



Culturae Vitae

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<http://www.louisianakc.org/>

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PRELIMINARIES

COUNCIL CULTURE OF LIFE CHAIR COUPLES WANTED!

We want to encourage each council in the state to name a chair couple and allow them to contribute to the council's activities. If you have not done so, please send us the contact information for your council chair couple. A form has been created to facilitate this and it can be found on the State KC web site:

<http://www.louisianakc.org/programs/cultureoflife/>

Please send the filled-out form to us by mail or email at smistretta2@cox.net.

KCLS CULTURE OF LIFE PRESENTATION

Were you unable to attend KCLS this year? If not, then you can view the PowerPoint presentation given by the State Culture of Life Chair Couple. It is available on the state KC web site:

<http://www.louisianakc.org/programs/cultureoflife/>

This presentation provides an overview of the main Culture of Life issues. We hope that the content will provide a good starting point for further study. Also, we hope that you will be motivated to publically defend the Church's teaching on these Culture of Life issues. Please contact us if you have questions or need more information.

WHAT IS A CULTURE OF LIFE?

Culture is the way in which men and women in a community mold or shape a particular way of relating to nature, to each other and to God, thus establishing a typical style of human coexistence.

One of the primary values of the Culture of Life is respect for human life from its beginning at conception until its natural end. When a culture is capable of protecting and encouraging this vision of mankind through its political, social, economic and legal structures, it can be called a culture of life.

Building such a culture not only requires collaboration of society's leaders, but it is also a duty and a right of all Christians.

SHARE WHAT YOUR COUNCIL IS DOING TO BUILD A CULTURE OF LIFE

We want this monthly newsletter to be an opportunity for councils to share the good work that they are doing to build a Culture of Life. Please send an email telling us what your council is doing and send us pictures. Email us at smistretta2@cox.net. We want your council highlighted in the next issue!

CULTURE OF LIFE SURVEY RESULTS ARE AVAILABLE

The results of a recent survey of Culture of Life chair couples is now available on the state KC web site:

<http://www.louisianakc.org/programs/cultureoflife/>

FREE MATERIALS FROM SUPREME

The Supreme Council has a number of Culture of Life materials to aid you. All of these are free of charge except for the shipping. A list of materials can be found at the website:

http://www.kofc.org/un/en/prolife/programs/support_materials.html

Contact the Supreme Council Supply Department to order the material. Note that some of the materials are in electronic form that can be downloaded immediately. You can email your questions or other requests for materials to William.obrien@kofc.org.

NEW USCCB PRO-LIFE MATERIALS

New pro-life materials are available from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). The theme for this year's materials is: **Each of Us is a Masterpiece of God's Creation.**

The new booklets cover: advanced medical directives, adoption, the devaluation of human life, healing from an abortion, poverty and abortion, and dealing with a miscarriage.

The booklets provide important information that is not presented by the main stream media on these topics. In short order, they delve deeply into some of the dangers of going along with fashionable viewpoints that seem like a good idea on the surface but actually lead to unintended consequences such as physicians deciding to withhold basic necessities of life or administering medical treatments against the wishes of the patient and family members. Another example is children conceived through IVF being left out of custodial agreements in a divorce. The booklets also contain very useful statistics. For example: "If the state's Medicaid program paid for elective abortions, their abortion rate was more than four times that of other women."

Electronic materials can be obtained from:

<http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/2014/respect-life-program-2014-pamphlets.cfm#Advance>

Also, printed materials can be ordered from the same web site.



MEETING WITH DIOCESE OF BATON ROUGE

On Friday, November 7, 2014, Sam and Arline Mistretta (State Culture of Life Chair Couple) met with Darryl Ducote, LCSW (Director of the Office of Marriage & Family Life), Danielle Van Haute (Respect Life Coordinator), and Shannon Baldrige

(Administrative Assistant) at the Diocese of Baton Rouge office.

During the meeting, we discussed current Knights of Columbus activities, how the organization is structured, and short term goals. We learned that the Diocese is focused on three primary areas for promotion: 1) Project Rachael, 2) Capital Punishment, and 3) Natural Family Planning. This is a good opportunity for the Knights of Columbus to coordinate activities to enable these efforts to be more effective. More information on their work can be found on their website: <http://www.mfldiobr.org/about-us.html>.

We intend to address these areas in the months ahead and Danielle Van Haute is helping us make contact with the other Dioceses in the state of Louisiana to identify other opportunities.

OUR COUNCIL IS ACTIVELY BUILDING A CULTURE OF LIFE

By John Hauler (Council 9016)

Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood, pushed for abortion on demand in 1933. Her goal of legalized abortion came true on January 22, 1973. The culture of death is a hard thing to overcome, so we need to promote life whenever and wherever we can. We do not need to be obnoxious about it, just steady, always positive and always prayerful in our approach. One of the most positive things council 9016 and other councils have done is to collect and donate items to women's pregnancy centers.



The following is an excerpt from the book **40 Days For Life** by David Bereit & Shawn Carney:

“Pregnancy resource centers have been at the center of pro-life efforts from the very beginning. Over and over in city after city, we have seen the work that is being done tirelessly to help women by providing free medical care, help with housing allowances, food, job training, child care, parenting classes and continuing education. The funding for these services comes entirely from the generosity of local friends and neighbors whose gifts say ‘you matter’ to the thousands of women, men and children who are assisted each day. We leap at every opportunity to partner with these fellow advocates in the cause of life.”

Woman’s New Life Center is located across the parking lot from the Baton Rouge Delta Woman’s Clinic. When women go to the abortion facility, they can see this saving operation just next door. Sometimes a “prayer warrior” is on hand to be a prayerful presence to a woman considering an abortion so that she might decide to see what options are available to her besides abortion. Unfortunately, the pregnancy center is only open two days a week.

They have professional technicians using a Knights of Columbus provided ultrasound machine allowing the woman to see her baby in the womb. The abortion facility has a machine as well, but it is what the abortion staff tells the woman that can make the difference. Abortions make money for the abortionists. There is no cost to the women who take advantage of the pregnancy center services. In fact, the centers get their money from the generosity of others. We knights need to help these pregnancy centers as much as possible. Like life itself, a pregnancy center is a positive choice.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Each month, we would like to highlight council Culture of Life activities. Please send us a brief description of your event and pictures of the event to share with other Culture of Life chair couples. We want to share successful events with others so that they can also conduct effective programs.

LAPLACE COUNCIL CULTURE OF LIFE COUPLE HAD A BUSY MONTH

by Mike and Catherine Abbate (Council 9623)

On November 1st, the council 9623 Culture of Life couple recited the Divine Mercy Chaplet and then organized a bingo game at Twin Oaks Nursing home in Laplace. The couple also provided support to the Rachel’s Vineyard Healing Retreat in Metairie, and attended Louisiana Needs Peace Vigil and Conference hosted by Louisiana RTL.

On election day, Mike and Catherine sent out an email to council members to remind them to vote pro-life. Later in the day, they organized a candle light prayer service at the Women’s New Life Center in Metairie for the close of 40 Days for Life. On November 7th, they attended the press conference with Senator Mary Landrieu in New Orleans regarding the Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. On November 10th, they attended the Coming Together For Louisiana Rally to support pro-life candidates.

On November 15-17th, Mike and Catherine volunteered at the Healing the Pain of Abortion Retreat at the Rosaryville Retreat Center. From November 18th to the 24th, they sponsored a week of prayer to end abortion in our country and around the world in their Adoration Chapel.

The couple also donated their time to a number of activities throughout the month to help support needy families, the elderly, and poor in their area. Some examples are:

- Helped with Safe Environment training for school students.
- Cooked dinner for a family with six children whose father died in 2013.
- Served food to the needy in their community.
- Helped collect donations of \$1,200 to provide wheelchairs and walkers for the elderly.
- Helped collect donations for a 2 year old girl with an aggressive cancerous tumor.
- Helped with a “Coats for Kids” drive conducted by their council.

ST. AGNES AND 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

By Allen Kliebert (Council 10613)

The St. Agnes Knights of Columbus in Baton Rouge were key supporters for the 40 Days For Life Prayer Vigil that was held in front of the Baton Rouge abortion clinic. The St. Agnes Culture of Life Committee coordinated 2 days of the prayer vigil by having people praying in front of the abortion clinic from 7 AM until 7 PM.

OUR COUNCIL IS ACTIVELY BUILDING A CULTURE OF LIFE

By Nick and Peggy Prosperie (Council 8932)

It's not big stuff that we do, but a power beyond all telling lies in the power of Adoration and the Rosary for building a Culture of Life. Our council 8932 in Houma, LA prays the Rosary for a Culture of Life on the last Sunday of the month which is promoted in the St. Ann Catholic Church bulletin.

The council also organizes Eucharistic Adoration – a Holy Hour of Prayer. All are encouraged to attend.

On October 18th at the 4 PM vigil Mass, the council hosted the Silver Rose. We had 50 people for the Culture of Life Rosary program and 113 total for the Mass where we presented the Silver Rose and the program that goes with it.

The council also sold Right to Life (RTL) calendars to support local RTL efforts. The sales from RTL calendars provided \$457.00 to help support Terrebonne Lafourche Right to Life in their efforts to encourage moms to choose life for their babies. The generosity of the donors is greatly appreciated!

SUPPORT FOR THE INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

by Randy Mobley (Council 3779)

Fundamental to building a Culture of Life is acknowledgment of the dignity of all human life. Those with intellectual and developmental disabilities are particularly vulnerable to being considered less than human by those who are influenced by our culture of death.

On Friday, November 21st, Marian Council 3779 organized a dance for the residence of Holy Angels School in Shreveport, Louisiana. The council arranged for a band to play music for them and also provided snacks and drinks.

This always is an awesome experience. The residents have many problems, but they always seem to have a smile on their face. It is natural for us to complain about our problems and difficulties. When we think about their problems and difficulties, it makes our troubles seem quite small in comparison.



The Holy Angels is a residential and training campus for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They provide a caring

and home-like environment for the residents. The individuals they serve experience the dignity of living as independently as possible. For more information please visit their website:

<http://holyangelsresidentialfacility.org/about/>

**COUNCIL SUPPORTS THOSE WITH
INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL
DIABILITIES**

by Richard and Evelyn Gondron (Council 8906)

On Sunday November 16, 2014, the Knights of Columbus Council 8906 in Thibodaux, LA. sponsored a jambalaya dinner to raise funds for the Granier Center and the Lafourche Arc. These two organizations help citizens with mental and physical handicaps to accomplish a high level of achievement within their capabilities. Their funds were depleted, so additional funds are need to maintain their current budget and allow the individuals to continue to receive the services they need.



For more information about Arc of Lafourche, go to <http://www.lafourchearc.com/>.

**ARK-TEX CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER
FUNDRAISER**

By Randy and Sylvia Mobley (Council 3779)

On Tuesday, November 11, 2014, the annual Ark-La-Tex Crisis Pregnancy Center Fundraiser took place at the Shreveport Convention Center. The featured speaker was Dr. Alveda King, the niece of Dr. Martin Luther. Dr. King is very active in the Pro-life movement, including a voice for the Silent No More Awareness Campaign. During her talk, she shared a testimony of her own crisis pregnancy.

The Ark-La-Tex Crisis Pregnancy Center is a Pro-Life organization located on the Shreveport Barksdale Highway. It offers many services to

women who find themselves with a potentially unwanted pregnancy. I would encourage everyone to stop by sometime for a tour of their facility.



More information about the Ark-La-Tex Crisis Pregnancy Center may be found at their web site: <http://www.altcpc.com/>.

**BATON ROUGE COUNCIL COMMITTED TO
40 DAYS FOR LIFE**

By Victor Weston (Council 13632)

On the opening day at the opening hour (7:00 AM) of the 40 Days for Life Campaign, our Pastor/Chaplain Fr. Paul Counce and members of KC Council 13632 gathered in front of the Delta Clinic in Baton Rouge and prayed the Rosary, praying for the unborn to be saved from the horrors of this abortion clinic and others worldwide. Our council has actively participated in this campaign for life for the past 3 years and intends to do so for as long as necessary. We feel strongly that it is our duty and obligation to speak for those unborn babies who are unable to speak for themselves.



BORN TO RUN 2014

By Sam Mistretta (Council 3743)

On Saturday, November 22, 2014, the Born to Run 2014 event took place in downtown Baton Rouge. This is a fundraiser for the Women’s New Life Center which provides life-affirming counseling and medical services for women facing unplanned pregnancies in the Baton Rouge and New Orleans areas.

Hundreds of people gathered to participate in a 1 mile fun run and a 5 km run on a cool Saturday morning. Your state Culture of Life chair couple participated in the 1 mile fun run along with Ross McCalip, the Culture of Life chairman for council 3743. The turnout was great. After both running events, there was a variety food and drink and entertainment by the local band “the V-tones.”



Council 9247 from Baton Rouge provided a fine spicy chili and Council 10080 from Zachary provided delicious jambalaya and coleslaw.

It was great to see so many people come out to support the cause for life and support this very worthy organization. And, we had a great time doing it!



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**LOUISIANA LIFE MARCH**

Again in early 2015, the Louisiana Life March will take place at two locations:

Life March North
Shreveport-Bossier
Saturday, January 17, 2015
10:00 AM to Noon

And

Life March South
Baton Rouge
Saturday, January 24, 2015
Noon to 2:00 PM

The mission of this event is to unite the pro-life people of Louisiana, across all denominational lines, to take a stand for life in our State's Capital, and mobilize them with resources to go make a difference in their community. We hope the Louisiana Life March will lead to an abortion-free Louisiana.



Please encourage your councils to get involved in one of these two marches. More information may be found at www.LALifeMarch.com.

**BATON ROUGE DIOCESAN
RESPECT LIFE RALLY**

Come celebrate life with the Diocese! The Diocesan Respect Life Rally will take place on Sunday, January 11 from 2-4 pm in the Main Auditorium of the Bishop Tracy Center in Baton Rouge.

A fantastic afternoon has been planned including:

- Keynote speaker Bobby Shindler, "The Terri Shiavo Case"
- Presentation by Catholic Charities on Project Rachel, a healing ministry for any who have been affected by abortion
- A wide variety of Respect Life groups/ministries will have information on how you can get involved!
- Living Rosary led by the Knights of Columbus Honor Guard
- Bible crafts & activities for children 7 & under
- And more!

Please contact the Marriage & Family Life Office for more information or with questions.



The living Rosary from last year's event.

EDUCATION CORNERLEGISLATIVE ACTION

Are you interested in an easy way to contact your senators and U. S. representatives regarding pro-life issues? If so, you should check out the NCHLA Action Center.



The National Committee for a Human Life Amendment (NCHLA.org) provides an easy way to become aware of federal legislative action regarding Pro-life and conscience protection issues. Through email alerts, you can easily contact your representatives to make them aware of your concerns.

In the great civil rights struggle to secure the right to life for all, Archbishop John Roach, testifying on behalf of the Catholic Bishops, expressed the guiding vision:

November 5, 1981 Statement before the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution: "We are committed to full legal recognition of the right to life of the unborn child, and will not rest in our efforts until society respects the inherent worth and dignity of every member of the human race."

The National Committee for a Human Life Amendment is dedicated to pursuing this vision. The organization's objectives include educating citizens, developing pro-life legislative networks, and offering programs in support of pro-life legislation. Among its various activities, NCHLA produces educational and program resources,

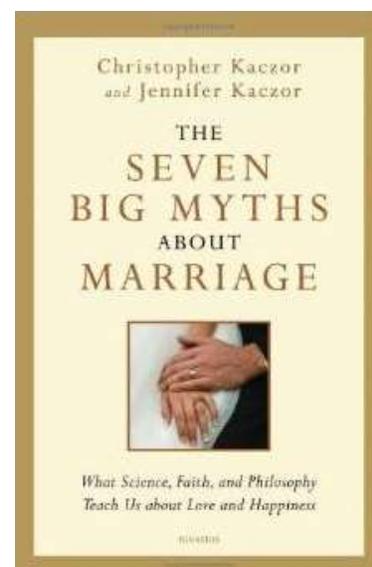
communicates with leaders about legislative priorities, and presents legislative seminars throughout the year. In a special way, NCHLA assists dioceses, state Catholic conferences, and Catholic lay groups. The Committee also works closely with the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Please take a moment to go to their web site and sign-up for free email alerts: www.nchla.org.

BOOK RECOMMENDATION

Our culture is rapidly rejecting the institution of marriage that has existed for all of recorded history. The media frames the marriage debate in a very superficial manner. So how can Catholics understand the fundamental issues and respond to questions that challenge truth of marriage?

Christopher and Jennifer Kaczor have written a wonderful and much needed book intitled "The Seven Big Myths About Marriage" published by Ignatius Press. The authors draw heavily on their own experience as a married couple trying to live up to the Catholic ideal of marriage. The book discusses happiness, friendship and love, covenants versus contracts, cohabitation, premarital sex, the association of children and marriage, contraception, and IVF (to name a few topics). This book will appeal to those wants to be grounded in truth and see examples of how it can be lived. We highly recommend it.



INTERNET ARTICLES OF INTEREST

This article provides a view of assisted suicide that differs substantially from the media account of cases like the one involving Brittany Maynard:

<http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/pro-life-catholic-fought-fathers-path-to-assisted-suicide/>

This is a good article about the Natural Law:

<http://www.crisismagazine.com/2014/appeals-natural-law-right-reason-still-effective>

This article provides a brief analysis of the current marriage debate:

<http://www.crisismagazine.com/2014/losing-the-marriage-debate>

The author of this article asks whether it is time to make a firm distinction between civil marriage and Christian marriage:

<http://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2014/11/a-time-to-rend>

This is another good article on euthanasia:

<http://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2014/11/death-with-aesthetics>

U. S. Bishops see a problem with a new California abortion law:

<http://www.cardinalnewmansociety.org/CatholicEducationDaily/DetailsPage/tabid/102/ArticleID/3726/Bishops-Call-on-Congress-to-Protect-Conscience-Rights-in-Light-of-Cali-Abortion-Mandate.aspx>

The pope sets the record straight on human life:

http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/pope-francis-blasts-abortion-euthanasia-as-sins-against-god-70913/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+catholicnewsagency%2Fdailynews+%28CNA+Daily+News%29&utm_term=daily+news

An article on the 30th anniversary of Project Rachel:

http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/on-30th-anniversary-project-rachel-looks-to-a-global-future-66778/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+catholicnewsagency%2Fdailynews+%28CNA+Daily+News%29&utm_term=daily+news#noredirect

This is a wonderful video on why children need both a mother and a father:

<http://blog.newadvent.org/2014/11/why-do-children-need-both-mother-and.html?m=1>

More religious liberty concerns:

<http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/washington-state-matchup-religious-liberty-vs.-plan-b/>

If you are interested in solid news reporting grounded in a Catholic teaching, then consider signing-up for a free daily E-letter which is delivered by email. Go to www.ncregister.com to sign-up.

QUOTES OF THE MONTH

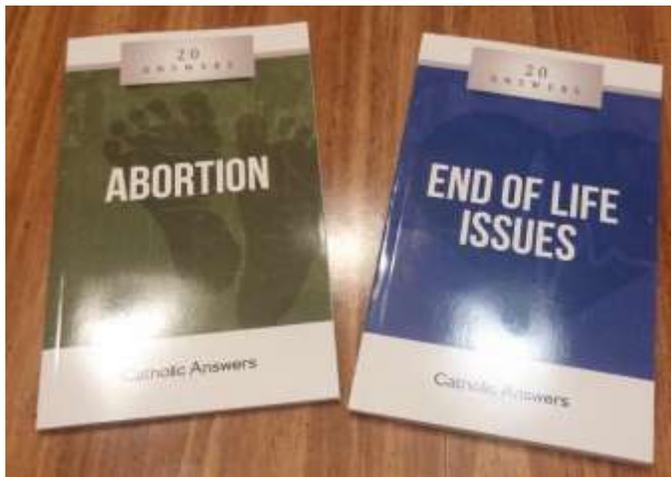
“When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, ‘Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.’” (Luke 1:41-42)

“Never tire of firmly speaking out in defense of life from its conception and do not be deterred from the commitment to defend the dignity of every human person with courageous determination. Christ is with you: be not afraid!” Taken from the address of John Paul II to the Bishops and Apostolic Administrators of Albania on their “Ad Limina” Visit, February 3, 2001.

“[W]e are facing an enormous and dramatic clash between good and evil, death and life, the ‘culture of death’ and the ‘culture of life’. We find ourselves not only ‘faced with’ but necessarily ‘in the midst of’ this conflict: we are all involved and we all share in it, with the inescapable responsibility of choosing to be unconditionally pro-life.” Taken from Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*.

CHAIR COUPLES TO RECEIVE BOOKLETS

The currently identified Culture of Life chair couple or director for each council will receive two booklets from Catholic Answers titled: “20 Questions: Abortion” and “20 Questions: End of Life Issues.” These booklets are well written, and they provide the information that you need to change hearts and minds. These booklets will be distributed to the District Deputies during the December State Family Meeting. Contact your DD to get your copies.



PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Lord, as You bring forth new life each day into our world, bring it forth also in our hearts, and enable us to receive every life knowing that thereby we receive You.

Taken from **Pro-life Reflections for Every Day** by Father Frank Pavone.

