

# Knights of Columbus KCLS 2016

## Culture of life Presentation

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State Culture of Life Chair Couple  
July 16, 2016

# 2016 KCLS Goals

- Provide Culture of Life materials to attendees.
- Outline short-term plans for Culture of Life program.
- Address Gender Ideology and attacks on the Church.
- Introduce an additional area of emphasis.
- Provide guidance on Culture of Life grading form.

# Short Term Areas of Emphasis

- Continue to publish monthly Culture of Life newsletter.
  - Previous issues are available on the state web site.
  - We want to encourage councils to contribute to the newsletter.
- Facilitate the participation of councils in the Ultrasound Initiative.
  - We are working with Ron Coco and Richard Bosse.
  - We are also trying to help support existing centers and ultrasound machines in Louisiana.
- Encourage council Culture of Life activities beyond fighting abortion.
- Reach out to all dioceses about Culture of Life.
  - We will try to support diocesan initiatives.

# What Are We Up Against?

- We live in a Culture that is directly opposed to the teachings of the Catholic Church.
  - If you have been reading our monthly newsletter, then you are aware of many news stories and commentaries that demonstrates this.
- This statement is also supported by Pew Research polling data:
  - Pew Research Center, "U. S. Public Becoming Less Religious," November 3, 2015.
  - Pew Research Center, "U. S. Catholics Open to Non-Traditional Families," September 2, 2015.
- This make our efforts to build a Culture of Life difficult.

# Pew Polling Data – General Public

Question	Year of Survey	NET Abortion should be legal in all/most cases	Legal in all cases	Legal in most cases	NET Abortion should be illegal in all/most cases	Illegal in most cases	Illegal in all cases	Don't know/ refused
Do you think abortion should be legal in all cases, legal in most cases, illegal in most cases or illegal in all cases?	2014	48	17	31	47	28	19	5
	2007	48	16	32	45	27	18	7
Question	Year of Survey	Homosexuality should be accepted by society	Homosexuality should be discouraged by society	Neither/both equally	Don't know/ refused			
Which comes closer to your view?	2014	70	23	4	4			
	2007	58	30	5	7			
Question	Year of Survey	NET Favor	Strongly favor	Favor	Net Oppose	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know/ refused
Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose or strongly oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?	2014	57	20	36	34	22	13	9

# Pew Polling Data

Question	Group	Acceptable and as good as any other way of life	Acceptable but not as good as some other other ways of life	Not an acceptable way of life	Depends	Don't know/ refused
Which comes closer to your view regarding a man and woman in a romantic relationship living together without being married?	U.S. Adults	55	26	17	1	2
	Catholics	55	31	11	1	2
Question	Group	Acceptable and as good as any other way of life	Acceptable but not as good as some other other ways of life	Not an acceptable way of life	Depends	Don't know/ refused
Which comes closer to your view regarding a same-sex couple in a romantic relationship living together?	U.S. Adults	47	18	30	1	4
	Catholics	46	24	25	1	4

# Pew Polling Data

Question	Group	Yes, is a sin	No, is not a sin	Doesn't believe in sin	Don't know/ refused
Is it sinful to engage in homosexual behavior?	U.S. Adults	45	29	22	5
	Catholics	44	39	11	6
Question	Group	Yes, is a sin	No, is not a sin	Doesn't believe in sin	Don't know/ refused
Is it sinful to live with a romantic partner without being married?	U.S. Adults	36	40	22	3
	Catholics	33	54	11	2
Question	Group	Yes, is a sin	No, is not a sin	Doesn't believe in sin	Don't know/ refused
Is it sinful to use contraceptives?	U.S. Adults	10	63	22	6
	Catholics	17	66	11	5
Question	Group	Yes, is a sin	No, is not a sin	Doesn't believe in sin	Don't know/ refused
Is it sinful to have an abortion?	U.S. Adults	48	22	22	9
	Catholics	57	23	11	9

# Gender Ideology

- The Culture today fully embraces same-sex unions and gender ideology.
- This ideology is actively supported by all levels of government, school administrations, and corporations.
- The “powers that be” are now attacking the one institution that is standing in the way of a complete victory: The Catholic Church.
- How are we as committed Catholics to respond?
- First, we need to make sure that we understand Church teaching and be prepared to provide a positive alternative.



# Judgment and Gender Ideology

- There are two senses of the term “judge.”
- The first type: judging of souls
  - This must not be done.
  - This involves the speculation on the eternal destiny of people, deciding about inner motives, or determine condemnation from God.
  - We simply cannot see into a soul.
- The second type: judging actions
  - This must be done.
  - This is the assessment of the moral value of a particular act.
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states: “Human acts, that is, acts that are freely chosen in consequence of a judgment of conscience, can be morally evaluated. They are either good or evil...[A]lthough we can judge that an act is in itself a grave offense, we must entrust judgment of persons to the justice and mercy of God.”

# Homosexuality

- *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states: "Homosexuality refers to relations between men or between women who experience an exclusive or predominant sexual attraction toward persons of the same sex. It has taken a great variety of forms through the centuries and in different cultures. Its psychological genesis remains largely unexplained. Basing itself on Sacred Scripture, which presents homosexual acts as acts of grave depravity, tradition has always declared that 'homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered.' They are contrary to the natural law. They close the sexual act to the gift of life. They do not proceed from a genuine affective and sexual complementarity. Under no circumstances can they be approved."
- "The number of men and women who have deep-seated homosexual tendencies is not negligible. This inclination, which is objectively disordered, constitutes for most of them a trial. They must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided. These persons are called to fulfill God's will in their lives and, if they are Christians, to unite to the sacrifice of the Lord's Cross the difficulties they may encounter from their condition."

# Stay Strong!

- Stay strong!
- Stay faithful!
- As individuals and as councils, we are having a positive impact on the lives of real people.
- Jesus Christ has told us: “In this world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world” (John 16:33).
- Let us never forget why we do what we do.

# 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
- **Human Trafficking (new!)**

# Play Metanoia Video

# Human Trafficking & Human Dignity



***"Enslave the liberty of but one human being & the liberties of the world are put in peril."***

William Lloyd Garrison,  
19th century abolitionist

## Culture of Life

- Made in the image and likeness of God
- Inherent dignity
- Eternal destiny
- Made for Community

## Culture of Death

- Treated as a object to be used
- Suffering and denigration
- Sin and its consequences
- Separation and Isolation

# Hidden in Plain Sight: Human Trafficking

## What is Human Trafficking?

- It is a form of modern-day slavery. This crime occurs when a trafficker uses force, fraud or coercion to control another person for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex acts or soliciting labor or services against his/her will.
- It involves both children and adults.

## How many people are trafficked worldwide?

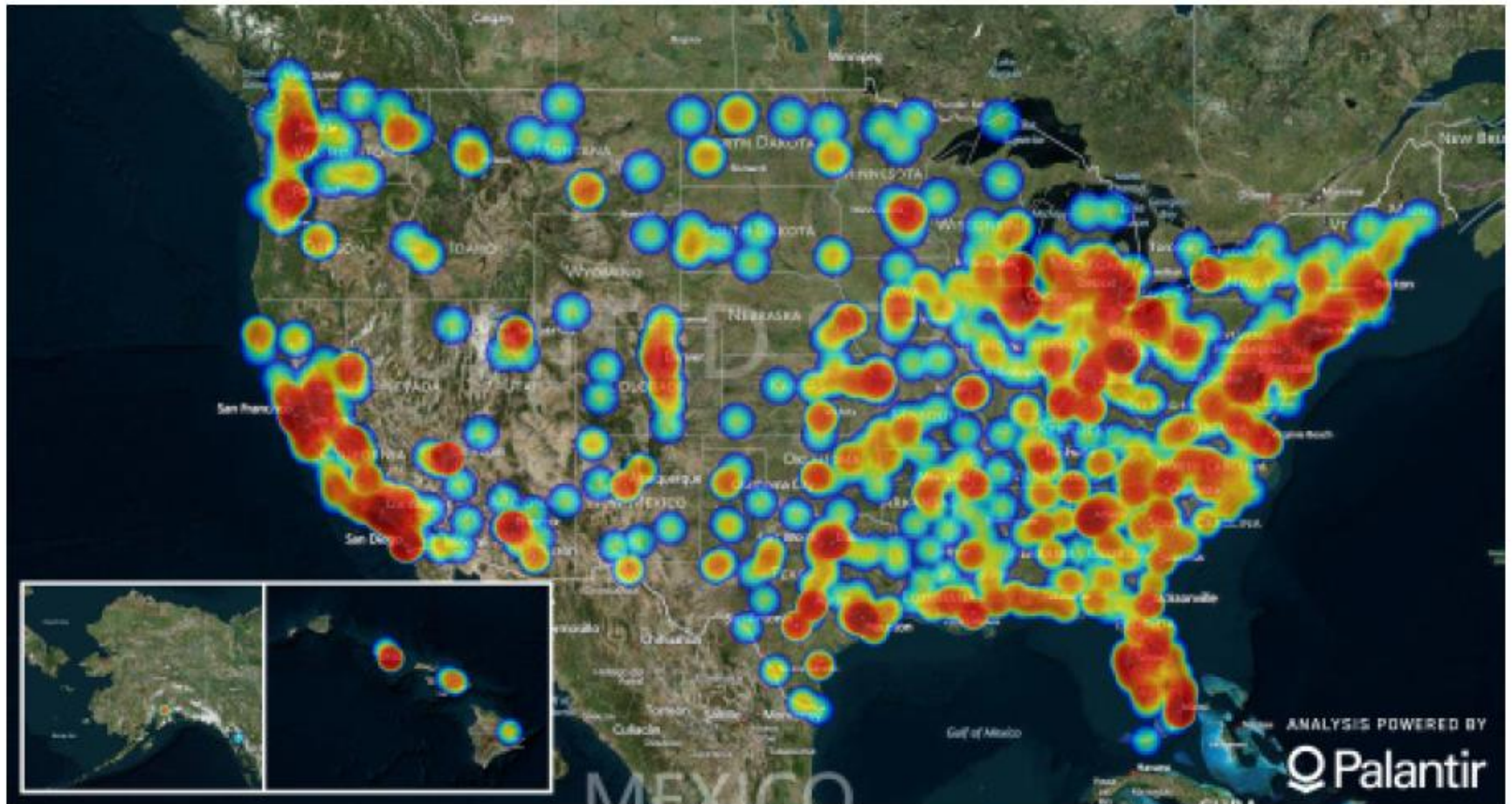
- According to the International Labor Organization's 2014 statistics, there are over 21 million men, women, and children trafficked worldwide.

## Is human trafficking in the United States?

- Yes. It exists in all 50 states.



## Location of Potential Human Trafficking Cases in the U.S.



This map only reflects cases where the location of the potential trafficking was known. Some cases may involve more than one location.



# Hidden in Plain Sight: Human Trafficking

## Who is trafficked in the US?

- According to the Department of Justice, 83% of victims in the US are American citizens and 50% of the victims are minors.
- According to Polaris Project's 2015 statistics, 40% of those trafficked in Louisiana are minors and 19% of the trafficked victims are men.

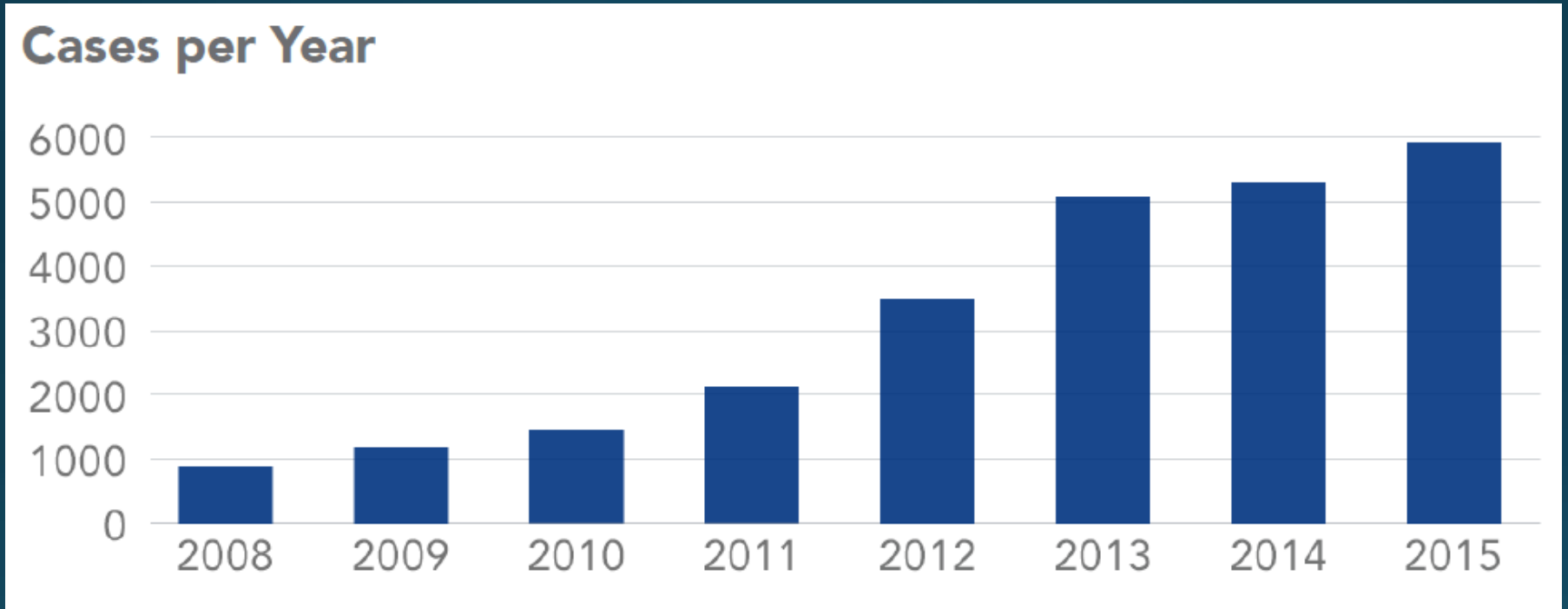
## What is the most common type of Human Trafficking?

- According to the Polaris Project's 2015 statistics, 76% of the victims in Louisiana are involved in Sex Trafficking, and the number one venue is a commercial front brothel.

## Who is most at risk?

- Vulnerable youth, especially those who are runaways or those with other difficulties such as a troubled home life or drug and alcohol abuse.
- Traffickers also target any youth on-line through social media sites.

# Human Trafficking Cases Rising



This is only the “tip of the iceberg,” only what is reported.

# Red Flags for Human Trafficking

- Under 18 years of age and providing commercial sex acts
- Has a pimp
- Offers to trade sex for food, housing, necessities
- Photos used on-line for advertising
- Restricted freedom of movement and conversation
- Hesitant answers and scripted responses
- Fearful, distrusting, lack of eye contact
- Inconsistent stories
- Another person interferes with conversation or speaks for the individual
- Suspicious living situation - excessive security, unable to clarify living situation, multiple persons living together, living with employer
- Lack of knowledge about whereabouts, lost sense of time, frequent moves
- Health issues - malnourished, signs of abuse/restraint, lacking healthcare access, poor grooming
- Not in control of their own possessions, identification, finances
- Recruited for work through false promises
- Excessive work hours, work restrictions
- Unpaid, very little pay, paid through tips only
- Owes large debt that cannot be paid off
- Has been treated with harm, arrest, deportation (to individual or family members)

# What Can We Do?

- Increase Awareness.
  - Educate council members about this issue.
  - Use and share available resources.
- Look for the warning signs.
  - Report suspicious situations to the proper authorities.
- Strengthen families.
  - Live our lives consistent with Catholic teaching.
- Support organizations on the frontlines.
- Most importantly: Pray!
  - "...for God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26)

# Human Trafficking Resources



## Web Sites:

- <https://traffickingresourcecenter.org/>
- <https://polarisproject.org/>
- <https://www.unodc.org/>
- <http://www.usccb.org/about/anti-trafficking-program/>
- <http://metanoia-inc.org/>

# Special Recognition

The Human Trafficking material in this presentation was provided by **Debbie Shinskie**, Director of the Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

We are grateful for her continued support of our pro-life efforts in Louisiana.

# Grading Form Guidance

- Want to encourage a variety of Culture of Life activities.
- Grading will be more strict for the 2016-2017 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, 2017.



# 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, 2016 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 material support activities? (20 points max)
- 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.
  - 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 Ridgelake 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).