

# Knights of Columbus KCLS 2017

## Culture of life Presentation

Sam and Arline Mistretta  
State Culture of Life Chair Couple  
July 15, 2017

# 2017 KCLS Agenda

- Pro-Life Presentation by Anna Starnes
- Culture of Life Program Emphasis
- Pro-Life Presentation by Ben Clapper, Executive Director of Louisiana Right to Life
- End of Life Issues
- Culture of Life Grading Form Guidance

# Pro-Life Presentation by Anna Starnes

# Short Term Areas of Emphasis

- Continue to publish monthly Culture of Life newsletter.
  - Timely information to use in your council programs.
  - We want to encourage councils to contribute to the newsletter.
  - Previous issues are available on the state web site.
- Facilitate the participation of councils in the Ultrasound Initiative.
- Encourage council Culture of Life activities beyond fighting abortion.
- Reach out to Dioceses in the state about Culture of Life.
  - We will try to support Diocesan initiatives.

# 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

# Culture of Life Newsletter

## CULTURAE VITAE

Volume 1 Number 2

### 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-chnl-advocacy>. 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 Baldridge

(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 Respect, 2) Project Family 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.mfndobc.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 Hauke (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.



Get ideas for pro-life activities by seeing what other councils are doing

Resources and articles by people active in Pro-life

Find out about upcoming events throughout the state

## CULTURAE VITAE

Volume 1 Number 2

### ST. AGNES AND 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

By Allen Kijbort (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

## CULTURAE VITAE

Volume 1 Number 2

### EDUCATION CORNER

#### LEGISLATIVE 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,

## CULTURAE VITAE

Volume 1 Number 2

### 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](http://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.

Get educational information

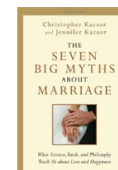
communicates with leaders about legislative priorities, and presents legislative seminars throughout the year. In a special way, NCHLA assists dioceses, state Catholic conferences, and Catholic lay groups. The Committee also works closely with the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities of the United States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

Please take a moment to go to their web site and sign-up for free email alerts: [www.nchla.org](http://www.nchla.org).

### BOOK RECOMMENDATION

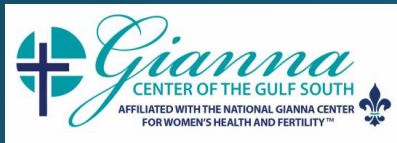
Our culture is rapidly rejecting the institution of marriage that has existed for all of recorded time. The media frames the marriage debate in a superficial manner. So how can Catholics understand the fundamental issues and respond to questions that challenge truth of marriage?

Christopher and Jennifer Kaczor have written a wonderful and much needed book entitled "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 wanting to be grounded in truth and see examples of how it can be lived. We highly recommend it.



# Ultrasound Initiative Opportunities

- Gianna Center of the Gulf South in Covington
  - Contact Steve Hart (504-615-1303, [heartfore@bellsouth.net](mailto:heartfore@bellsouth.net))
- Woman's New Life Center in Baton Rouge
  - Contact Ralph Roger (713-306-6984, [rroger@dow.com](mailto:rroger@dow.com))
- Women's Help Center in Baton Rouge
  - **Need a lead council.**
  - Contact John Hauler (504-812-8753, [jehauler@yahoo.com](mailto:jehauler@yahoo.com))
- Community Center for Life in Gretna
  - Contact Don Caskey (504-884-0101, [dcaskey53@yahoo.com](mailto:dcaskey53@yahoo.com)).



Pro-Life Presentation  
by Ben Clapper,  
Executive Director for LRTL



# End of Life Issues

# “Mercy at the End of Life”

- Dr. John Meinert, Ph. D. from OLOL College gave a talk entitled “Mercy at the End of Life” at the 2016 Life Fest.
  - I want to share some of his insights with you.
- Charity is the supernatural gift that motivates us to seek the good of others.
  - One who possesses charity loves God and loves his neighbor.
- The fruits of charity are joy, peace, and mercy (CCC 1829).
- Mercy is the disposition to be kind and forgiving. It is the ready willingness to help anyone in need, especially in need of pardon or reconciliation (Catholic Dictionary – J. A. Hardon, S.J.).

# More on Mercy

- There are two aspects of mercy.
  - Distress and compassion at another in misery.
  - Providing aid; a response to the lack of good.
- What is compassion?
  - It means to suffer with another.
  - I experience the suffering as if it were my own.
  - It is drawn from the life of Christ.
- What is false mercy?
  - It wills evil to another person.
  - Person acted upon does not receive the benefits of the action.
  - It is never permissible to directly bring about another's death to relieve pain and suffering.
- In a totalitarian society, I don't kill you; I get you to kill yourself and you want to do it!

What if aid is not possible?

Simply share in the suffering.

# End of Life Issues



- It is important to distinguish between two types of medical intervention:
  - Ordinary
  - Extraordinary
- “A person has a moral obligation to use ordinary means of preserving his or her life. Ordinary means are those that in the judgment of the patient offer a reasonable hope of benefit and do not entail an excessive burden or impose excessive expense on the family or the community.”
- “A person may forego extraordinary means of preserving life. Extraordinary means are those that in the patient’s judgment do not offer a reasonable hope of benefit or entail an excessive burden, or impose excessive expense on the family or the community.”

# The Means for Preserving Life

## Extraordinary

- Does not achieve its purpose
- Little chance of success
- Burdens are greater than the benefits
- Only prolongs the dying process
- Dangerous, experimental
- Difficult to access
- Costly, beyond available funds

- Food and water (even by artificial means) are always ordinary in principle.

## Ordinary

- You have a moral obligation to do this.
- It does not involve any of the conditions given on the left side.

# Some Points Regarding End of Life Issues



- The wave of emotions which accompanies the diagnosis of a degenerative or terminal illness may lead a patient to wish death upon himself.
- This is almost always an anguished plea for help and love.
- We need to offer these persons companionship and consolation on their difficult journey.
- Aside from medical care, these patients should be offered love.
- Those close to the patient, parents, children, doctors, and nurses should assure him or her that they will never be abandoned or considered a burden by their loved ones.

# Resources

- National Catholic Bioethics Center hotline
  - <https://www.ncbcenter.org/>
  - Call: 215-877-2660
- <http://www.catholicendoflife.org/church-teaching/>
- LACCB's "The Final Journey" resources:
  - <http://www.laccb.org/content.cfm?id=1283>
- Catholic Answers 20 Answers "End of Life Issues" booklet
- The Gospel of Life (*Evangelium Vitae*) by Pope Saint John Paul II
- Helpful books:
  - **Making Sense Out of Suffering** by Peter Kreeft
  - **Life Issues, Medical Choices** by Janet E. Smith and Christopher Kaczor
  - **Catholic Bioethics and the Gift of Human Life** by William E. May
  - **The Essential Moral Handbook (A Guide to Catholic Living)** by Kevin J. O'Neil, C.Ss.R. and Peter Black, C.Ss.R.
  - **Life, Death, and Catholic Medical Choices (50 Questions from the Pews)** by Kevin O'Neal, CSsR & Peter Black, STD

# Grading Form Guidance



# Grading Form Guidance

- Want to encourage a variety of Culture of Life activities.
- 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.
  - The council chair couple can fill out this form.
- 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, 2018.

# 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:
  - Purchase an ultrasound machine through the Supreme Ultrasound Initiative (note: this can be multi-council effort).
  - Pro-life Baby Bottle Campaign.
  - Memorial to the Unborn (erected in the current year).
  - Sponsor an unwed mother.

# 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, 2017 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 occurs 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 PULSE Pro-Life Camp (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 D.C.
  - 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 Ridgeline 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 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 LRTL 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).