



Doug & Claire Ashy, Sr. Lafayette Parish

Nominated by: Steve Ashy

Doug and Claire Ashy, Sr. are the recipients of the 2021 Leaders In Philanthropy Award for Lafayette Parish.

Claire and Doug were high school sweethearts and have been married for 70 years. They began the Doug Ashy Building Materials business in 1960, with four employees in a small location. Today the company is run by third-generation Ashy's and has more than 300 employees and eight locations.

Doug served his industry well and was President or Chairman of the Board of local, state, and national Lumber & Building Materials Dealers Associations. He was among the original founders of the Acadiana Home Builders Association and served on its board for 48 years. He also served as President of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and was the Lafayette Civic Cup Award Recipient in 1987. Doug served as Chairman for numerous organizations including the United Givers Fund, Better Business Bureau, Lafayette Juvenile Young Adult Program, Lafayette Association for Retarded Citizens, and others.

Claire, always at her husband's side was an integral part of their business success. She served as President of the Acadiana Home Builders Auxiliary in 1971 and was on the board for many years. She gives her time and resources to support many religious groups and has spent much effort as a promoter for the Father Francis Xavier Seelos movement for canonization. For years, she served as chairperson for Friends of the Poor. Claire has served as a eucharistic minister, serving shut-ins, in-patients at Acadiana Mental Hospital, and residents at Heritage Nursing Home. For many years, she delivered wrapped presents to the men's shelter at Christmas. She received the JC Penney Golden Rule Award in 1988. Claire was also honored to be named Queen of the Bishop's Charity Ball.

Claire and Doug's deeply rooted faith and generous and giving spirit have been with them always. The couple has spent much of their life helping the poor and underprivileged. They donated property along Simcoe Street for the startup of St. Joseph's Diner and served as charter organizers of both the diner and St. Joseph's Shelter. Near and dear to their hearts is the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem in which Doug is a Grand Knight Cross. Doug and Claire donated the tabernacle for the Adoration Chapel at Our Lady of Fatima Church and are listed as Carmelite Angels. Doug and Claire are active parishioners of The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist Church and are longtime supporters of the Bishop's Opus Christi Magnum program and the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Doug served as a charter member of the St. Jude Dream Home giveaway which has annually raffled off homes in the Lafayette area for decades.

Claire and Doug have 3 sons, 8 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren.