

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 this year? 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 presentation provides specific guidance on the activity grading form.

Please contact us if you have questions or need more information.

### WHAT IS A CULTURE OF LIFE?

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

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

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

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

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

### CULTURE OF LIFE SURVEY RESULTS FROM 2014 ARE AVAILABLE

The results a 2014 survey of Culture of Life chair couples is available on the state KC web site: <a href="http://www.louisianakc.org/programs/cultureoflife/">http://www.louisianakc.org/programs/cultureoflife/</a>

### FREE MATERIALS FROM SUPREME

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

http://www.kofc.org/un/en/prolife/programs/support
\_materials.html

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

### **CULTURE OF LIFE RESOURCES**

### 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: <a href="http://www.kofc.org/un/en/prolife/ultrasound/">http://www.kofc.org/un/en/prolife/ultrasound/</a>.

The Supreme web site provides 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 <a href="mailto:smistretta2@cox.net">smistretta2@cox.net</a>) for assistance.

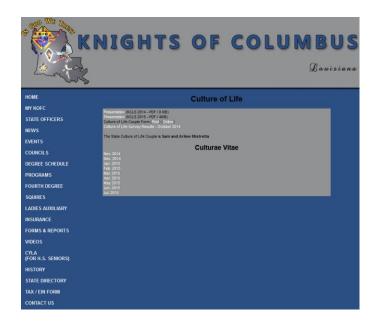


### CULTURE OF LIFE NEWSLETTERS ARE ON THE STATE WEB SITE

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: <a href="https://link.no.nih.gov/li

This will make it easier for you to share this information with others and utilize the information in your pro-life activities. 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.



### 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 in our Culture of Death. 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 (<a href="http://www.prolifelouisiana.org/">http://www.prolifelouisiana.org/</a>). 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.



### ABORTION PILL REVERSAL

Women with a crisis pregnancy often take drastic actions to deal with their situation. These women may take the first dose of an abortion pill (Mifepristone or RU-486) and immediately regret that decision. Sidewalk counselors may encounter such situations, so it is important that they be aware that help is available to reverse the effects of the abortion pill. Of course, fast action is required. People are available to provide timely help by calling 877-558-0333. You can find out more information at <a href="https://www.abortionpillreversal.com">www.abortionpillreversal.com</a>.



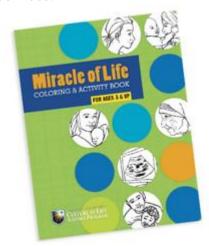
### PRO-LIFE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

The American Life League's Culture of Life Studies Program is an academic program that uses educational supplements to teach the gospel of life in every subject and in every grade.



Their web <u>site</u> states: "With our culture waging open war against marriage, the family, the innocent preborn, and the disabled, there has never been more need for an educational program that teaches students the truth about the value of all human life, the sacredness of the sacrament of marriage, and the necessity of the family as the building block of society. American Life League's Culture of Life Studies Program actively combats the culture of death by helping students to understand the value of all human life and by inspiring a new generation of young people who will defend preborn children, respect all human life from creation to death, and speak the truth with confidence in defense of the innocent."

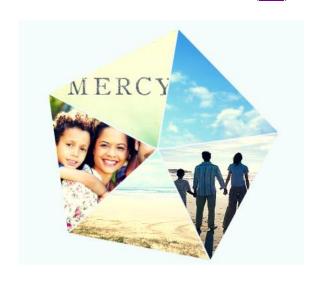
Free lessons are available on the web site and you can purchase a variety of educational materials. You can also download coloring pages and puzzles for classroom use.



### SPREAD THE WORD IN YOUR PARISHES!

Shannon Baldridge, Marriage & Family Life Office

As part of the Jubilee of Mercy, we wanted to encourage a special Family Day of Mercy throughout our Diocese with a special focus on mercy. December 27th is the Feast of the Holy Family and since it is a Sunday this year, when most parents will not need to work, it seems a fitting day to encourage special family time among your parishioners. This is NOT an event that you need to plan, we only invite you to encourage your parishioners from the pulpit and/or through your parish bulletins & communiques to set aside December 27th as a day where each family might come together on their own to plan some activities or discussions together centered on mercy. Resources and information are available (link).



### **CULTURE OF LIFE STORIES**

### BORN TO RUN 2015 WAS A BIG SUCCESS!

Again this year, the Woman's New Life Center held a major fundraising event, Born to Run, in downtown Baton Rouge. Hundreds of people turned out to participate in the two runs as well as enjoy free food and music by the V-Tones! Knights of Columbus councils from Our Lady of Mercy, St. John the Baptist in Zachary, St. Jean Vianney and Christ the King parishes cooked and served food at the event.

WNLC is a life-affirming counseling and medical center that serves women facing unplanned pregnancies in the Greater New Orleans and Baton Rouge areas. WNLC offers a unique range of services, including:

- Professional counseling
- Pregnancy testing and ultrasounds
- Medical history review
- Case management
- Adoption facilitation
- Professional post-abortion counseling
- Creighton Model FertilityCare
- Internship/residency programs













PRO-LIFE POSTER CONTEST
By Mike and Cathy Abbate (Council 9623)

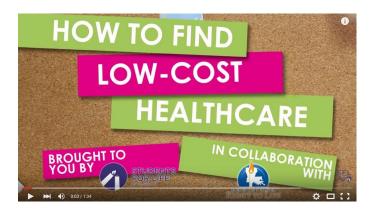
Each year in October and January, a large pro-life billboard is put in place near Ascension of Our Lord Catholic Church in Laplace by KC Council 9623. The picture below shows the council Culture for Life chair couple with the billboard.



### PRO-LIFE ON-LINE VIDEO

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

Students for Life and Louisiana Right to Life have an awesome video collaboration showing all the wonderful, abundant options local women have for healthcare without Planned Parenthood in the New Orleans area. Check it out! You will be surprised at all the options...You can find the video on YouTube at this link.



### CONSCIENCE PROTECTION

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

An update from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops: "Cathy Cenzon-DeCarlo, RN, was forced by her employer to participate in a late-term abortion against her deeply-held pro-life beliefs – a major violation of her conscience rights! Urge Congress to support the Abortion Non-Discrimination Act today!

Go to: www.usccb.org/conscience."

If conscience protection is not protected now, healthcare providers will find themselves not only being forced under penalty of law to participate in abortions, but also being forced to aid assisted suicides & euthanasia. Those who care for any persons of any age will find their consciences no longer matter when it comes to providing care.

Pope Francis recently responded to a question on conscience protection, but the secular media sure didn't give this response much attention.

"Pope Francis gave clear approval of Kim Davis' stance against issuing homosexual 'marriage' licenses as he traveled back to Rome Monday, calling it a 'human right' for government officials to refuse to conduct a duty that violates their conscience."

Read the full article: <u>Pope Francis: Refusing to sign</u> gay 'marriage' licenses is a human right.

# UPCOMING LOUISIANA LIFE MARCH SOUTH By Sandy Cunningham, Communications Director, Lousiana Right to Life

Dear Friend,

We hope you will join us in the Life Ministry Mobilization area this year at the Louisiana Life March South, to be held in downtown Baton Rouge on Saturday, Jan. 23, 2016.

The march will begin at the old Capitol, but the final destination at or near the new Capitol has not been finalized. However, we WILL have the Life Ministry Mobilization area set up at the destination site, and we are now taking table reservations. Details about location, set up time, etc. will be sent out as soon as that information is available.

For more information contact me at sandy@prolifelouisiana.org or call 1-866-463-5433.

P.S.: We are hosting the Louisiana Life March Central for the first time this year. It will be held the following Saturday, Jan. 30, starting at Louisiana College and ending at the ampitheatre in Alexandria. There will be a life ministry mobilization area there, so if you are interested in participating in that event as well please let me know and I will get the necessary information to you.

LOUISIANA

RIGHT TO LIFE

### COUNCIL PRAYER VIGIL

By LeRoy and Ellen Brandow (Council 14614)

On November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, KC Council 14614 Culture of Life chair couple Ellen & LeRoy Brandow handed out cupcakes to parishioners of Most Holy Trinity in Mandeville after Mass to remember the babies lost to abortion.



HOMO SAPIENS AND ABORTION By John Hauler (Council 9016)

Common sense used to tell us right from wrong, for the most part. However, in this day and age, common sense takes a back seat to selfishness. Before 1973, a baby was considered sacred along with the flag, motherhood, and apple pie which was a popular saying. Since Roe v Wade, the baby has gone out of the window with the bath water. What we have left is the flag and a piece of pie. No one uses those phrases any more. They are out of date.

What is in vogue today is a high standard of selfishness. If one would check out the Planned Parenthood homepage, you would see the common thread of their advertisements that young women can get on with their lives because they will have no responsibilities after their abortion. Planned Parenthood sells abortion and is proud to do so. Yet they still try to ease the pain of truth by avoiding words like 'baby' and 'kill.' Pro-lifers need to remain a force for the protection of the unborn. We are alive because no one wanted to get rid of us.

Killing is now part of our culture. Every day we read or hear of one atrocity or another. It is worldwide. We can contribute it directly as perpetrators or indirectly as silent bystanders.

Abortion is one form of killing. An instrument approaches the fetus (or call it a group of cells) from which hearts, kidneys and other parts are extracted. Just ask Planned Parenthood about this. Remember, they now say they will not charge for harvesting body parts from this group of cells or fetus. But, they will still harvest the parts.

Whether money is exchanged or not, the baby is still dead. The hired abortionist is sanctioned by the United States government. If we do not stand up and oppose the law of Roe V. Wade, then this culture of death will only continue to get larger. Euthanasia is in the works and has been for a while. The ideas of Dr. Jack Kevorkian have a lot of proponents. We need to stand up now or there will never be a time to stand up.

### BUILDING A CULTURE OF LIFE Voorhies and Betty Short (Council 7557)

KC Council 7557 in Broussard with support from their the Ladies Auxiliary arranged for speakers from Maddie's Footprints to speak at a KC meeting. Maddie's Footprints (<a href="www.maddiesfootprints.org">www.maddiesfootprints.org</a>) helps families who have experienced miscarriages, stillbirths or the loss of an infant. The focus of the talk was the death of children from SIDS, still births, and diseases and helping the families impacted. This is part of a continuing effort to talk about Pro-life issues at every monthly meeting.



We also just finished our participation in 40 Days for Life, and we are now preparing for our annual March for Life on January 9, 2016.

Finally, we will be conducting a Baby Bottle Campaign to help the local Women's Center, and we are currently working on a Memorial to the Unborn at the school.

# NEWS OF HOPE AND LIVES SAVED FROM WOMAN'S NEW LIFE CENTER By Ali Dazzio

### **A Precious Life**

Brianna had a decision to make. She found herself pregnant, alone, afraid – overwhelmed from the constant mental battle she was fighting. Every ounce of fear made abortion seem like the only answer – fear of broken relationships, judgement and disappointment.

"I had so many voices in my ear. I felt weak, broken and numb."

Exhausted from morning sickness and not eating, Brianna sat in the car trying to stay disconnected from the reality of the life now within her. She tried to fight back thoughts about this child: "I wondered what this child would look like. Would the child be a boy or a girl? What would their first birthday party look like?"

But in that same moment, Brianna felt the power of prayer and gave in to the reality of the life she was carrying. That is when she walked through the doors of Woman's New Life Center.

Brianna walked in and was immediately met with compassion and a sense of safety.

"They met me right where I was; I didn't have to act like everything was ok. They let me speak whatever was on my mind, whatever was in my heart. There was never any pressure. I wasn't ashamed or embarrassed. I felt secure. Everything was confidential."

In Woman's New Life Center, Brianna found a safe place where she would be heard. She was able to begin addressing the crisis she found herself in. As Brianna worked with our counselor and gained the support of her family, what at first seemed impossible now became possible.

As weeks passed and counseling continued, Brianna began to connect more and more with her child. She began to dream – to imagine and wonder what this new life would become. Brianna's newfound hope

helped her begin to make choices for life – choices that bettered her life and the life of her future child.

Brianna had a decision to make. Through Woman's New Life Center, Brianna was able to choose life – a life whose name is Precious.

"I don't know what my life would be like if I had aborted her. To those who keep the doors of Woman's New Life Center open – thank you for considering me and my child. Knowing you have a place of support makes the decision to choose life easier."

Because of you, there is a place for women to find hope in the midst of their brokenness. Because of you, Brianna will not have to live with the devastation and aftermath of abortion. Because of you, Brianna gets to wake up every day to the radiant face of her daughter, Precious.

Thank you for your prayers, your support and your presence. You are a gift to so many. If you want to know how to become more involved with Woman's New Life Center, please email, Ali Dazzio @ adazzio@womansnewlife.com



### YEAR OF MERCY

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

The Year of Mercy will begin on this year's Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8<sup>th</sup>. The Respect Life Office is participating with the first point of focus being merciful outreach to postabortive women and their families/friends. Help is already available in the Archdiocese:

- 1. Project Rachel (<u>link</u>) in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, contact Danna P. Cousins, MSW, LCSW at 504-885-1141 ext. 25, <u>dcousins@ccano.org</u>.
- 2. Rachel's Vineyard (<u>link</u>) in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, contact Pam Richard at 504-460-9360 or 985-809-0773, <u>richj504@bellsouth.net</u>.
- 3. Woman's New Life Center (<u>link</u>), Confidential counseling services at 504-831-3117.

Volume 2 Number 12 **CULTURAE VITAE** 

### **UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

### PROUDLY PRO-LIFE DINNER

New Orleans Right to Life's 17th annual Proudly Pro-Life Award Dinner will be held on Thursday, January 14, 2016 at Chateau Country Club in Kenner. Cocktails are at 6 PM, and the dinner begins at 7 PM.

This year's recipients of the Proudly Pro-Life Awards are the Louisiana Knights of Columbus and Mr. John Hauler. Hauler joined the board of New Orleans Right to Life in 1978 and was elected treasurer in 1980, a position he holds to this day. He has served the unborn for 38 years through his notable accounting skills and his prolific letters to the editor. Hauler and his wife, Elaine, moved to Baton Rouge after Hurricane Katrina, and Hauler now serves as president of Baton Rouge Right to Life.

The Louisiana Knights of Columbus have made numerous contributions to the pro-life cause since 1973. Most notably, the Louisiana Knights have funded and supported the youth efforts of Louisiana Right to Life through their sponsorship of Camp Joshua since 2008. Their numerous councils have participated in the Ultrasound Initiative, which provides matching funds for Ultrasound machines for Crisis Pregnancy Centers.

This year's keynote speaker will be Rachel Campos-Duffy, an author, TV personality and mother of 7. She will speak on "The Real War on Women."

Contact Peg Kenny to purchase tickets: 504-442-9079; peggyfkenny@yahoo.com

17th Annual Proudly Pro-Life Dinner





January 14th, 2016 Chateau Country Club, Kenner, LA

### SOUTH REGION MARCH FOR LIFE

### Please Join Us!

In praying for an end to abortion and all pro-death activities in our nation and in our world.





South Region "March for Life" Tuesday, January 19, 2016 St. Peter's Catholic Church New Iberia, Louisiana

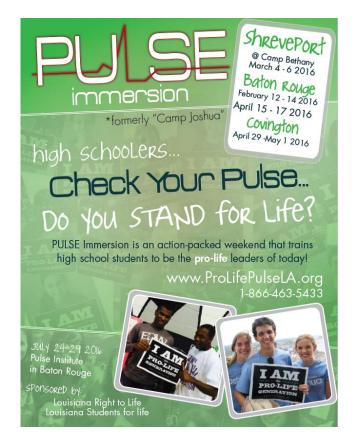
- · Silent Eucharistic Procession (from Grotto on Main Street to St. Peter's Church) 6:00 p.m.
- Mass for Life (a "Love Offering" will be collected to offset expenses)
- · Five Day Rosary Congress (24 hour Eucharistic Adoration for five days following March & Mass with Pro-Life Rosary recited every hour on the hour.)

For more information call any local Catholic Church or (337) 369-3816



Celebrant for Eucharistic Procession & Mass Fr. Garrett Savoie Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Iberia, LA

### TRAINING FUTURE PRO-LIFE LEADERS



### LOUISIANA LIFE MARCH 2016

On Saturday, January 23, 2016 from 10 AM to noon, the Louisiana Life March will take place at two locations: Shreveport and Baton Rouge.

The 2016 theme will be "Life is Priceless." With horrendous videos highlighting Planned Parenthood's sale of baby body parts, we must remind the world, in the spirit of Luke 12:6-7 that human lives are valuable and priceless: "Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."

Louisiana Life March North: Start at Boardwalk's North Lot Gather at 9:45 AM.

www.LALifeMarch.com, phone: 318-658-9456

In Shreveport, the format will be similar to the previous two years. The event will begin at the Louisiana Boardwalk in Bossier City, march over the Texas Street bridge, and gather at Festival Plaza for speakers and music.

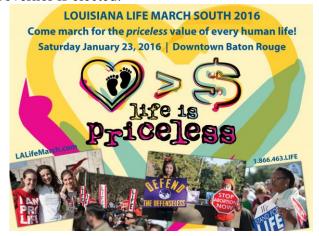


Louisiana Life March South: Start at Old State Capitol Gather at 9:45 AM.

www.LALifeMarch.com, phone: 1-866-463-5433

In Baton Rouge, we will begin at the Old State Capitol and march to the State Capitol. Due to a possible special session of the legislature that may fall on that Saturday, there is a chance we will hold the "rally" portion of the event in A.Z. Young Park on the Capitol Grounds. If there is no special

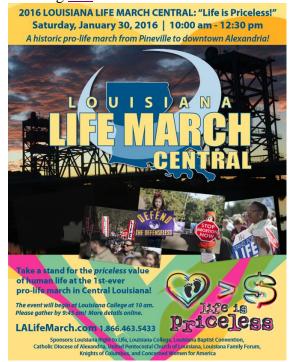
session planned, we should be on the Capitol steps like normal. This will be unclear until after a new Governor is elected.



Louisiana Life March Central: Start at grounds of Louisiana College in Pineville Gather at 9:45 AM

www.LALifeMarch.com, phone: 1-866-463-5433

For the first time ever, there will also be a Louisiana Life March in the central part of the state on January 30, 2016. The event will begin on the grounds of Louisiana College in Pineville. The 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. More information can be found at the following link.



### **EDUCATION CORNER**

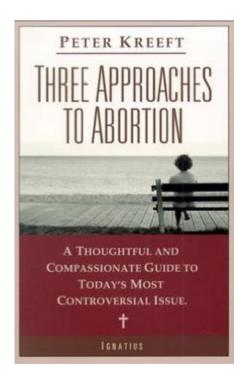
### BOOK RECOMMENDATION

For many of us, it can be difficult to talk about abortion to family and friends in a clear manner. Too many people are influenced by the culture that continues to remove any limits on behavior. How do we plant the seeds of change?

Prolific Catholic author Peter Kreeft has written a wonderful little book entitled: **Three Approaches to Abortion**. The first part of the book provides a clear and simple philosophical argument for making abortion illegal, starting with the premise that "We know what an apple is." The argument is called, of course, "The Apple Argument Against Abortion."

The second part of the book explores fifteen motives that fuel pro-life work. This is a plain spoken reflection on the subjective, personal, and pychological aspects of our struggle against abortion. The content is also applicable to other Culture of Life issues.

The third part of the book is a fictional discussion between a pro-life and a pro-choice person. This is wondefully done and it is the kind of dialog that I would wish to have with someone. The characters come across as real, and this is perhaps worth the price of the book alone.



### INTERNET ARTICLES OF INTEREST

'Happy abortions': Vandal attacks Catholic church with anti-life graffiti

China Announces the End of Its One-Child Policy, but Coercion Continues

New Bill Would Take Controversial Birth-Control Coils Off the Market

Equality Doesn't Mean Men in the Ladies' Room, Houston Voters Say

Witness to Love: Answer to a Synod's Prayer for Marriage Formation?

"No Men in Women's Bathrooms": The Message
That Won in Houston

This ground-breaking abortion reversal kit has snatched 137 babies from the jaws of death

Don't Kill the Moon

Papal adviser: Homosexual sins are 'extremely harmful to human beings, body and soul'

Doctors group to challenge Quebec euthanasia law in the courts

3 ways taxpayers are funding abortion at Planned Parenthood

Four pro-choice arguments that echo pro-slavery arguments

The Suffragettes Would Not Agree With Feminists

Today on Abortion

<u>Planned Parenthood Event Moved Off Campus</u> After Saint Louis Univ. President Steps In

Pope Francis to Pro-Life Activists: You Are the World's Good Samaritans

Sexual Revolutionaries Target Cal State Professor for Defending Families

UN uses Mother Teresa to push pro-gay campaign

Homosexuality Is Not Sexuality

The Assault on Parental Moral Authority

Help Doctors Fight Planned Parenthood at the AMA

Catholic Church has discrimination case to answer over anti same-sex marriage booklet

New Health-Care Nondiscrimination Rule Threatens Religious Liberty, Critics Say

Priest: Acceptance of Sexual 'Identities' in Catholic Schools Will 'Inevitably Hurt Students'

**Honoring Short-Lived Lives** 

Our Children Need To Know That Nobody's Gay

Abortionist Admits the Brutality of Abortion: "It's Violence, It's a Person, It's Killing"

How to Discuss Same-Sex "Marriage" With Dissenting Family Members

When Pregnancy Goes Awry: The Moral Ending to an Ectopic Pregnancy

<u>Cardinal Burke: Marriage Catechesis Should Be</u> <u>Priority for Catholic Schools, Colleges</u>

New HHS 'Gender Identity' Rule Could Impact
Bathroom Use at Catholic Schools

Public Health Ignored as HIV Spreads

Analysis: Abortion accounts for 22.6% of Planned

<u>Parenthood's clinic revenue</u>

<u>'Scandal' promotes Planned Parenthood, sets</u> abortion scene to 'Silent Night'

Gates Foundation pours \$120 million more into pushing abortifacients

Abortionist Claims to be Inspired By Good Samaritan

<u>Supreme Court Showdown Over Texas Abortion</u>
<u>Law</u>

### REPRODUCTIVE TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking and surrogacy are serious societal problems and they are getting worse. There is an organization that can help you better understand this problem and provide opportunities for you to help victimized women and children. The Coalition Against Reproductive Trafficking (CART) seeks to protect human life and dignity by working to end all Third Party Reproduction, most urgently surrogacy, and to educate the public about the harms. Their web site can be found at: http://reproductivetrafficking.org/

According to their web site, Third Party Reproduction is a process in which an outside party provides sperm or eggs, or where a surrogate mother offers her body in the creation of a child that will be deliberately separated from one or both biological parents. In most cases significant sums of money are exchanged.

Third Party Reproduction is a violation against human life and dignity for several reasons:

- 1. Human trafficking
- 2. Abortion
- 3. Eugenics
- 4. Broken Kinship Bonds
- 5. Serious Health Risks

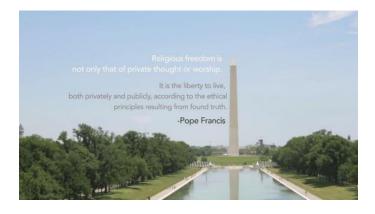
You can get more information at their web site.



### **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

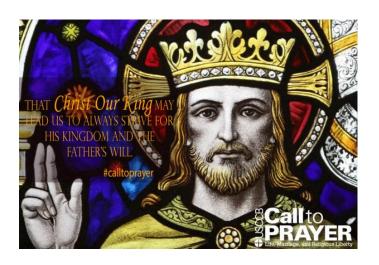
Religious freedom is essential to being pro-life. On September 18th, The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, hosted a Religious Freedom Summit, which was co-sponsored by the Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty (among many others). Archbishop Lori gave the opening keynote, entitled: Religious Liberty as a Cornerstone of Human Dignity.

Please also watch this 4 minute <u>video</u> from the USCCB.



Additional resources and information about religious freedom are available from the USCCB web site.





#### MARCH FOR LIFE

Jeanne F. Mancini, March for Life President

2016 March for Life theme is "Pro-Life and Pro-Woman Go Hand in Hand!"

Each year, we try to discern the most cutting edge and critical theme for the March for Life, as well as the area that needs the most education.

It has been said -- politically and culturally -- that for one to be pro-woman one must be pro-choice. But nothing could be further from the truth. Sadly, there are so many confusing messages regarding women and the issue of abortion, compounded by the false "war on women" rhetoric.

The truth is that life is the empowering choice for women. It's best for women and families facing unplanned pregnancies, and it's best for developing female babies in the womb. Abortion harms women, and affects our society as a whole, in so many ways.

Through our 2016 theme, "Pro-life and Pro-Woman Go Hand-in-Hand," we will explore this topic in many ways, and we will push back against the Planned Parenthood machine.

Follow the March for Life on social media for more resources, and continue to use our <u>website</u> as a resource.



### QUOTES OF THE MONTH

Three pro-life premises:

- 1. The scientific premise is that the life of the individual member of every animal species, begins at conception, when a genetically new and genetically complete individual first comes into existence. This truism was taught in all biology textbooks in America that were written before abortion was legalized, in 1972, but not by most of those that were written after 1972. Yet the new textbooks did not appeal to a single new scientific discovery to justify their change. Draw your own conclusions from those data. So, all humans are human, whether they are dying humans, or old humans, or mature humans, or young humans, or infantile humans, or fetal humans, or embryonic humans.
- 2. The moral premise is that all humans have the right to life because all humans are human. All humans have human nature, have the human essence, are essentially equal. The universal right to life is a deduction from the most obvious of moral rules, the Golden Rule, or Justice, or Equality. Since you do not want others to kill you against your will, you ought not to kill others against their will. It is just not fair, not just.
- 3. The legal premise is that the law must protect the most basic human rights. If all humans are human, and if all humans have a right to life, and if the law must protect human rights, then the law must protect the right of all humans to life.

Taken from Peter Kreeft's book: **Three Approaches to Abortion**, Ignatius Press, 2002.

### One Rosary a Day to Defeat Abortion

A global Prayer Movement is being formed to defeat the evil of abortion.

Go to: www.onerosaryaday.org

### PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Prayer to the Little Saint of Great Mercy

Dear St. Maria Goretti, Your heart was so full of mercy, That you gladly forgave your assassin, And prayed that he might be saved; Intercede for me before the Lord, Whom you now behold face to face.

Ask Him to pour His grace into my soul So that I may always be ready to imitate Jesus as you did.

I choose you as my friend this day And I ask you to accompany me my whole life long.

In honor of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, And in imitation of your example, I forgive all who have ever hurt me Or who desired my suffering, And I ask pardon of all against whom I have sinned. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

