

Knights of Columbus KCLS 2015

Culture of life Presentation

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State Culture of Life Chair Couple
July 18, 2015

2015 KCLS Goals

- Provide Culture of Life materials to attendees.
- Outline short-term plans for State Culture of Life program.
- Talk about Moral Relativism.
 - Special gift: booklet on Relativism from Catholic Answers.
- Show the association between the Culture of Life issues and the destruction of the family.
- Provide guidance on Culture of Life grading form.
 - Need is clear from the content of the forms received for the 2014-2015 fraternal year.

Short Term Areas of Emphasis

- Continue to publish monthly Culture of Life newsletter.
 - Previous issues are now available on the state web site.
- Facilitate the participation of councils in the Ultrasound Initiative.
 - We have been in contact with Ron Coco and Richard Bosse.
 - We have provided limited support so far to specific councils:
 - GK Louis Gaudet with Council 15006 in Lake Charles
 - GK Gene Hickey with Council 3854 in New Orleans
 - We also intend to help support existing centers and ultrasound machines in Louisiana – more to come soon.
- Plan to reach out to all dioceses about Culture of Life.
 - We will try to support diocesan initiatives.

Moral Relativism

- Relativism is the assertion that truths, especially moral truths, have no validity independent of the “values” treasured by the person or society that asserts them.
- It is the belief that knowledge, truth, and morality exist in relation to culture, society, or historical context, and are not absolute.
- It is form of faulty (i.e. irrational) thinking that is at the heart of the Culture of Death.
- We must be able to identify it and be ready to challenge it.
- If not, then we cannot change people’s minds about Culture of Life issues.

Relativism at the Supreme Court

- Planned Parenthood v. Casey (29 June 1992), joint opinion by Anthony Kennedy coauthored with Justices Souter and O'Connor:
 - **At the heart of liberty is the right to define one's own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life....** people have organized intimate relationships and made choices that define their views of themselves and their places in society, in reliance on the availability of abortion in the event that contraception should fail.... We conclude the line should be drawn at viability, so that, before that time, the woman has a right to choose to terminate her pregnancy.... there is no line other than viability which is more workable. To be sure, as we have said, there may be some medical developments that affect the precise point of viability, but this is an imprecision within tolerable limits.... A husband has no enforceable right to require a wife to advise him before she exercises her personal choices.

Relativism at the Supreme Court

- Obergefell v. Hodges (26 June 2015), joint opinion by Anthony Kennedy coauthored with Justices Souter and O'Connor:
 - The Constitution promises liberty to all within its reach, a liberty that includes certain specific rights that allow persons, within a lawful realm, **to define and express their identity**...The history of marriage is one of both continuity and change. Changes, such as the decline of arranged marriages and the abandonment of the law of coverture, have worked deep transformations in the structure of marriage, affecting aspects of marriage once viewed as essential. These **new insights** have strengthened, not weakened, the institution. Changed understandings of marriage are characteristic of a Nation **where new dimensions of freedom become apparent to new generations...History and tradition guide and discipline the inquiry but do not set its outer boundaries.** When new insight reveals discord between the Constitution's central protections and a received legal stricture, a claim to liberty must be addressed...The first premise of this Court's relevant precedents is that the **right to personal choice** regarding marriage is inherent in the **concept of individual autonomy.**

Dictatorship of Relativism

- Mass “PRO ELIGENDO ROMANO PONTIFICE”, Homily of His Eminence Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, Dean of the College of Cardinals, Vatican Basilica, Monday 18 April 2005:
 - Today, having a clear faith based on the Creed of the Church is often labeled as fundamentalism. Whereas relativism, that is, letting oneself be "tossed here and there, carried about by every wind of doctrine", seems the only attitude that can cope with modern times. We are building a dictatorship of relativism that does not recognize anything as definitive and whose ultimate goal consists solely of one's own ego and desires.

Culture of Death

An Attack on the Family

I (name) take you (name) to be my wife/husband.
I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, ~~in sickness and in health.~~
I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.



Euthanasia

Hollywood promotion
of sexual license and
fornication

Human Embryonic
Stem Cell Research

No fault divorce

IVF

Surrogacy

Essential Attributes of Conjugal Marriage:

- ~~1. lifelong commitment (a covenant)~~
- ~~2. Exclusive in nature (monogamous)~~
- ~~3. Only two people (complementarity)~~
- ~~4. Sexual in nature (oriented toward procreation)~~

The Gay Lifestyle

Contraception

Abortion

Same-Sex Marriage

Polygamy

What moral issues are covered under the Culture of Life?

- Abortion
- Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research
- Human Cloning
- Contraception
- In Vitro Fertilization (IVF)
- Surrogacy
- Redefinition of Marriage
- Euthanasia

Grading Form Guidance

- Want to encourage a variety of Culture of Life activities.
- Grading will be more strict for the 2015-2016 fraternal year.
 - This is an issue of fairness as it relates to awarding points to councils.
- No event can be used for credit in more than one question.
 - This is a challenge because activities often have more than one dimension (ex: 40 Days for life has spiritual and promotional aspects).
- Make sure that you help us understand what you did!
 - Describe your event concisely.
 - Include dates, man-hours, money raised/spent in your description.
 - You may not get credit if we cannot understand what was done.
 - Fill out the form on-line if possible.
- Credit is given even if the work is done only by the Culture of Life chair couple, but we encourage you to plan activities so that council members can participate.
- Newsletter is intended to provide information to enable councils to receive the maximum number of points.

Grading Form Question #1

- Did the council submit a State Council Service Program Award and Entry Form (STSP)? (5 points)
- This is a requirement from the State Council.
 - The filled-out form must be sent to the State Office:
 - P. O. Box 51166, Lafayette, LA 70505-1166.
 - If it is sent to us, then the council may not receive credit.
 - Best option: Email filled-out form to Robert Boudreaux.
- It is easy to fill out and pictures are not required.
- If you are having difficulty, please contact us for help well before the deadline: April 5, 2016.

Grading Form Question #2

- Did the council sponsor ONE substantial Culture of Life activity? (15 points)
- Substantial support is \$500 or 100 man-hours.
- You must provide details.
 - If we cannot determine the scope of the project, then credit will not be given.
- Suggested activities:
 - Pro-life Baby Bottle Campaign.
 - Memorial to the Unborn (erected in the current year).
 - Sponsor an unwed mother.
 - Purchase an ultrasound machine through the Supreme Ultrasound Initiative (note: this can be multi-council effort).
 - Organize a local or parish march for life.

Grading Form Question #2

Qualifying Examples:

- The council organized a parish March for Life with over 800 participants. The event included Eucharistic procession, ending in a pro-life mass and the start of a 5 day Eucharistic adoration congress (Council 1208).
- The council held a Baby Bottle Campaign to benefit Crossroads Pregnancy Resource Center in Thibodaux, LA. The program ran from 1/11/15 to 1/18/15, collecting \$6,298.86 (Council 1317).
- Purchased and delivered Christmas gifts valued at \$650 for unwed mothers at the Covenant House in New Orleans (Council 1437).

Grading Form Question #3

- Did the council perform each of the following? (10 pts)
 - Appoint a Culture of Life Chair Couple.
 - Provide the Chair Couple with Culture of Life materials from Supreme and State Council.
 - Complete and submit the Contact Information Form.
- You must provide the contact information before August 31, 2015 to receive 10 points.
 - After that date, the council can only receive 5 points.
 - Minimum information is names and email address.
- Primary communications will be by email, so an email address is very important.
- Notify us as soon as possible if a chair couple change is needed during the fraternal year.

Grading Form Question #4

- Did the council sponsor or participate in TWO Culture of Life support activities? (20 points maximum)
- Support activity involves providing material aid for a Culture of Life organization or individual.
- You must provide the beneficiary and type of support.
- Suggested activities:
 - Providing money or meals for students to attend March for Life in Washington DC.
 - Making a monetary donation to a Pro-life organization.
 - Donating time working at a crisis pregnancy center.
 - Cook and serve food at a public pro-life event.

Grading Form Question #4

Qualifying Examples:

- St. Peter's church baby bottle campaign collected \$3,500 for the DesOrmeaux Foundation (Council 1208).
- The council donated \$300 for lunches for students from the Houma-Thibodaux diocese attending the March for Life in Washington D.C. (Council 1317).
- Provided financial support for one teen to attend Camp Joshua (Council 1317).
- The council donated \$500 to Culture of Life Fund and Catholic Charities Pro-life organizations (Council 1437).
- Donated \$150 to CBIB organization that buries indigent children (Council 10645).

Grading Form Question #5

- Did the council sponsor or participate in TWO Culture of Life promotion activities? (20 points maximum)
- Promotion activity involves advertising, providing pro-life literature, and participating in a pro-life march.
- The two activities cannot be part of a single event.
- Suggested activities:
 - Putting up pro-life signs or billboards on church property or other public areas.
 - Providing pro-life literature at a KC meeting or parish event.
 - Participating in the March for Life in Washington DC.
 - Participating in one of the Louisiana Life Marches.

Grading Form Question #5

Qualifying Examples:

- Put up pro-life banners at six different local churches (Council 1208).
- Chair couple, family and council members participated in the National Life Chain in Houma, LA on 10/5/14 (Council 1317).
- Council put out 200 white crosses in front of parish church during the month of January (Council 2807).
- Council provided a monetary reward and plaque of recognition for the High School Pro-life Oratory Contest (Council 3407).
- Council distributed pro-life literature after masses during pro-life month (Council 3407).

Grading Form Question #6

- Did the council sponsor or participate in ONE Culture of Life spiritual activity? (10 points maximum)
- Spiritual activity involves pro-life prayer and liturgy.
- Suggested activities:
 - A pro-life Rosary with a group involving the council.
 - Organizing a pro-life Mass in your parish.
 - Participating in the Silver Rose program.
 - Organizing a memorial service for the unborn.
 - Participating in 40 Days for Life.
 - Praying for a Culture of Life at each council meeting.
 - Providing pro-life prayer cards to council or parish.

Grading Form Question #6

Qualifying Examples:

- Organized a Culture of Life Mass at St. Francis de Sales on 1/11/15 that included the Fourth Degree Honor Guard (Council 1317).
- Council passed out pro-life prayer cards to members at a KC meeting (Council 2504).
- Council members prayed the Rosary and other prayers at 40 Days for Life (Council 2657).
- Council organized a prayer vigil at Ridgeland abortion clinic in Metairie on 10/14/14 (Council 3246).
- Prayed a pro-life Rosary at a local abortion facility (Council 4873).
- Council organized a monthly pro-life Rosary, coordinating with 3 other parishes (Council 5499).

Grading Form Question #7

- Did the council sponsor or participate in ONE Culture of Life educational activity? (10 points maximum)
- Educational activity involves learning about pro-life issues and arguments and sharing pro-life information with others.
- Suggested activities:
 - Chair couple gives a pro-life talk at a council meeting.
 - Chair couple attends a pro-life conference.
 - Chair couple attends KCLS.
 - Council provides pro-life literature to council or parish.
 - Write a pro-life article in a council newsletter or parish bulletin.
 - Invite a Louisiana Right to Life speaker to your council meeting or parish event.

Grading Form Question #7

Qualifying Examples:

- Chair couple attended a seminar on abortion issues and how best to defeat legislation that support taxpayer funding of abortion (Council 1108).
- Culture of Life director speaks at each meeting on the latest pro-life activities on a national level (Council 2436).
- Council scheduled a tour of the American Holocaust Memorial in Baton Rouge (Council 3743).
- Council members attended the Bishop's Pro-Life Rally (Council 8342).
- The council pays for its Culture of Life chair couple to attend the annual Baton Rouge Right to Life breakfast focusing on educating the public on pro-life issues (Council 9016).

Grading Form Question #8

- Did the council sponsor or participate in ONE Culture of Life citizen advocacy activity? (10 points)
- Related activities include:
 - Letter writing or email campaign to influence elected officials on Culture of Life issues.
 - Voter education program related to Culture of Life issues.
 - Providing pro-life comparison guides of election candidates.
- Suggested activities:
 - Organize council members to send timely emails to elected officials using USCCB Action Center or NCHLA.org.
 - Provide Louisiana RTL election literature at election time.
 - Provide pro-life or Catholic voter guides to members, parishioners, or the public.

Grading Form Question #8

Qualifying Examples:

- Twenty members emailed their State and Federal elected officials on bills that funded abortion, force organizations to cover contraceptives for their employees, fund cloning, and redefine marriage (Council 1108).
- Chair couple emailed and phone messaged council members asking them to email, call or write their elected officials to show their support for pro-life legislation (Council 1208).
- Knights gave a presentation to parishioners on the importance of considering a candidate's pro-life positions (Council 1286).

Questions and Answers