \frac{50 \text{ hours}}{\text{Time}}$ Members Recruited: 5 Donations: \$60,000 Local Currency

3 Describe project 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.

Our goal was to provide a continuing and comprehensive effort to provide support to our parish and our community during the COVID period as outlined in the attached document. As many of our traditional activities were cancelled, we made a concerted effort to find other ways to reach out to help the community. We also sought to provide help to our priests to support them in ministering to the spiritual needs of the parish 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 project benefit?

The parish and parishioners, through our donations (\$1500) and our time, helping with confessions and extra masses; Monthly food collections for FISH of Howard County, Franciscan Center, Assisi Center, and the OLV Food Bank (over \$30,000 in food); monthly collection of supplies for the Little Sisters of the Poor (over \$10,000 in supplies); St. Gregory's Food Bank (\$1000 of food); St. Anthony Padua, Ghana (\$1055); Special Olympics (\$3400); Columbia Pregnancy Center (\$7000); Mary's Home (over \$1500 in supplies); Red Cross (over 40 pints of blood); Coats for Kids (over \$1300); multiple schools (over \$2000 in school supplies and more than 50 coats). Allas outlined in the attached pages.

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

So many organizations stopped working or volunteering while the needs of these organizations were greater. Traditional funding sources weren't available, but the charitable organizations continued to serve clients while their sources of support were reduced. This is reflected by the activity levels of many councils, affected by the closure of parishes and reduction in both attendance and activities. The spiritual needs of the parish were difficult to meet while the churches were closed, and our assistance helped our priests tend to some of the needs of their flock. Confessions have been well attended since being offered in May.

3d) Why did the council select this project?

We sought to meet the need of our brothers in Christ wherever we could. We continued to push forward to try to ask for parish and council support as long as people remained generous, and God has blessed us with success. We keep looking for opportunities to continue this work.

3e) Describe the success of the project:

We have been enormously successful. As outlined in the attached document, we have seen 1000 confessions heard and have helped with any service request from our priests. We've had more than 20 charitable collections, and have collected in excess of \$60,000 worth of goods, all while weekend mass attendance is less than 20% of what it was in 2019. Two examples are our collections for the Little Sisters of the Poor (at least one stuffed minivan every month with additional cash) and our baby bottle collection for the Columbia Pregnancy Center (raising \$7000 when all other fall campaigns had been cancelled). We have offered opportunities for people to give, and they have responded generously.

Attest: _____
State Deputy

Signed: Herman Stewart Jr.
Grand Knight

March 13, 2021
Date

St. Louis the King Council #11898
Fraternal Report for Leave No Neighbor Behind program
2020 – 2021 Fraternal Year

March 2020 began as a challenge to our council as almost all of our charitable fundraising programs were cancelled, Masses were shut down, facilities difficult to access, and meetings moved to unfamiliar virtual programs. In spite of these challenges, our council made a concerted effort to use creative solutions to support the parish and our community, choosing not to sit this year out, but to meet the challenges we faced. The variety of efforts mentioned in this report outlines our programs from all four areas (Community, Faith, Family, and Life) as well as our leadership's efforts to ensure we did our best to "Leave No Neighbor Behind".

Supporting our Parish

Council 11898 provided support to our parish in a variety of ways, making a special effort to support the spiritual needs of the parish. We took up a special collection for our parish while it was closed for two months, donating \$1500 to the parish. We provided parking direction and ushers for our parish's first Mass after re-opening that was held outdoors in the Saint Louis parish parking lot. The following week, the church was able to open its doors and resume services with the Knights providing pew cleaning services after all four Masses for the next month, and many continue cleaning the pews to this day. When called upon by our parish, our membership provided usher services for the Advent Penitential service and at Christmas, with fifteen Knights filling more than 25 positions for 8 Masses.



The greatest service the Knights provide the parish is to coordinate confessions every Saturday afternoon in the church parking lot, directing traffic for multiple drive through confessionals. The Knights have served this role for almost 40 weekends, directing penitents, preserving the privacy of the confessional, and even jump-starting three cars. Approximately 1000 confessions have been heard during this time.

Supporting our Brother Knights

During this time, our council continued to keep in touch with our Brother Knights and widows of Knights. Our council moved quickly to virtual meetings, including membership, leadership, and bible study, while our Grand Knight continued to email the entire membership often to keep them involved. A concerted effort was made to

conduct our memorial service in November and to provide widows with Christmas poinsettias, and to reach out to any Knight in ill health. One of our Brothers died in March but his funeral was delayed until the parish allowed them again. Our Knights were there in force, praying the rosary in the church prior to the service.

Reaching beyond the Parish

We knew we would face difficulty raising funds for our usual charities, but we saw the need of organizations would be great, and looked for opportunities to support them. We looked for ways to involve not just our council, but our parish community and other parishes. Each director found at least one activity that did just that, and our list of activities is extensive. From Food for Families to support for Life programs, including Special Olympics and pregnancy center and maternity home support, to Community programs supporting the Little Sisters of the Poor, food pantries, Coats for Kids, and school supplies, and a special collections for a partner parish in Ghana in an area devastated by floods, the council just kept pushing forward for our neighbors.



Feed the Hungry

Our support to food collections includes helping staff monthly parish food collections to benefit FISH of Howard County, the Franciscan Center and pre-pandemic Our Daily Bread. Each month, Knights have helped collect and deliver multiple vans or trucks full of food and other supplies for these organizations, delivering an average of three truckloads of food. In July, our council started to serve as a regional Saturday collection point for donations to the Little Sisters of the Poor. To further support that, we received permission for a monthly parish collection for the Little Sisters of the Poor, while at the same time, we supported the Food for Families program, collecting for the Assisi Center in Fells Point and the Our Lady of Victory (Catonsville) food pantry. Each month, we have collected at least three truckloads of food and supplies at this second monthly collection. The collection for the Little Sisters of the Poor over 8 months has allowed us to deliver to their St. Martin's Home in Catonsville more than 10 overstuffed vans full of food and other supplies, more than 50 handmade lap rugs and blankets, and approximately \$2000 in cash, checks, and grocery gift cards. We estimate that the Little Sisters have received more than \$10,000 in supplies, and the other organizations have received well over \$40,000 in goods.



Our Brother Knights from St. Alphonsus Rodrigues were supporting Saint Gregory's food bank in Baltimore with their "40 Cans of Lent" program. Council 11898 worked within the parish to find a way to support this program. On February 24, our Religious Education program collected donations for Saint Gregory's, which were passed by our council to our Saint Alphonsus brothers. This quickly organized collection filled a small SUV with food.

Support our Community

Our council also supported our community in other ways. The bigger efforts include our traditional school supplies drive, supporting a variety of school programs and providing more than 50 donated coats. In November, our council collected over \$1300 to buy five boxes of coats, supporting Archbishop Lori and the State Council in the Coats for Kids program.



We also supported several Life programs. The state Special Olympics program raises most of its funds via the Polar Bear Plunge, and was looking at a significant shortfall. Joining many councils across the state, our council put together a virtual plunge and online fundraiser which raised \$2500, and a football squares program provided an additional \$900. In October, we joined our Saint Louis Respect Life group, conducting the only Fall baby bottle fundraiser for the Columbia Pregnancy Center. Despite church attendance down to less than 20% of normal, we raised \$7000 for the pregnancy center. In June, we used six trucks to clear two garages of unwanted material at Mary's Home, a Howard County maternity home. In January, we provided support to Saint Louis Respect Life when their Mary's Home collection was put in jeopardy due to pending Sunday snow, accepting donations on Saturday during drive through confessions.

The Knights have had a special relationship with Father David Azambawu who would occasionally say Mass for the Council before our monthly Council meetings, was a regular member of our Bible Study group with St. Louis parish and would occasionally saying weekend Mass at St. Louis. He stayed with the Franciscans at the Shrine of St. Anthony while working on a Master's degree in Pastoral Counseling at Loyola during the 2006-07 and 2007-08 school years.



The Council has continually supported his efforts at Saint Anthony Padua in Bawku, Ghana donating a portion of the proceeds of one of our charity bingo fundraisers, which were cancelled in 2020. His parish was greatly affected by the flooding in Ghana. Just this past month, our council took up a special collection, netting more than \$1000, which we have sent on to Ghana.

In addition to these programs, we have continued as much as possible our other community support programs, including the Adopt-a-Highway program and support to the Gilchrist virtual fundraising (their major fundraiser to support their hospice programs), and have engaged the parish and parish ministries as partners to provide them an opportunity to be active and feel more a part of the community. We have also engaged our brothers at Saint Francis, as Saint Louis and Saint Francis are joined together as one pastorate.

Participate in Blood Drives

Normally our council would hold two blood drives at the parish each year. Our Spring drive was cancelled, and the outlook wasn't good for the August drive. With the parish still closed, our blood drive chairman relocated the drive to the Howard County Fairgrounds, miles from the parish, and filled every appointment. This creative effort provided the Red Cross with more than 40 pints of much needed blood.

As we continue to work through this period of reduced church attendance and struggle to conduct our traditional activities, our council strives to look for opportunities to serve our parish and our community. We continue to support our priests as they serve our parishioners' spiritual needs through confession and the mass. We look for opportunities to provide our council and our parish outlets to support those in greater need than ourselves, and will continue to do so in the spirit of the faith and of our blessed founder.