



Culturae Vitae

December 2017

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

Please send all correspondence to:
 Sam and Arline Mistretta
 State Culture of Life Chair Couple
 6346 Riverine Drive
 Baton Rouge, LA. 70820
 Email: smistretta2@cox.net

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 PRESENTATIONS

Were you unable to attend KCLS? If not, then you can view PowerPoint presentations given by the State Culture of Life Chair Couple. They are available on the state KC web site:

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

The 2014 presentation provides an overview of the main Culture of Life issues. The 2015 and 2016 presentations are also available on the web site. The 2017 presentation provides updated information on pro-life topics and the grading form guidance.

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 us 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 NEWSLETTERS ARE ON THE STATE KC WEB SITE

Thanks to the work of Webmaster Brandon Hendricks, anyone can now access any previous issues of our *Culturae Vitae* newsletters on the State KC web site: [link](#).

You are welcome to use any of the content in this newsletter to make presentations to your council. The newsletter also provides helpful information and ideas to enable councils to receive 100 points in Culture of Life. Please contact us if you cannot find what you are looking for.



CULTURE OF LIFE RESOURCES**FREE MATERIALS FROM SUPREME**

The Supreme Council has a number of Culture of Life materials to help you. All of these materials are free of charge except for the shipping. A list of materials can be found on-line. Use this [new link!](#)

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.

**KC ULTRASOUND INITIATIVE**

Is your council interested in providing an ultrasound machine for a local pregnancy center? If so, there is a program and resources from the Knights of Columbus available to help you successfully do just that. Use this [new link!](#)

The Supreme web site provides an overview and guidelines documents. There are also two forms that must be submitted to determine if your situation qualifies for this program: 1) Diocesan evaluation (form 9884) and 2) Application to Supreme (form 4886).

Your State Culture of Life Chair Couple is ready to assist your council in participating in this program. Please contact Sam Mistretta (225-975-1501 or smistretta2@cox.net) for assistance.

**YOUR FIRST STOP FOR PRO-LIFE RESOURCES IN LOUISIANA**

Louisiana is one of the more pro-life states in the union. That is no accident, and continuous efforts are needed to avoid losing ground. While the attacks on the human person are global, we should start our efforts locally. There is no better place to look for help than Louisiana Right to Life (<http://www.prolifelouisiana.org/>). Their web site includes a number of helpful resources and their staff is ready to help you. They also provide pro-life speakers and presentations, free of charge, for your council meetings, banquets, and other events. I encourage all councils to contact Louisiana Right to Life and find out how they can help you build a Culture of Life in your community.

**DIOCESAN PRO-LIFE RESOURCES**

Many of the Dioceses in Louisiana have pro-life information and resources on-line. Here are links to specific web sites:

Baton Rouge: <http://www.mfldiobr.org/>

New Orleans: <http://respectlife.arch-no.org/>

Lafayette: <http://diolaf.org/pro-life>

Shreveport: <http://www.dioshpt.org/ministries/pro-life-ministry/>

Houma-Thibodaux: <http://htdiocese.org/fm>

CULTURE OF LIFE STORIESOPPOSITION: OPPORTUNITY FOR ENCOUNTER

Chelsy Gomez, USCCB

In the Gospel of Matthew, the Pharisees ask Jesus if it is lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar; yet, the Pharisees are not actually interested in His answer. Rather, their objective is to trap Jesus through their inquiry. They know a simple yes or no answer would violate either Roman or Jewish law and attempt to use this knowledge to their advantage.

As voters in many states prepare to return to the polls, we're reminded of last year's presidential race, which had a particularly appalling tone and was arguably one of the more divisive campaign seasons. It's no secret that the political climate has yet to improve, and many would argue that the division has even reached new heights.

Whether it be through our social media feeds, evening television news or talk radio pundits, we are all witnesses to a political and cultural climate that similarly asks questions, not to work towards mutual understanding, but to entrap and even destroy an individual or group. Political pursuits seem to be less about achieving the common good and more about winning an argument. We need only to read the comments section of any online posting to see that dialogue and debate has devolved to little more than insults, accusations, and dismissal.

As a nation, we are certainly facing many critical issues that have the potential to dramatically change our society, especially regarding the protection and defense of human life, conscience rights, and religious liberty. While we must always stand firm in our opposition to threats against these rights, we must never forget the innate dignity of those individuals who oppose or disagree with us. When we enter such discussions and debates, as our faith calls us to do, we must set the example of how to challenge positions and arguments while always maintaining the dignity of the other.

If we "win" an argument at the expense of another's dignity, we've already lost.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI highlights, "Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction" (Deus caritas est, 1). Because we have encountered Jesus, we know who we are and where we are going. We know we are called to share the gift we have received and--as Jesus teaches us--to love and to pray for our enemies.

When the Pharisees ask Jesus about the census tax he responds, "Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." His answer does not simply avoid their trap, but as my pastor recently noted, serves as an invitation to reflection. Jesus provides a response that the Pharisees may ponder within their hearts, as can we.

As Christians, our ultimate mission is the salvation of souls, and the soul of the person who opposes us is as precious as that of the child in the womb. Therefore, may the way we speak to and about those who oppose our efforts be to them an invitation to reflection. By loving and respectful communication, may others come to encounter He who is the Truth.

Chelsy Gomez is a Program Associate for the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. For more information on the bishops' pro-life activities, please visit www.usccb.org/prolife.

*Pro-Life Activities*

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

WHISTLEBLOWER TESTIMONY

Louisiana Right to Life

**New Video: PP Gave Up Patient Information to Meet Baby Body Parts Quotas
By The Center for Medical Progress**

Planned Parenthood revealed private patient medical information to third party contractors at StemExpress, LLC in order to meet the company's quotas for harvesting body parts from Planned Parenthood abortions, says a former StemExpress procurement technician in a new video from The Center for Medical Progress.

The new video, released Oct. 31, is the second in a new series of videos highlighting whistleblower testimony on the coordination between StemExpress and Planned Parenthood.



Holly O'Donnell worked as a procurement technician for StemExpress inside some of the biggest Planned Parenthood surgical centers in northern California, drawing blood and dissecting organs from aborted fetuses, which the company then sold to research customers across the country.

"At the beginning of the day, we would let them know what we were looking for," says O'Donnell, describing the StemExpress work flow at Planned Parenthood. "There was a lot of coordination.

"We'd open up the Task Page, which, it shows you what the researchers want, how many specimens they want for that day or that week."

O'Donnell explains the online StemExpress Task Page, which listed customer orders for aborted fetal livers, brains, kidneys, and other body parts: "Roughly saying, it was like a grocery list of what to get for that day."

O'Donnell states that the Planned Parenthood clinic management would provide the StemExpress contractors with the private medical information of pregnant women coming into Planned Parenthood:

"We'd go to the head nurse, let the nurses know, hey this is what I'm looking for today. They'd give you a sheet of the appointments, which women were coming in, and it would tell you how many patients, what time they were coming in, their name, and if they knew how far along they were."

O'Donnell also reveals that Planned Parenthood gave StemExpress access to patient medical charts and even to the clinics' computer network to download patient schedules across the entire Planned Parenthood affiliate. Emails from StemExpress management instruct procurement technicians: "EVERY Friday - please provide schedules for all the clinics you work in," and, "All computers have access to other clinics."

Last year, the House Energy & Commerce Committee's Select Investigative Panel referred StemExpress, Planned Parenthood Mar Monte, and Planned Parenthood Northern California to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for five years of "systematic violations" of the HIPAA privacy rule in the organizations' aborted body parts harvesting program. "These violations occurred when the abortion clinics disclosed patients' individually identifiable health information to StemExpress to facilitate the TPB'S efforts to procure human fetal tissue for resale."

CMP project lead David Daleiden notes, "Planned Parenthood Mar Monte and Planned Parenthood Northern California together see approximately 300,000 patients each year. Over at least five years of operation, the StemExpress-Planned Parenthood scheme to sell baby body parts put the private health information of hundreds of thousands of pregnant women at risk."

In December, after over a year of nationwide investigation, the House Select Investigative Panel and the Senate Judiciary Committee both referred StemExpress, along with its business partners Planned Parenthood Mar Monte, Planned Parenthood Northern California, and Planned Parenthood Federation of America, to the FBI and U.S. Department of Justice for further investigation and criminal prosecution. Over the summer, the FBI confirmed that the criminal referrals have been sent to multiple field offices for action.

To watch previous Center for Medical Progress undercover videos exposing Planned Parenthood, click [here](#).

To learn more about the Center for Medical Progress, click [here](#).

BABY ITEMS NEEDED

Debbie Shinskie, Director of the Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of New Orleans

ACCESS Pregnancy and Referral Center is in need of diapers, wipes and other baby essentials so that they can continue serving families in need within the community. They are nearly out of larger size diapers (size 4, 5, 6 and Pull Ups), wipes and baby clothing (Size 3 M – 12 M). You can help by participating in the ACCESS Virtual Shower! For questions please contact Michelle Black at mblack@ccano.org or 504-885-1141. You can find out more about this effort at this [website](#).

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Debbie Shinskie, Director of the Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of New Orleans

We continue to assist a local safe house, the [Free Indeed Home](#), where girls ages 12-17 who have been sex trafficked can come for healing.

If you or your group would like to participate in the collection of much-needed items, please contact the Respect Life Office at respectlife@arch-no.org to facilitate this. No drop-offs can be accepted.

The following items are needed:

- Cash or gift cards for grocery/big box stores
- Canned vegetables, flour, sugar, corn meal, seasoning, cooking oil, pasta, rice, cereals, canned meats, boxed cake mix, pudding
- Paper towel, toilet paper, paper napkins
- Comet Cleanser, Clorox Clean-up, dish detergent, disinfectant spray, multi-surface cleaner, baking soda, floor wax for hardwood floors, laundry detergent
- Feminine products
- Board games, puzzles, craft items

- Copy paper (cheapest kind), pens, pencils, crayons, color pencils, markers, dry eraser markers, loose leaf paper, notebooks, binders, printer ink for an HP 950 and 951, batteries (all sizes, primarily AA and AAA).

WHAT TO DO WHEN A FRIEND IS CONSIDERING ABORTION

Debbie Shinskie, Director of the Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of New Orleans

One who is considering abortion needs to know you care about her for her own sake and that she is not alone. Take The LOVE Approach:

1. Listen and Learn: find out about her perspective.
2. Open Options: provide facts in a loving and caring manner,
3. Vision & Value: let her know she is valued and encourage her.
4. Extend & Empower: provide practical support

Learn more about The LOVE approach at Heartbeat International:

<https://www.heartbeatinternational.org/pdf/TheLoveApproach.pdf>



ARCHDIOCESE OF
NEW ORLEANS
Respect Life

MARCH FOR LIFE

Debbie Shinskie, Director of the Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of New Orleans

The March for Life in Washington DC will be held Friday January 19th this coming year. It is not too early to begin making plans to go. I will be flying to D.C. and staying at the Hilton Garden Inn in downtown Washington, D.C. If you need any help with flight or hotel information, please contact me. If you are traveling to D.C. or you know of a group traveling to D.C., please let me know so that we could collaborate during our time there. If you need any assistance or have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at respectlife@arch-no.org.

If you are interested in staying at the hotel that is March for Life central, here are the details:

Their hotel room block is now open for groups requesting five or more rooms. Individual reservations will open in mid-October. Click [HERE](#) for more hotel information.

The March for Life hosts a conference each year. For details on their conference to be held the day before the actual march on January 18th from 9 AM to 12 noon. You can find out more [HERE](#).



GET YOUR CHOOSE LIFE PLATE AND HELP WOMEN CHOOSE LIFE!

When you buy a Choose Life license plate, not only are you donating to pro-life pregnancy centers and adoption agencies in the state that are helping women to choose life, but you are spreading the message of life out on the road! Cost of Plate: A \$50 Fee Every Two Years Over and Above Your Normal License Fee. Get Your Plate Today! You don't have to wait till your current plate expires!

The Louisiana Choose Life License Plate has distributed more than \$340,000 to pro-life pregnancy centers and adoption agencies since its inception! Help send more funds to these agencies by getting your plate today!

Please contact Louisiana Right to Life at 1-866-463-5433 for assistance!



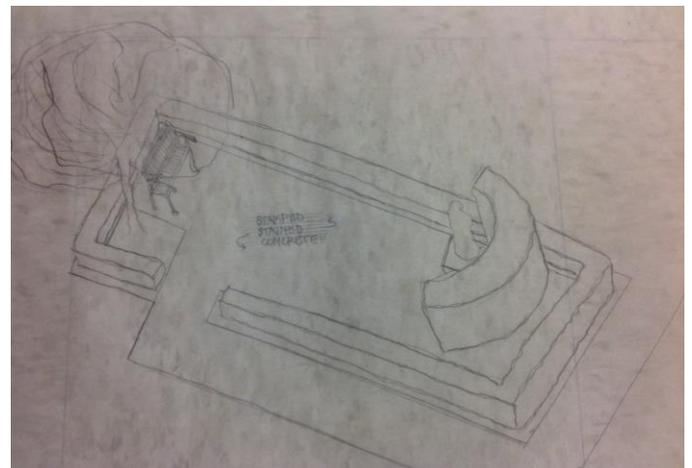
DONATIONS NEEDED FOR UNBORN PRAYER GARDEN

The Archdiocese of New Orleans Office of Catholic Cemeteries ([link](#)) is planning to build **Unborn Prayer Garden**. It will be located very close to the location where Compassionate Burial for Indigent Babies buries the babies for whom they have funerals. We are hoping to have it ready before the annual Memorial for the Unborn on January 22, 2018 so that the event may be held at this new garden.

A preliminary drawing is provided below. The outside rectangle square will be Boxwood bushes, the curved section will be Japanese Yew bushes close to the Rachel statue, and a bench and tree will be placed on the other side. There will be stamped, stained pavement inside the garden and walkway leading into the garden area.

The approximate cost is \$7,600 not including the Rachel statue that has already been purchased. Also, the installation of the granite base for the statue will be paid for by the Archdiocese.

Please contact Debbie Shinskie, Director of the Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of New Orleans at respectlife@arch-no.org if you or your council would like to make a donation.



ULTRASOUND FOR
WOMAN'S NEW LIFE CENTER

The Woman's New Life Center is located directly adjacent to the Delta abortion mill in Baton Rouge. The ability to show pregnant women their child in the womb has a huge influence on their decision to not have an abortion. Therefore, this is a critical part of their pro-life work. However, the machine is outdated and it is unable to provide clients with clear and accurate pictures of the baby.

Council 8147 in Gonzales will participate in the Ultrasound Initiative to obtain the ultrasound machine. They are looking for additional councils to pledge \$1,000 or more to help raise the required amount of money. Their goal is to raise, \$20,000.

If your council is willing to accept the challenge, please contact Ralph Roger (rroger@dow.com, 713-306-6984). Thank you for your support!



ULTRASOUND FOR NORTH BATON ROUGE

John Hauler (Council 9016)

[Women's Help Center](#) is asking for help in obtaining a new ultrasound machine. The one that they have is outdated, and the company will only service it for the next year or so.

Council 13632 in Baton Rouge will participate in the Ultrasound Initiative to obtain the ultrasound machine. If your council would like to help with a donation, then please contact Vic Weston at victorweston@msn.com or call 225-413-4900.



ULTRASOUND FOR GRETNA CENTER

The [Community Center for Life](#) in Gretna provides pregnancy testing, confidential counseling, pre-natal and postpartum classes, educational literature, baby items, ultrasounds and an emergency shelter.

Their ultrasound machine no longer works, and it needs to be replaced. This instrument is essential to their pro-life work. The cost of a new machine is estimated to be around \$33,500. This cost would include the machine, the tools associated with operating the machine, installation, training on use and also shipping.

Archbishop Blenk Council 1905 in Gretna is leading the effort to obtain a new ultrasound machine through the Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Initiative. Their council is asking other councils in the New Orleans area to make a donation to this effort. If you can help, please contact Glenn Esteve (gfe1905@yahoo.com, 504-405-2576) or Don Caskey (dcaskey53@yahoo.com, 504-884-0101).



PROCLAMATION REQUEST - "RESPECT LIFE
DAY"

Karol Meynard, Diocese of Lafayette

The year 2018 marks the 100 anniversary of the Diocese of Lafayette. To commemorate this milestone, Bishop Douglas Deshotel's vision is to have the people of the diocese come together to celebrate "Respect for Life" by participating in one Centennial Pro Life Rally and March for Life. This Ecumenical Pro Life Rally and March, which will feature pro-life speakers and performances by Catholic musician Josh Blakeley, will be held on Saturday, January 20, 2018 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. in the Quad of ULL Campus in Lafayette. After the Rally, the marchers will proceed from the ULL Quad to the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, where Bishop Deshotel will welcome them and lead a procession into the Cathedral for Prayer and Benediction.

A pro-life proclamation will be read by Mayor-President Joel Robideaux at the Ecumenical Pro Life Rally proclaiming January 20, 2018 as RESPECT LIFE DAY and October as RESPECT LIFE MONTH in the City/Parish of Lafayette. (*Obtain a copy by sending an email to smistretta2@cox.net.)*

Since our theme for the Centennial Pro Life Rally & March is “Uniting Hearts ... Saving Lives” we are requesting that you contact your mayor’s office to ask if he would sign a proclamation declaring January 20, 2018 as RESPECT LIFE DAY and October as RESPECT LIFE MONTH in your individual City/Parish. Your mayor can use the attached proclamation as a sample template.

Once you’ve obtained the signed Proclamation from your mayor, please email it to me, KMeynard@diolaf.org or TLittell@diolaf.org. If you have any questions, you can contact us at 337-261-5607.

Sincerely,
 Karol Meynard, Program Coordinator
 Office of Marriage and Family Life
 Office of Pro Life Activities
 Diocese of Lafayette
 1408 Carmel Dr.
 Lafayette, LA 70501
 337.261.5607



LIFE CHAIN

LeRoy Brandow (Council 14614)

On Sunday Oct 29th, Covington held its first Life Chain sponsored by Lakeshore Church. In attendance from Most Holy Trinity Parrish were Clare Estrada, LeRoy Brandow (Council 14614 Culture of Life chair person) Danny DeoGracis (Council 14614), and Karen Arnold.



PRO-LIFE MASS

David & Mary Daigle (Council 1317)

Knights of Columbus Houma Council 1317 held its annual Pro-Life Mass at St. Francis de Sales Cathedral in Houma on Sunday October 1, 2017. The Mass was celebrated by the Most Reverend Bishop Emeritus Sam Jacobs. The Council presented Archer LeBlanc, son of Rickey and Kayla LeBlanc, and sister Adeline LeBlanc, as their Pro-Life child to open the Pro-Life and Right to Life season and celebration. Houma Council Culture of Life Chair Couple David and Mary Daigle, along with their children Emily and Ethan, facilitated the

event. Members of the Houma-Thibodaux Diocese 4th Degree Knights of Columbus were also present.



SUPPORT ORATORY CONTEST

John and Elaine Hauler (Council 9016)

Please support the annual pro life oratory contest at the state convention each and every year. The young adults who work so hard to prepare their speeches on the right to life cause need to know there are people who actually want to listen to them.

When they address a crowded room during the convention banquet they know that the audience is a “captive” audience in that they are present for the convention itself. When they give their speeches for the oratory contest in the middle of the day they are, for the most part, talking to the parents and supporters of the speech makers themselves. It would be nice for them to know that others are interested in what they have to say and care that they took the time to prepare and rehearse their speeches.

After listening to one of the seniors give their presentation a few years ago, the Executive Director of Louisiana Right to Life, Ben Clapper, was so impressed with the story this young man had that it eventually led to a thirty minute documentary entitled “I Lived On Parker Avenue.”

I Lived on Parker Avenue is an inspiring new short documentary that follows the dramatic cross-country reunion between then Louisiana college student David Scotton and his Indiana-based birth-

parents Melissa and Brian, who hadn't seen him since the day he was born. The film explores the life stories of David, Melissa, Brian and David's parents, Susan and Jimmy.

The film is scheduled to be released in March 2018, and its trailer has been viewed more than 344,000 times online at www.ILivedOnParkerAve.com.

CULTURE OF LIFE MONTHLY REPORT

Michael & Catherine Abbate (Council 9623)

The council Culture for Life couple sponsored pamphlets on adoption for the church and the Adoration Chapel for Respect for Life Month. In November, the couple also sent e-mails to the Supreme Court for the Life at Conception Act that declares unborn children to be protected as defined by the 14th Amendment. On November 8th, the Culture for Life couple made a presentation from the Archdiocese of New Orleans on Adoption at Ascension of Our Lord Church. The council's pro-life Baby Bottle campaign collected \$1,686.00 and returned all baby bottles to the Women's New Life Center in New Orleans.

PRO-LIFE MASS

Randy and Sylvia Mobley (Council 3779)

Marian Council 3779 and Sacred Heart of Jesus parish held a Pro-Life Mass on Sunday, October 22nd with Fourth Degree honor guard. Celebrants were Michael G. Duca, Bishop of the Diocese of Shreveport, Fr. Francis Kamau, FMH, Pastor and Deacon Clary Nash. Representatives from pro-life organizations also attended and distributed pro-life information: Ark-La-Tex Crisis Pregnancy Center, 40 Days for Life, Heart of Hope - A Sanctuary for Women, Imagine for Life, Mary's House, and Sidewalk Advocates for Life. A spaghetti dinner followed the mass.





COUNCIL PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES

Wayne Gravois (Council 10080)

I am happy to report our St John the Baptist Knights in Zachary have completed their 2017 Baby Bottle Campaign, and we have collected about \$3000 in donations from our generous congregation. The campaign took place during the recent 40 Days for Life campaign. We plan on making the Baby Bottle campaign an annual event and encourage other councils to do the same. We are donating the entire amount to pro-life activities: \$1000 towards the expenses incurred by our parish youth attending the March for Life in January, and contributing \$1000 towards both the Woman's New Life Center and Pregnancy Problem Center with the money earmarked for ultrasound machine maintenance and/or purchasing.

Other pro-life activities we plan to continue are once a month vigils at Delta Woman's clinic during the lunch hour. We request that people join us for the vigils or perform a light fast and pray for an end of abortion.

CIVILITY BEGINS IN THE WOMB

By Tom Grenchik

Senseless acts of violence have simply become all too common in our day. From mass shootings at concerts, to stabbings in department stores, to families being gunned down in churches, we are tragically immersed in a culture of violence. Brutality is experienced on the street, in the home, between family members--and even in the womb.

Reasonable people should be horrified by this vicious epidemic. Yet are we? How many popular movies don't have a high amount of violence? How many video games don't involve blowing up or shooting down an opponent? How fascinated are we by the daily reports of violence in the news?

Bloodshed began with the very children of Adam and Eve, and violence has been with us ever since. But haven't we become too desensitized to this culture of violence? How did we become that way?

Nearly 20 years ago, as Pope Saint John Paul II was ending a visit to St. Louis, he gave us this challenge: "And so America: If you want peace, work for justice. If you want justice, defend life. If you want life, embrace truth-truth revealed by God." The Holy Father's plan to end violence was wonderfully simple:

- Embracing God's truth leads us to defend human life.
- Defending human life is the foundation of justice.
- And a culture of justice can transform a tendency to violence into a movement for peace.

Pope Saint John Paul II often warned that violence tolerated in the womb would begin to unravel respect for human life at all levels, until violence becomes the norm. Saint Teresa of Calcutta told us: "Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use violence to get what they want. That is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion." And Pope Francis has consistently decried our throwaway culture in which people are discarded by those who are stronger, healthier, or in power.

Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston and President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, reminded us at the annual U.S. bishops' meeting in Baltimore that "...civility begins in the womb. If we cannot come to love and protect innocent life from the moment God creates it, how can we properly care for each other as we come of age? Or when we come to old age?"

The only way forward in transforming violence into civility and peace is by recommitting to the defense of human life at all levels. Consider joining the bishops in this effort in these ways:

- Pray and fast for an end to the culture of violence: Sign up for the bishops' prayer campaigns, 9 Days for Life (9daysforlife.com) and Call to Prayer (www.usccb.org/pray).
- Study the wide range of life issues and share the Church's teaching with your family, friends, and co-workers. Respect Life Program resources are available at www.usccb.org/respectlife.
- Contact your diocesan office to get involved in building a culture of life in your parish. Diocesan contacts may be found at <http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/diocesan-pro-life-offices.cfm>.
- Volunteer your time at a local pregnancy center, shelter, maternity home, or nursing home.
- Be prepared to refer someone seeking healing from a past abortion to a diocesan post-abortion healing ministry. Diocesan Project Rachel ministries can be found at www.hopeafterabortion.com.
- Advocate for life by joining advocacy networks with your State Catholic Conference and with the U.S. bishops. Sign up for federal pro-life action alerts at www.humanlifeaction.org/signup.

Each of us can do our part to educate, advocate, pray, and serve.

May our prayers, works and personal sacrifices (yes, even abstinence from entertainment with themes of violence) inspire us to be missionary disciples to a world so in need of God's mercy and healing.

Tom Grenchik is the Executive Director of the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. For more information on the bishops' pro-life activities, please visit www.usccb.org/prolife.



Pro-Life Activities

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

40 DAYS FOR LIFE IN BATON ROUGE

Ross and Carolyn McCalip (Council 3743)

Approximately 70 St. Aloysius parishioners took part over two days in this year's "40 Days for Life." Participants prayed at least a Rosary an hour and many more prayers for the end of abortion for the 24 hours they were in front of Delta Clinic. More than 1,400 abortions have taken place in Baton Rouge at Delta – lives lost and many women and men wounded by abortion.

When participants are praying, there are graces that come from the prayer, but also the realization that just a few feet away there is evil.

40 Days for Life is a worldwide operation that has achieved many successes. More than 13,300 babies have been saved from abortion during vigils in 44 countries and 715 cities, and 154 abortion workers have quit and 86 abortion facilities have closed.

During Baton Rouge's last campaign, 13 babies were confirmed saved and a total of 78 since the beginning of the 40 Days vigil. For next year, organizers vowed to pray even harder with more people in hopes of shutting down Delta.



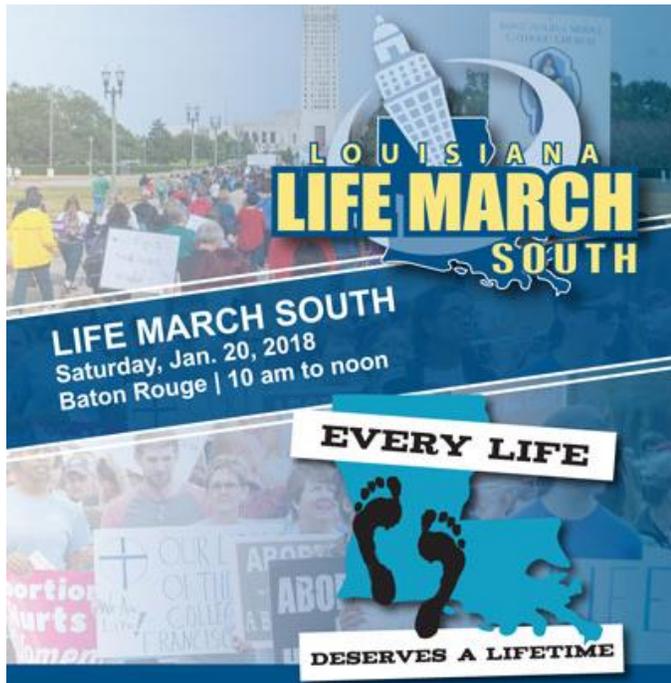
UPCOMING EVENTS

2018 LOUISIANA LIFE MARCHES

**Louisiana Life March South 2018
Saturday January 20, 2018**

State Capitol to Downtown Riverfront Levee Green
10 AM - Noon

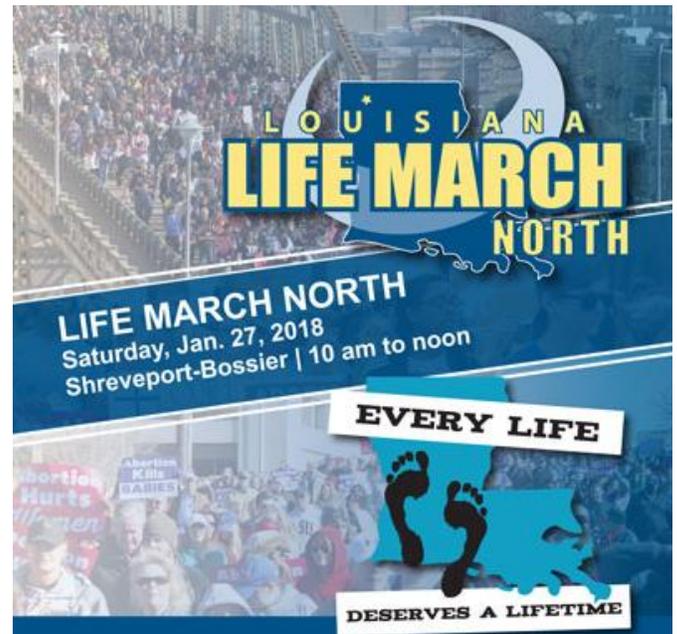
Due to construction in the area the route will be reversed. The march will begin in the grassy area outside the State Capitol near Spanish Town Road and N. 4th Street. The march will begin at 10 a.m., proceed south on N. 4th Street, west on North Boulevard, and south on River Road to the Levee Green near the U.S.S. Kidd. A formal program will be held at the Levee Stage, beginning at 11 a.m.



**Louisiana Life March North
Saturday, January 27, 2018**

Bossier City's Louisiana Boardwalk to
Shreveport's Festival Plaza, 10 AM to Noon

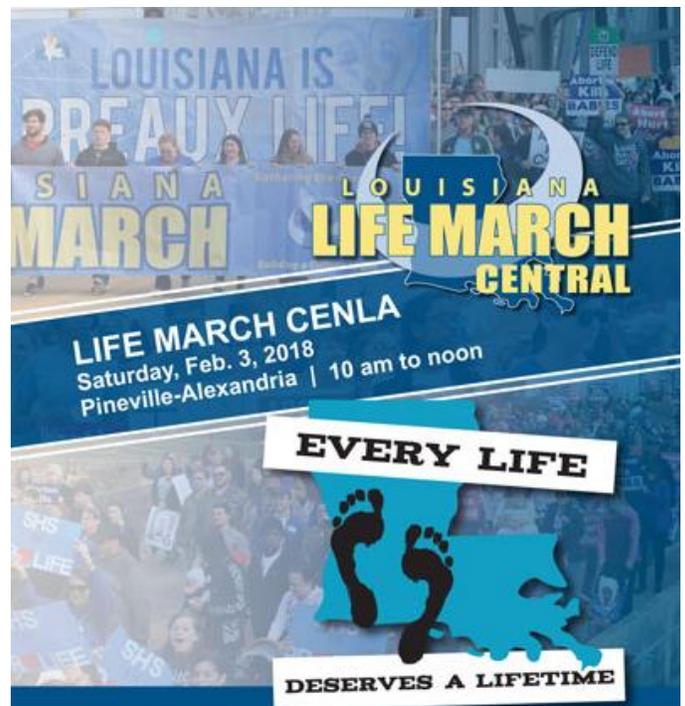
The march from the Boardwalk to Festival Plaza is 1.2 miles. For those that cannot make the march, please gather at Festival Plaza. Limited transportation will be available to return people from Festival Plaza to the north lot of the Boardwalk.



**Louisiana Life March Central
Saturday, February 3, 2018**

Pineville to Alexandria, 10 AM to Noon

The event will begin on the grounds of Louisiana College in Pineville. The 1.6-mile march will go down Main Street toward the Jackson Street Bridge, cross the bridge and conclude at the amphitheater on the Alexandria side of the Red River, where speakers and musicians will lead the audience in prayer for life.



LOUISIANA PULSE IMMERSIONS

High School and College students, be educated, trained, and inspired to become a Pro-Life Leader at a PULSE Immersion Weekend!

PULSE will be an exciting weekend to immerse yourself in the pro-life cause. With engaging speakers and testimonies, you will be educated on the pro-life issues and inspired to make a difference. With hands-on activism, games, our famous PULSE Coffee House, and a number of field trips and onsite activities, you will have a blast!

Also, our Pulse Leadership Institute is held each summer in Baton Rouge!

Dates:

- Eunice: December 1-3, 2017
- Baton Rouge: February 23-25, 2018
- Covington: March 23-25, 2018

You can find out all of the details at their [web site](#).

High School + College Students
Join us!

PULSE

Immersion Weekend
Eunice Dec. 1 - 3

Become a
Pro-Life
Leader!

Register Today!
ProLifePulseLA.com 1.866.463.5433

MARCH FOR LIFE

The annual March for Life in Washington D.C. will take place on **January 19, 2018**. Consider joining a group from your dioceses. If you are interested in planning ahead, please use the trip planner available at the official [website](#).



Entering Canaan
DAY OF
PRAYER & HEALING

HAVING UNRESOLVED FEELINGS ABOUT
YOUR ABORTION EXPERIENCE?
JUST DON'T FEEL FORGIVEN?
DO FEELINGS OF GUILT, SHAME, REGRET,
AND SADNESS RETURN TIME AFTER TIME?

Healing is waiting

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2018
9 AM - 5 PM
FREE EVENT (INCLUDES LUNCH)

CONFIDENTIAL PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Contact Danielle at dvanhaute@diobr.org
or 225-242-0164

EDUCATION CORNER**HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

Please be aware of the signs of trafficking. Go to:
<http://polarisproject.org/recognize-signs>.

If you see something, SAY SOMETHING! It is better to report a suspicious incident and be wrong than to be right and say nothing.

National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline is 888-3737-888. Put that number in your cell phone!

For more information, Go to the Coalition Against Reproductive Trafficking's Action page:
<http://reproductivetrafficking.org/action>.

**FACTS & MYTHS ABOUT CLONING**

Myth: Somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT) is a process that allows scientists to create stem cells that are a match to the patient without destroying embryos. We are not talking about human cloning.

Fact: Somatic cell nuclear transfer is the scientific name for cloning. The SCNT process, if successful, would produce a human embryo, which is the definition of human cloning. Scientists want cloned human embryos in order to extract their stem cells, which would destroy the embryos when they are only days old.

Myth: Reproductive cloning is wrong and should be illegal. Therapeutic cloning, however, is completely different. We are not cloning human beings and

making babies. It is just a process to create more embryonic stem cells to use for treating disease.

Fact: The only difference between therapeutic cloning and reproductive cloning is what is done with the cloned human. In therapeutic cloning, the cloned human is destroyed for research in its embryonic stage. In reproductive cloning, the cloned human is implanted in a woman's womb and allowed to grow and develop naturally.

For more information visit:

<https://lozierinstitute.org/cloningiscloning/>

SIGN-UP FOR LACCB ACTION ALERTS

Do you want to know about pending legislation important to Catholics? If so, then go to the Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops web site: www.laccb.org. They have a [web page](#) to inform you about active advocacy campaigns. You can also sign-up for email alerts so that you can contact your government officials about important issues in a timely manner.

Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops**PRO-LIFE PERSUASION****We Can Bring Our Pro-Life Persuasion Crash Course to You!**

Louisiana Right to Life can bring our Pro-Life Persuasion Crash Course to your church or area upon request! Contact us for information at info@prolifelouisiana.org or call (866) 463-5433.



WITNESS TO LOVE

[Witness to Love](#) is a virtues-based, Catechumenate model of marriage renewal and preparation that integrates modern principles of psychology and the virtues to help couples facilitate an authentic dialogue about their relationship.

Here at Witness to Love we believe that a sacrament is part of a communal experience. When a couple is married in the Catholic Church they not only receive a sacrament they are also received into a community!

Stunning videos, powerful witness couples, and attractive materials are all a part of [Witness to Love](#). But before all of this comes relationships with amazing married couple friends ready to walk with engaged couples before and after the wedding.

There has been a lot of great conversation recently in the Church about how a "[Marriage Catechumenate](#)" would help strengthen marriages. What exactly is it and why do we need it?

This short [video](#) provides an introduction.



What is the best way to learn about Witness to Love? Simply order a review pack. If you fill out our parish survey you can pay only the shipping for the review pack. [Order a Parish Review Pack!](#)

Please share this with all of your priests, deacons and parish marriage prep coordinators and encourage them to review this program that is changing so many lives and renewing parishes throughout our nation!

2017-2018 USCCB RESPECT LIFE PROGRAM
THEME: BE NOT AFRAID!

This program provides a set of tools help build a Culture of Life. The materials are meant to supplement existing methods of sharing the Faith and to help integrate the joyful message of our God-given dignity across the breath of Catholic life, work, and ministry. Go to the [website](#) for more.

The new brochures developed for the years' program include:

- What to Do When a Friend is Considering Abortion
- How to Build a Culture of Life
- Top Reasons to Oppose Assisted Suicide
- Catholic Considerations for Our Earthly Passing
- Death Penalty: Catholic Q & A
- Understanding Conscience



HOW DO I ORDER MATERIALS?

If you are only ordering 2017-2018 Respect Life Program materials...

1. Fill out the enclosed postcard order form.
2. Fax the completed postcard order form to 301-779-8596, or put it in the mail. (It's already addressed and postage-paid.)

OR Call toll-free 866-582-0943 to place your order by phone.

If you are ordering additional materials from the catalog...

1. Fill out the order form from the back of the catalog.
2. Send the completed order form by fax or mail to the number or address listed on the form.

OR Call toll-free 866-582-0943 to place your order by phone.

INTERNET ARTICLES OF INTEREST

[Absence of faith: There can be no religious test for public office](#)

[Life Issues Forum: Religious Identity and Freedom](#)

[A Right to the Baby We Want](#)

[Stop Denying Science. Birth Control Isn't Necessary For Women's Health](#)

[Talk to Your Father](#)

[What I Wish Women Knew About Plan B](#)

[So-Called "Safe Zone Legislation" Infringes on Pro-Life Free Speech Rights](#)

[Special Olympics Athlete Slams Eugenic Abortion: "I Am a Man With Down Syndrome and My Life is Worth Living"](#)

[The Giddy Appeal of Humanae Vitae](#)

[Christian thrown out of university over anti-gay remarks loses appeal](#)

[Undocumented Jane Doe's Abortion Is Bellwether to a Much Larger Battle](#)

[After 50 Years of Legal Abortion, UK Pro-Lifers March Onward](#)

[UN Human Rights Committee Formally Excludes Unborn Child from "Right to Life"](#)

[Florist Sued for Not Participating in Same-Sex Wedding: Stand Up for Religious Liberty](#)

[Post-Abortive Men Are Saving Babies' Lives](#)

[Georgetown students' commission votes not to sanction pro-marriage group](#)

[Planned Parenthood tells Blacks: You're better off aborting your babies](#)

[Statistics We Refuse to Collect](#)

[Trump Blocks International Support for Abortion Groups at G7 Meeting](#)

[Moments of Moral Clarity](#)

[6 Prominent Pro-Lifers Reflect on Roe v. Wade](#)

[The Ugly Truth About Sex Reassignment the Transgender Lobby Doesn't Want You to Know](#)

[Canadian pediatricians 'increasingly' being asked about assisted death for children](#)

[Internet safety for children is in parents' hands](#)

[Church of England tells schools to let children 'explore gender identity'](#)

[BREAKING: Supreme Court to hear case against California law forcing pro-life centers to advertise abortion](#)

[Automatic prenatal test likely to increase abortions of babies with Down's syndrome](#)

[Archdiocese of Detroit Begins Building the Marriage Catechumenate](#)

[At the Going Down of the Sun, We Will Remember Them](#)

[FBI Requests Planned Parenthood Documents, Signaling Possible Investigation](#)

[Council votes 33-1 to ban pro-life vigil attended by bishop](#)

["What Are We Trying to Hide?"](#)

[Europeans Block UN Efforts Against Child Porn](#)

[Ireland is one of the most pro-life countries in the world — let's keep it that way](#)

[Victory: Washington schools remove Planned Parenthood sex education from agenda](#)

[Dangerous Abortion Drug Pulled in France Still Pushed on Global South](#)

[Pro-life groups face increasing hostility on college campuses](#)

[Clear Doctrine Strengthens the Church](#)

[Little Sisters of the Poor forced back into court to fight birth control mandates](#)

[The Fallout of IVF: Embryos Treated as Property](#)

QUOTES OF THE MONTH

“I feel that the greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion, because it is a war against the child, a direct killing of the innocent child, murder by the mother herself. And if we accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another? ...

By abortion, the mother does not learn to love, but kills even her own child to solve her problems. And, by abortion, that father is told that he does not have to take any responsibility at all for the child he has brought into the world. The father is likely to put other women into the same trouble.

So abortion just leads to more abortion. Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want. This is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion.”

Excerpt taken from Saint Mother Teresa comments in a speech at the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington D.C. in 1997.



PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Prayer for Pro-Lifers

O God, the Father and Creator of human life, help us never to become discouraged in defending the full breadth of that most precious gift, from the miracle of fertilization to the spiritual serenity of natural death.

Inspire us to remember that without You we are powerless, and that what we do for the least, especially the helpless unborn dearest to You, we are actually doing for Your Son, who lives and works in and through us.

Protect us against the wiles and wickedness of the devil, a “murderer and liar from the beginning.” May the Holy Spirit enlighten us along our daily way! Amen.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the unborn, and Patroness of Human Life International, pray for us!

--Rev. Paul B. Marx, OSB, HLI Founder, www.hli.org

