



Culturae Vitae

April 2017

Volume 4 Number 4

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

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

PRELIMINARIES

COUNCIL CULTURE OF LIFE CHAIR COUPLES WANTED!

We want to encourage each council in the state to name a chair couple and allow them to contribute to the council's activities. If you have not done so, please send us the contact information for your council chair couple. A form has been created to facilitate this and it can be found on the State KC web site:

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

Please send the filled-out form to us by mail or email at smistretta2@cox.net.

KCLS CULTURE OF LIFE PRESENTATIONS

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

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

The 2014 presentation provides an overview of the main Culture of Life issues. The 2015 presentation provides specific guidance on the activity grading form. The 2016 presentation provides updated information, and it covers new topics.

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

WHAT IS A CULTURE OF LIFE?

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

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

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

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

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

CULTURE OF LIFE NEWSLETTERS ARE ON THE STATE KC WEB SITE

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

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



CULTURE OF LIFE RESOURCES

FREE MATERIALS FROM SUPREME

The Supreme Council has a number of Culture of Life materials to 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.

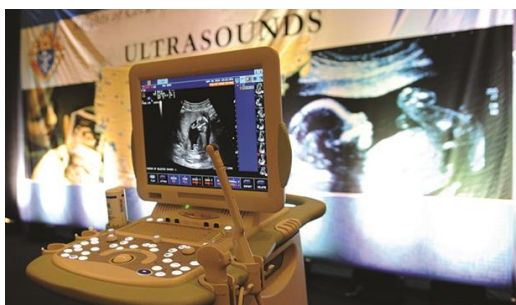


KC ULTRASOUND INITIATIVE

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: <http://www.kofc.org/un/en/prolife/ultrasound/>.

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 smistretta2@cox.net) for assistance.



YOUR FIRST STOP FOR PRO-LIFE RESOURCES IN LOUISIANA

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



DIOCESAN PRO-LIFE RESOURCES

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

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

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

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

Lake Charles: <http://www.lcdiocese.org/prolife.html>

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

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

CULTURE OF LIFE STORIES

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Ben Clapper, Executive Director for Louisiana
Right to Life

Anyone ever told you that life does not begin at conception? Or perhaps that we "just don't know?"

Next time you hear that, keep this in mind: [Embryology textbooks for medical students](#) clearly state that human development begins at fertilization.

This again is the case in the recently published 10th Edition of "[The Developing Human](#)" textbook. The first line of Chapter 2 bears this out: "Human development begins at fertilization when a sperm fuses with an oocyte to form a single cell, the zygote. This highly specialized... cell ... marks the beginning of each of us as a unique individual."

If fertilization marks the start of an individual, what does abortion do? It marks the end.

The pro-life position is scientifically sound. Never let anyone tell you otherwise!

For a Pro-Life Louisiana,
Benjamin Clapper

P.S. Did you hear about Trump's offer to Planned Parenthood? Their response showed, once again, it is all about abortion for them.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S INFERTILITY SUPPORT GROUP

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

You're Not Alone - Are you and your spouse currently experiencing the pain of infertility or the inability to maintain a pregnancy? There is support available! Come join us for a Catholic Women's Infertility Support Group, now being offered on the 2nd Wednesday of every month, 7pm - 8pm at St. George Catholic Church, 7808 St. George Drive, Baton Rouge. For more information, contact Julie at stellajuliedot@gmail.com.

For basic Church teaching on Assisted Reproductive Technologies please visit a [web site](#) setup by the Archdiocese of New Orleans Respect Life Office.



OPPORTUNITY TO HELP PREGNANCY CENTER

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

The Gianna Center of the Gulf South is still currently in need of an ultrasound machine. In order to receive the matching funds from the Knights of Columbus to purchase their ultrasound machine, they need to raise an additional \$32,000. This ultrasound machine is an integral part of the treatment of infertility as well as tool that plays a vital role in encouraging abortion-minded women to keep their babies. To make a donation to the Knights of Columbus for the Gianna Center's ultrasound machine, contact Steve Hart at 504-615-1303 or heartfore@bellsouth.net.



ASSISTED SUICIDE LAWS ARE WRONG

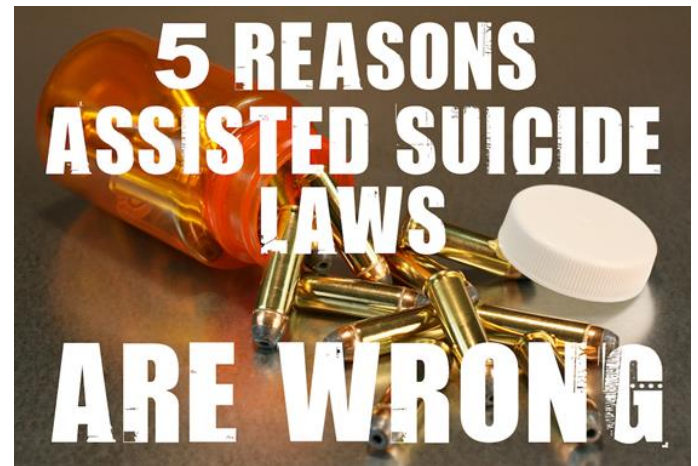
Life Legal Defense Foundation

Here are five reasons assisted suicide laws are wrong:

1. Assisted suicide laws ignore the role of depression and anxiety in patients with a terminal diagnosis. Patients are not required to have even a basic psychological evaluation prior to receiving a prescription for lethal drugs. In California, terminally ill patients committed to mental institutions can request assisted suicide and be released so they can kill themselves.
2. Assisted suicide laws discriminate against vulnerable patients, especially those who are poor or underinsured. Patients in Oregon have been refused chemotherapy, but their insurance companies will pay for so-called “aid-in-dying” drugs. Terminally ill patients are highly susceptible to even subtle suggestions that they are becoming too expensive or burdensome.
3. Assisted suicide laws communicate the message that under challenging circumstances some lives are not worth living. This message is heard by not only those with a terminal illness but also by any person struggling with the temptation to end his or her life. Legalizing assisted suicide has been associated with a significant increase in total suicides.
4. Assisted suicide laws encourage abuse by stripping those labeled terminally ill of essential legal protections. Deaths by assisted suicide are rarely, if ever, investigated. Patient death certificates do not state that patients died by lethal drugs, so law enforcement officials have no way of knowing whether a patient was coerced or forced into taking “aid-in-dying” drugs.
5. Assisted suicide laws manipulate people by redefining terms. Per the statutory language, death by a self-administered overdose of barbiturates may not be called suicide, but must be referred to as “assisted dying.” In California, patients seeking “assisted dying” are required to stipulate that taking lethal drugs will provide a “humane and dignified” death, even though the drugs frequently cause such side effects as vomiting and inhalation of vomit,

severe anxiety or terror, extreme confusion, and gasping for air.

Find out more about the Life Legal Defense Foundation by clicking on this [link](#).



CULTURE OF LIFE MONTHLY REPORT

Michael & Catherine Abbate (Council 9623)

Council 9623 Culture of Life couple is leading a regular Pro-Life Rosary at the Adoration Chapel. On March 3rd, Council Culture of Life Couple led a Pro-Life Rosary in front of the Church at the Tomb for the Unborn with the school children after the 8:30 AM Mass. Later, the couple led the children in the Stations of the Cross.

During the week of March 10th, Council Culture for Life Couple organized a week of prayer to end abortion in our country and around the world in our adoration chapel.

During the Month of March, the couple sponsored several youth attending the Abbey Youth Fest as well as young people attending the PULSE camp.

Council Culture for Life Couple donated \$125 to Covenant House to provide housing and food for the the homeless, donated \$300 to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, and donated \$175 to Covenant Network.



PRO-LIFE CORNER

Don and Dee Caskey (Council 1905)

On the weekend of March 25-26, we kicked off another season of Baby Bottle Campaigns at St. Anthony in Gretna. Let us pray that it will be as successful as in prior years. The funds raised by these events will all go to the Access Pregnancy Center in Metairie, and they can make a dime do the work of a dollar.

We will start the second phase at St. Joseph in Gretna on the weekend of April 29-30th in conjunction with our Quarterly Mass. We will work the Vigil and one Sunday mass for each church.

Gentlemen, I will need your help to man all the doors. We are also going to include St. Martha and Infant Jesus of Prague in Harvey at a date to be announced later. We will give them a breather after they held a month long baby shower. I brought another load of gifts and baby essentials to Access when I picked up the bottles.

You will be reading this before April 8th, and I know that you can't wait to turn out for the Women's New life Center's "Born to Run, New Orleans" 5K Fun Run/walk. Starting/Ending at Audubon Park Shelter #10/ Newman Bandstand. Just follow Magazine Street into Audubon park it is the first big shelter on the right. Registration starts at 7:30 with the 1 mile Fun/ walk starting at 8:30. The 5K Run/Walk follows at 9:00. There will be a "Birth" Day Party after and the live music is by Neutral Snap. There will be food and fun for all.

Speaking of food, our very own council is providing 20 gallons of "homemade" root beer (Zatarain's enhanced with a little brown sugar and REAL Almond and Vanilla extracts). Last year we donated 10 gallons that was paired with French Vanilla ice cream and Cream Cheese ice cream from the New Orleans Ice Cream Company. It was sooooo good. I hope that we can do it again. Guys we need to have a big turnout because there will be several other K of C councils offering great food with FULL CREWS. Let's show our colors.

Yours in Christ,
Don and Dee Caskey

PRO-LIFE BREAKFAST

Council 9247 at St. Jean Vianney in Baton Rouge held a Pro-Life Breakfast on Saturday, March 25th. The event raising money for their pro-life activities, particularly covering expenses for young people to attend the March for Life in Washington, D. C.

The event featured a personal and moving testimony of redemption by Elaine Matherne who is the Respect Life Coordinator for Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Denham Springs. Pat Shingleton, Chief Weather Forecaster for WBRZ television was also a guest speaker at the event.

This was a wonderful event with delicious food and good company.

ACTIVITIES AT DELTA IN BATON ROUGE

Charles & Betty Barbre (Council 9247)

Each day, sidewalk counselors faithfully pray and offer help to people seeking an abortion at the Delta abortion mill in Baton Rouge.

In January we set a monthly record for saves at Delta-23. However, this is not all good news because Delta was open more often, besides Tuesday and Thursday they were open every other Friday also.

Keep praying for Delta to be closed for good.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Joseph Giardina (Council 4508)

You would think that human trafficking takes place in other countries, but it is also taking place right here in the good old USA. It is shocking to know that it is also happening right here, right now in the New Orleans area. Could this happen to one of your loved ones?

The lack of respect for human life in this country has grown to include everyone from conception to senior citizens and all ages in between. Our precious Lord agonized so painfully in the garden as He saw our horrible sins that He would suffer and sacrifice Himself for on the cross to give man a chance to repent. His mother Mary was sent to Earth on many occasions asking us to pray, pray, pray for conversion.

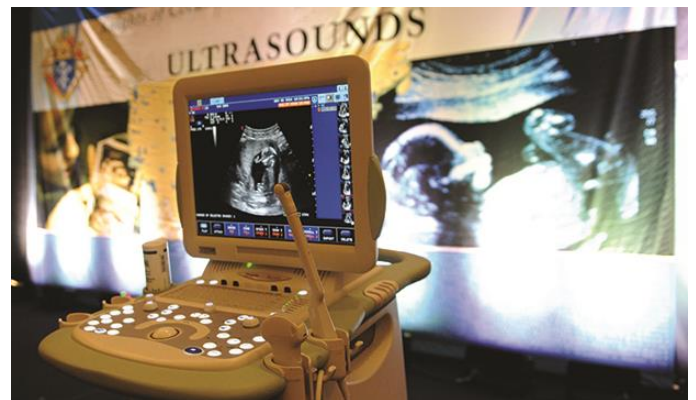
Catholics gathered at St. Christopher Church for a Rosary on Thursday, March 16th. Debbie Shinskie, Respect Life Director for the Archdiocese of New Orleans, gave a brief talk after the Rosary.

HELP CHOOSE LIFE

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson attended the [dedication of a mobile ultrasound unit](#) in San Antonio. Donated as part of the K of C Ultrasound Initiative, such units have helped countless women to choose life, love and respect for their children.

But many other mothers have no support. They need our prayers and help – you can do your part by offering this [prayer](#) and supporting the Knights of Columbus [Ultrasound Initiative](#).

Help the world choose life today! Go to www.kofc.org/prolife for details.

COUNCIL PRO-LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

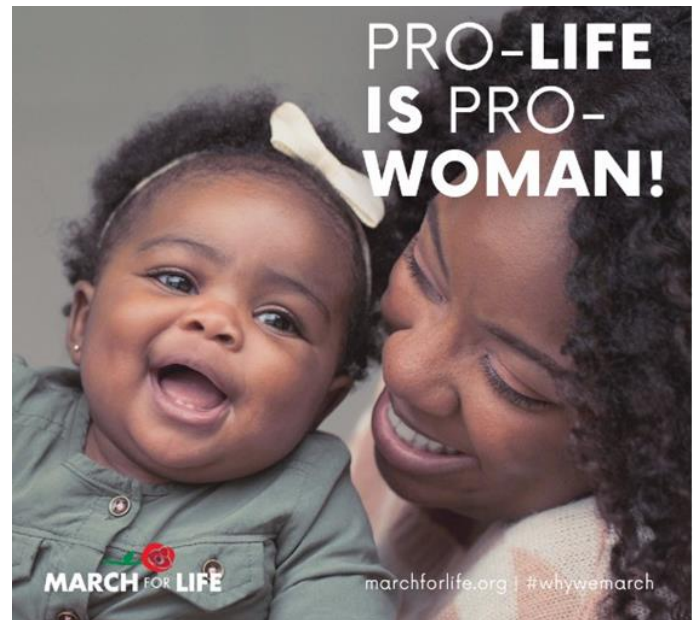
John Butts (Council 2878)

Council 2878 in Metairie is supporting a newly formed pro-life club at St. Edward the Confessor Catholic Church. The council also supported two high school students who attended March for Life in Washington, D.C. Also, some of the council members are participating in Women's New Life Center Born to Run 5 K Run on April 18th.

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

Ross & Carolyn McCalip (Council 3743)

Council 3743 in Baton Rouge teamed-up with the Dignity of Life ministry at St. Aloysius parish to conduct a Baby Bottle Campaign to raise money for the Pregnancy Problem Center in Baton Rouge that provides a variety of services to pregnant women who are at high risk for an abortion. The council was asked to provide manpower for the project, and our council members responded. The council also used a portion of the pro-life budget to purchase baby bottles for the event. The fundraiser collected over \$8,300!

**BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN**

Dale & Judy Tureau (Council 8147)

St. Mark Council 8147 sponsored our Baby Bottle fundraiser in March. We had to cancel the fundraiser in October because of terrible flooding that occurred in 2016. This is such a worthy fundraiser to help pregnant women at risk for abortion. Thanks to everyone who helped and contributed.

JAZZED FOR LIFE!

Jazzed for Life! Respect Life Coordinators' & Volunteers' Day will take place Saturday, September 9, 2016 from 9am - 1pm.

The event will provide information on Respect Life Sunday, Respect Life Week in the schools, and other Respect Life events throughout the year. It includes prayer, spiritual reflection, speakers, and opportunities for networking with each other and with other local organizations. Food is included!

This is sponsored by the Respect Life Office & hosted by University of Holy Cross in New Orleans

ALL parish Respect Life Coordinators AND their committees are invited!

Contact Debbie Shinskie at respectlife@arch-no.org for more information.



HELP NEEDED TO GET ULTRASOUND FOR WOMAN'S NEW LIFE CENTER

The Woman's New Life Center is located directly adjacent to the Abortion Mill in Baton Rouge. The ability to show pregnant women their child in the womb has a huge influence on their decision to not have an abortion. Therefore, this is a critical part of their pro-life work.

However, their current ultrasound machine does not provide a clear image of a baby's heart (and the ability to show a heart beat). The vaginal probe is non-diagnostic, so it does not provide accurate measurements of the embryo, making it hard to determine stage of pregnancy. Furthermore, it is unable to see the uterine wall and cervix to confirm an intrauterine pregnancy. Training users without a sonography background is challenging on these machines. In summary, the machine is so outdated that they are unable to provide clients with clear and accurate pictures of baby and measurements to determine stage of pregnancy.

They are looking for a council (or councils) to participate in the Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Initiative, and purchase a new ultrasound machine for the Woman's New Life Center.

If your council is willing to accept the challenge, please contact:

Donna Ashcraft
Chief Development Officer
225-218-4862 office
225-802-9234 cell
dashcraft@womansnewlife.com

Contact State Director Sam Mistretta (smistretta2@cox.net) if you need assistance with the program.



MARCH FOR LIFE EXPERIENCE Nick & Peggy Prosperie (Council 8932)

I was blessed to accompany our diocesan youth and their adult chaperones (approx. 150 souls) going to the March for Life in D.C. from the Diocese of Houma Thibodaux. I'm proud to say that each bus had a brother knight on board as their "Logistics dad" Joining us in service were brothers Lee Schaffer and Carl LeBoeuf from council St. Bernadette 7355, Fr Cody Chatagnier, Chaplain of council St Francis de Salles 1317, and myself.

We were also blessed to have four of our awesome priests: Fr. Alex Lazara, Fr. Alex Gaudet, Fr. Antonio, and Fr. Charlie Perkins along with nine of our precious seminarians, as well as Deacon Bryce Higginbotham, Deacon J.D. Matherne, Paul Birdsall, Patrick Riviere, Daniel Duplantis, Brett Lapeyrouse, Caleb Anderson, Joseph Lapeyrouse, and Matthew Prosperie.

After gathering for sandwich prep on Monday with volunteers from St Thomas Aquinas parish at Nicholls (Colonel Catholics), we were ready for departure on Tuesday morning.

Our trip began on Tuesday 1/24 at 7:30 am after celebrating holy mass with our dear Bishop Shelton Fabre who accompanied us on the bus ride to DC, to our various stops and on to the March for Life.

Day 1 included stopping by the Dominican Sisters of Nashville to join them in night prayer, then we continued the bus journey to DC stopping in the morning of Day 2 at Arlington cemetery where our pilgrims witnessed the changing of the guards at the tomb of the unknown soldier and a funeral of one of our deceased soldiers followed by lunch in the parking lot. We then departed for mass and a tour of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, and then headed for our sleeping quarters at Pearlstone retreat center in Maryland.

Day 3 included attending the Geaux Forth Rally in the morning, where we joined with our Louisiana family to rally for life. We also paid a visit to the Holocaust museum and the Lincoln memorial. We ended the day at the Life Is Good Rally.

One of our chaperones offered this observation after our visit to the Holocaust museum: "I am still processing the Holocaust Museum...but I cried myself to sleep thinking about all these shoes... each proudly representing a person who died...If we had an abortion museum, this room would be totally empty...they never got a chance to wear shoes... nothing to represent them but our voices..."

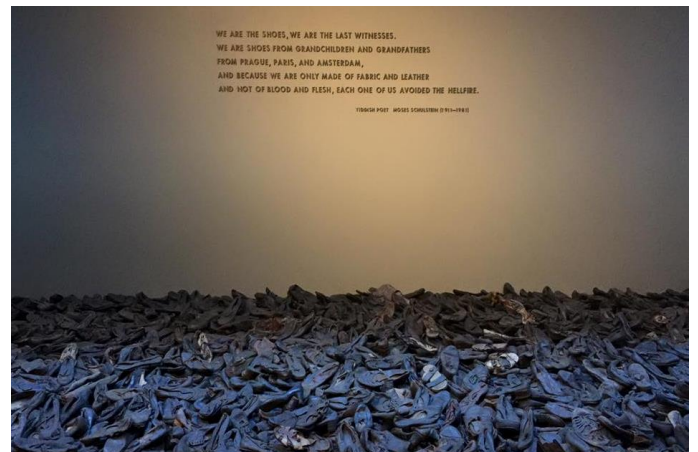
You can find a number of pictures from the march using these links:

<https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/whywemarch>
<https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/marchforlife2017>
<https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/voiceforthevoiceless>
<https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/bethechange>
<https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/justlove>
<https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/betheirhope>
<https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/powerofone>

Day 4 was march day. We witnessed the historic presence of Mike Pence our awesome pro-life VP as speaker, and then joined thousands of our brothers and sisters in Christ to peacefully witness to the dignity of human life and to stand against all attacks on the Culture of Life in society today.

After the march, we boarded our busses and made our way home. Although our plan included a Saturday morning stop at The Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament, God had other plans as several of our busses experienced sicknesses which allowed to join our sufferings to those of Christ and made us head straight home by-passing the shrine.

All in all, the trip passed way too fast, but it was such an awesome gift to one and all of us to stand for Life! It further prepared us for the battle to Defend the God given dignity of every person He allows us poor human beings to cooperate in bringing into existence.



A REFLECTION ON 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Fr. Dan Cook (Diocese of Alexandria)

It's difficult to get people to commit to pray in front of the abortion clinics.

A common question asked of people who pray in front of abortion clinics is: Are you really making a difference? We are present for the love of the child, mother, dad and extended family. We're in front of the clinic in solidarity with the babies that will die, for the mothers who do not know what they're doing, and to bring love where there is darkness and violence.

Just as one goes to a funeral home to pray for the dead, we pray in front of the abortion clinic knowing that we are making a difference praying for the soul that God has created and in which our culture and its violence allows to be terminated.

As Christians, we're called to love. It is very difficult to love the abortion doctor, but it is our call to love and pray for their conversion.

The media has created a FALSE perception about pro-lifers. If you asked the average American about pro-life, they will mention the bombings of clinics, the killing doctors, and self-righteous and religious people imposing their faith on others.

Abortion providers are agents of distraction from the truth. Many women who come to the clinics are in a panic mode, operating out of fear, completely scared. Love over comes hate.



UPCOMING EVENTS

UPCOMING PULSE WEEKEND IMMERSIONS

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS! Future PULSE Immersion Weekends are being planned ([link](#)):

The next one will be held at Camp Abbey in Covington on April 28-30th

High school and college students will be trained to be the pro-life leaders of today. Students will hear engaging speakers and testimonies, be educated on pro-life issues and be inspired to make a difference in their schools and communities. The weekend will also include activities such as a bonfire, talent show and onsite outdoor recreation. Cost is \$60 per person.



Click [here](#) to register online and get more information. You can also download a registration form and mail in your payment.

Have questions? Contact Louisiana Right to Life Youth Programs Co-Directors:

Krista Corbello at : krista@prolifelouisiana.org or 337.303.8886

Alex Seghers at : alex@prolifelouisiana.org or 985.705.6568.



BOWTIES FOR BABIES

On Thursday, May 11th, Louisiana Right to Life will hold their annual Bowties for Babies event at the Capitol Park Museum, with Louisiana's State Capitol as its backdrop.

This reception-style event will feature live music by New Orleans jazz by Bean 'N' the Boys, delicious food, a silent auction, presentation of the 2017 Leadership for Life Awards and more.

100 percent of the proceeds go to Louisiana Right to Life's Advertise for Life Project, which reaches women in crisis pregnancies through targeted online advertising that connects them with one of the state's pregnancy resource centers. In 2016, the project generated more than 1,650 pregnancy help phone calls to the crisis pregnancy hotline and nearly 16,500 clicks to the website.

About Louisiana Right to Life's Advertise for Life Project: Studies show that 95% of women who enter a pregnancy center choose life. Even with 30 pregnancy centers across Louisiana, 26 women a day still choose abortion. Advertise for Life uses targeted online advertising to reach abortion-minded women and connect them to pregnancy centers, where they can find the support and help they need. Visit: <http://www.adifficultchoice.com> for more information.

Patron Levels Start at \$250 and include tickets to the event as well as other perks.

Tickets are \$50 Young Professional (18-26), \$75 Adult and \$125 Couple. Use this [link](#) for tickets.

PROJECT RACHEL

Trista Littell, Diocese of Lafayette

It's normal to grieve a pregnancy loss, including the loss of a child by abortion. It can form a hole in one's heart, a hole so deep that sometimes it seems nothing can fill the emptiness.

Project Rachel is a confidential ministry for anyone who desires healing after being impacted by abortion. This includes the mothers and fathers of children lost to abortion, grandparents, siblings, and others. Abortion crosses all boundaries of religion, race, age and socio-economic position. Project Rachel's mission is to provide a confidential and compassionate ministry that offers opportunities for healing to anyone who struggles with the aftermath of abortion. We pray that those who attend Project Rachel experience God's forgiveness and mercy in order to live in freedom and peace.

Rachel's Vineyard Weekend Retreat:

Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreat is an opportunity for any man, woman, couple, grandparent or sibling who struggles with the emotional or spiritual pain of abortion. This weekend retreat provides participants the opportunity and space to enter the grieving process, identify effects the abortion has had and release deep feelings of anger, shame, and guilt that frequently accompany an abortion experience. This unique retreat process is designed specifically to help retreatants experience the gentleness, mercy and compassion of Jesus as they walk the journey from pain to forgiveness.

Participants re-connect on a spiritual level with the children who have been aborted and give them honor and dignity through many special exercises as well as in a memorial service. Those who journey through their grief allow God to transform their experience into one that brings hope, liberation and peace.

When: April 21-23, 2017

Time: Friday, 6:00 p.m. - Sunday, 3:00 p.m.

For more information about the retreat weekend and/or to register contact: Karol or Trista @ 337.261.5607 at the Diocese of Lafayette, Office of Pro Life Apostolate. Pre-registration is required.

HOPEFEST MUSIC CHARITY FESTIVAL

All of Acadiana is invited to the Hopefest Music Charity Festival on Saturday, April 8, 2017 from 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM, benefiting The Boys and Girls Club of Acadiana and special needs teens through the STM Options program.

The 11th annual Hopefest is a family friendly, all-day live music festival with fun jumps, face painting, games, vendors, silent and live auction with the best of south Louisiana food. This year's band line up is as exciting as ever with Marc Broussard headlining the event. Louisiana Red, Terry & The Zydeco Bad Boys, and many more bands will be playing throughout the day.

Support Hope and get your ticket today at Eventbrite.com today! For any questions related to Hopefest, contact Lance Strother at lance.strother@stmcougars.net.



April Respect Life Gathering Fertility/Infertility Awareness

Pray together ~~ Learn more about the issues ~~ Network

Date: Tuesday April 4, 2017
7pm St. Andrew Hall
St. Andrew the Apostle in Algiers



Please join us!

Hosted by St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church
3101 Eton St., New Orleans LA 70131

7pm in St. Andrew Hall

Fertility/Infertility Awareness

Light refreshments provided

PROJECT RACHEL RETREAT

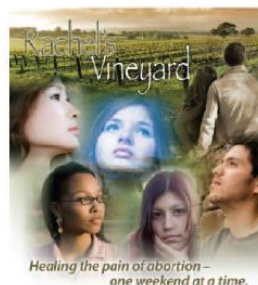
Debbie Shinskie, Archdiocese of New Orleans

The next Rachel's Vineyard Retreat is scheduled for Friday April 7th through Sunday April 9th at Rosaryville. For more info, please contact either of the following retreat facilitators:

Pam Richard at 504-460-9360 cell or 985-809-0773 home or richj504@bellsouth.net
Melanie Baglow at 504-889-2431 home or mkbaglow@cox.net

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

Healing the pain of abortion,
one weekend at a time.



There is forgiveness and hope after abortion...
If you or someone you love is hurting from abortion, please consider attending this healing retreat.

All faiths are welcome!

Date: April 7-9, 2017
Where: Rosaryville Retreat Center
Address: 39003 Rosaryville Rd, Ponchatoula, LA 70454
Price: \$170/person (Financial Assistance Available)
Priest Facilitator: Fr. David Seid

To register or for more information, please contact the retreat facilitators:
Pam Richard - (504) 460-9360 or richj504@bellsouth.net
Melanie Baglow - (504) 889-2431

facebook.com/rvrNOLA

Take courage. He is calling you!

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

The 40 Days for Life peaceful pro-life prayer vigil will be held from February 25 to April 9th at the Bossier City Medical Suite at 1505 Doctor's Drive between 7 AM and 7 PM. Contact Chris Davis: christopherpatrickdavis@gmail.com for info.



THEOLOGY OF THE BODY VIDEO SERIES

Trista Littell, Diocese of Lafayette

Due to the great turnout for the previous Theology of the Body Video Series, Adele Guillot will be conducting another Theology of the Body, The Gift - Level I Video Series.

The series consisting of four Monday evening sessions from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. will be held at Immaculata Center and offered on the following dates:

April 3, 2017 – Session Three

April 10, 2017 – Session Four

There is no fee for the class. Student Workbook for Theology of the Body – The Gift – Level I is \$15.

Participants must be 18 years of age or older.

Please register by calling the following information to the Office of Pro Life Apostolate at 337.261.5607 or email: tlittell@diolaf.org: name, address, city, state, zip, email address, phone, church parish/city, and referred by whom.

Please note the following regarding Catechist Certifications for Theology of the Body – The Gift Classes in the Diocese of Lafayette:

Four Catechist Credit Hours are allowed provided you attend all four sessions. Partial credits or hours are not available. May not be repeated for credits or hours.

All classes are at Immaculata Center, 1408 Carmel Dr., Lafayette, LA 70501 in Henriette DeLille Conference Room. Please enter through the east side of the building. Front offices are locked.

If you have questions please contact Trista Littell at 337.261.5607.

What is “Theology of the Body”?

St. John Paul II's Antidote for the “Culture of Death”.

BORN TO RUN NEW ORLEANS

Start your New Year off right with a goal to stay fit and support life at Born to Run NOLA! Join us for Born to Run NOLA, our 5K and 1-mile Fun Run. Registration is Now Open! [REGISTER NOW](#).

Woman's New Life Center (WNLC) is a life-affirming counseling and medical center that serves women facing unplanned pregnancies in the New Orleans and Greater Baton Rouge areas. You can help WNLC continue to save and change lives by participating in Born to Run.

WOMAN'S NEW LIFE CENTER

PRESENTS

BORN
TO RUN

NEW ORLEANS

SATURDAY

APRIL 8, 2017

5K and 1 Mile Fun Run / Walk

Audubon Park
Shelter #10 / Newman Bandstand

For more information on Born to Run -
New Orleans, please contact jkeene@womansnewlife.com



WWW.WOMANSNEWLIFE.COM/BORNTORUN

CHAMPIONS FOR LIFE

SAVE THE DATE! On Saturday, June 10th, there will be a 2-mile walk and 5K run to raise money for the Ark-La-Tex Crisis Pregnancy Center in Shreveport. Go to: www.GiveThemOptions.com for more information.



PRO-LIFE DAY AT THE CAPITOL

May 11th will be a day of pro-life activities in Baton Rouge, and we hope you will make plans to join us!

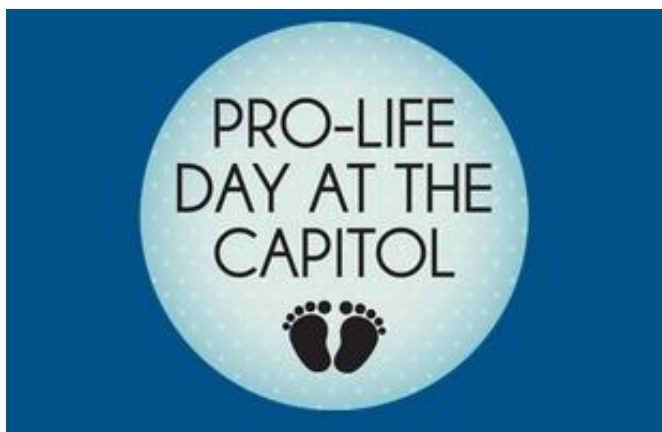
The day will begin with Pro-Life Day at the Capitol. Details are not available yet, but we urge you to mark your calendar and plan to spend time with us as well as your legislators talking about pro-life issues in Louisiana.

Then we hope you will stay and join us at the fifth annual Bowties for Babies: A Southern Style Soiree Benefiting Life. The event will be held that evening at the Capitol Park Museum, located right across the street from the state Capitol.

The soiree, being chaired this year by Charlie and Ellen Davis and Jeff and Bridget Dunbar, will feature live music, good food, and a silent auction. All proceeds benefit Louisiana Right to Life's Advertise for Life project, which uses online advertising to connect abortion-minded women and men to one of the state's pregnancy resource centers that can help them choose life.

Please consider becoming an event patron. You can get more information on the event and sign up to be a patron or buy event tickets by clicking this [link](#).

We hope to see you in Baton Rouge on May 11 advocating for women and their unborn babies!



PULSE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The PULSE Leadership Institute will be held on June 5 - 9, 2017. Click [here](#) to visit and apply for the PULSE Leadership Institute

The PULSE Leadership Institute (PLI) is an exciting opportunity for high school students and entering college freshmen to experience the pro-life movement in a way never before done! PLI is a weeklong program designed to equip you with education on ALL life issues and give you the chance to dialogue with new friends and some of the top pro-life leaders of the nation!

PLI is very action oriented. You will not only participate in exciting workshops, but also traveling to various destinations for special "feet-work" sessions. You will visit places such as a pregnancy center, LSU campus for surveys on abortion, the State Capitol, and more!

We will have plenty of fun throughout the week, whether it is the famous CoffeeHouse, indoor rock climbing at LSU, skits, interactive games, and free time to hang out with friends. Also at PLI, you will receive intensive training on starting and maintaining pro-life student groups. Learning to be a pro-life student activist is the focus of PLI. We want YOU to shape your community and our world!

The PULSE Leadership Institute is a great way to make new friends and experience the pro-life movement like you never have before. If you are ready to be equipped to be a pro-life leader of TODAY, apply to be a PLI delegate.

Contact Alex Seghers at alex@prolifelouisiana.org or Krista Corbello at krista@prolifelouisiana.org or call 1-866-463-5433 for more information.



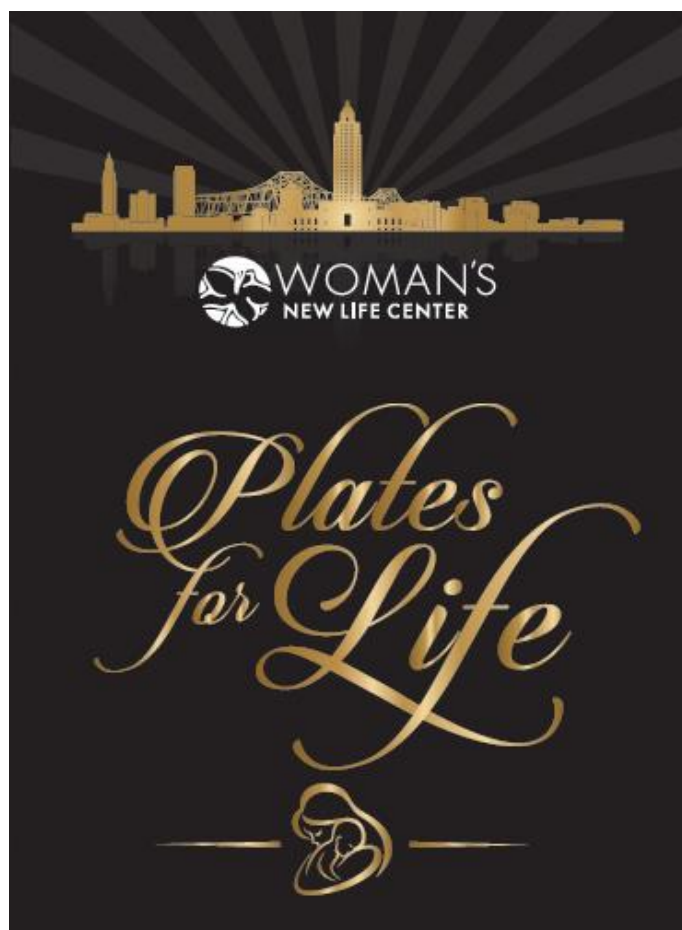
PLATES FOR LIFE

Join us for the Plates for Life dinner on April 28, 2017 as we celebrate saving and changing lives. For the past five years, Woman's New Life Center has been a beacon of hope to the women of Baton Rouge. This exciting new event will help Woman's New Life Center expand its medical services in the Baton Rouge community.

Enjoy a lovely sit-down dinner at the beautiful Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center, followed by a Live Auction with unique and priceless items. Then dance the night away with music by Pelican 212.

Use this [link](#) for tickets and more information.

You can find more information about the work of the Woman's New Life Center using this [link](#).



EDUCATION CORNER

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

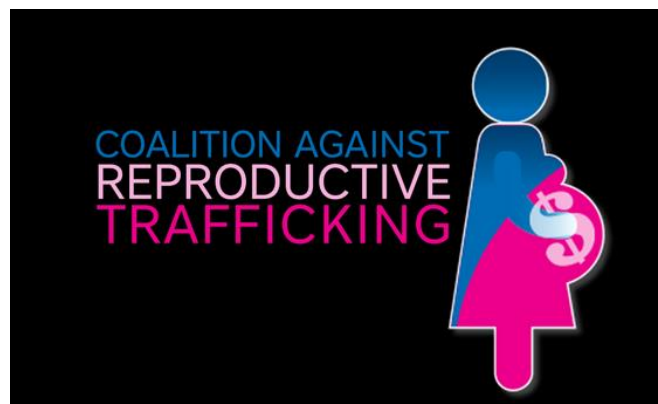
Please be aware of the signs of trafficking. Go to: <http://polarisproject.org/recognize-signs>.



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

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

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



SIGN-UP FOR LACCB ACTION ALERTS

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

AUL RELEASES THE PRO-LIFE PLAYBOOK

Denise Burke, Americans United for Life

Americans United for Life released [Defending Life 2017](#). Often referred to as the “pro-life playbook”, Defending Life has become the most important tool for advancing AUL’s state-based, pro-life legislative strategy.

In fact, Vice President Mike Pence has previously endorsed Defending Life saying:

“Americans United for Life has a long and successful history of fighting to protect our most vulnerable – the unborn. I share that passion for protecting life and have seen the benefits of AUL’s efforts both during my time as a Congressman and as the Governor of Indiana. I have long believed that a society will be judged by the way it treats its most vulnerable, and I am proud that Indiana is one of the most pro-life states in the country.”

As the chief architect of Defending Life, I can tell you that its production is just the first step. We need your help so that we can distribute Defending Life 2017 and provide elected officials with our premier pro-life legal expertise.

Already today, state legislators across the country are reading Defending Life 2017 and formulating questions as to how they can best help their state adopt pro-life laws. I, and the rest of AUL’s legal team, need your support so that we can provide them with those answers.

BOOK RECOMMENDATION

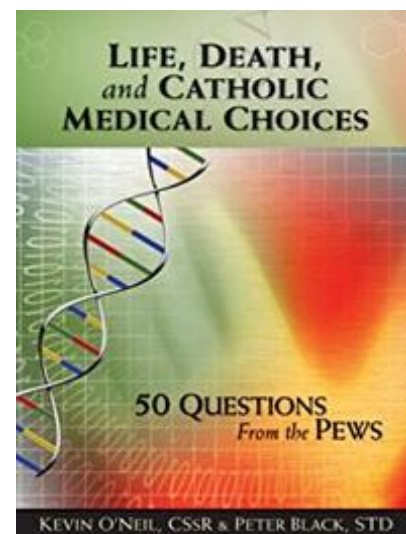
As a direct result of our fallen human nature, all of us will be faced with a difficult decision about medical care for ourselves or a loved one. We all want to make the morally correct decision, but it can be very difficult to be confident that we can make the correct decision at that crucial moment.

There is a wonderful little book that provides much needed guidance in this difficult area of life: **Life, Death, and Catholic Medical Choices (50 Questions from the Pews)** by Kevin O’Neil, CSSR and Peter Black, STD.

This book provides clear and beautiful answers to 50 important questions. The book is divided into three sections: 1) questions about the beginning of life, 2) questions about life “in between” and 3) questions about the end of life.

One issue addressed in the book is the right to healthcare. This is an issue that is very politicized, so the approach taken by the authors was very refreshing.

Life and death decisions are so difficult because we recognize that so much is at stake and there is often a lot of emotion surrounding those decisions. Therefore, it is important to think about this before you are faced with a medical decision. While a book like this certainly cannot answer all questions, I certainly found the guidance provided very helpful. It is highly recommended.



INTERNET ARTICLES OF INTEREST

[He Did Over 1,200 Abortions But Quit, Here's His Tip for Encouraging Others to be Pro-Life Too](#)

[New Study: Abortion after Prenatal Diagnosis of Down Syndrome Reduces Down Syndrome Community by Thirty Percent](#)

[Scientists Given Green Light to Edit the DNA of Unborn Babies](#)

[Once euthanasia is voluntary, it will become irresistible. Just ask the Dutch](#)

[Is the right to abort a child with disabilities becoming a duty?](#)

[Who Are the Real Defenders of Humanity?](#)

[The Death of Unconditional Love](#)

[Guatemalan gov't seizes boat providing illegal abortions offshore](#)

[Boston College Students Reject Resolution Saying Fighting Abortion is "Legitimate Advocacy"](#)

[Dear Bill Nye: Stop Promoting Abortion with Fake Science!](#)

[Washington Florist Feels the Bite of Gender Ideology](#)

[Euthanasia Laws Neglect Mental Health Problems](#)

[Now That Everyone Cares About Pederasty...](#)

[Archbishop Lori on New President, New Challenges for Religious Liberty](#)

[Girl Scouts USA Continues Its Ideological Game](#)

[An Oregon bill could allow mentally ill patients to be starved](#)

[Girl Boy Scouts ... and 71 Other "Gender" Options](#)

[Peruvian marches against gender ideology attract 1.5 million](#)

[Canadian government pledges \\$650 million to increase abortion globally](#)

[Pro-Life, Pro-Truth](#)

["Speciesism" Opens the Door to Bigotry](#)

[Hope in the Battle Against Euthanasia](#)

[Pro-Life Counseling Becomes Illegal in France](#)

[UN Staff, EU Politicians, Abortion Groups Join Forces to Vilify U.S. Pro-life Stance](#)

[Abortion Lobby Admits to Using Maternal Health to Promote Abortion](#)

[If Planned Parenthood's not about abortion, why do they commit more than a third in the U.S.?](#)

[Science confirms that human life begins at fertilization](#)

[Defunding Planned Parenthood does not mean defunding health care](#)

[Christian theater owners refuse to show 'Beauty and the Beast' over LGBT agenda](#)

[Feminists stage bloody fake abortion on woman dressed as Virgin Mary](#)

[Tucker Carlson Schools Planned Parenthood VP in the Art of Plain English](#)

[The Right to Be Yourself?](#)

[Oregon Proposes Outright Legalization of Euthanasia](#)

[5 Fatal Flaws of Gender Theory](#)

[Did Senator Dianne Feinstein accidentally admit that abortion takes human life?](#)

[Marriage Reality vs. Marriage Redefinition](#)

[Former abortionist opens massive pro-life clinic, praises Jesus as 'the great physician'](#)

VIDEO PICKS OF THE MONTH

Check out this new inspirational [video](#) from Louisiana Right to Life highlighting the recent Life Marches in Louisiana and make plans for next year.

Save the Date for LA Life Marches 2018:

Baton Rouge:	January 20, 2018
Shreveport:	January 27, 2018
Alexandria:	February 3, 2018



Check out Hope Woman's Clinic's beautiful new promo [video](#) and learn more about how they uniquely care for each woman...



This short [video](#) illustrates the challenge of common beliefs regarding conscience protect.

QUOTES OF THE MONTH

Is it wrong for the Christian to fear death?

"Life is a gift from God, while death is unavoidable. We might readily accept that life is a gift from God but wonder why death is unavoidable. In 1944, Pope Pius XII reflected that God had not wished to include suffering and death in our destiny but through one man sin entered the world and with sin came death. It remains a mystery to us precisely how the misuse of our freedom from the beginning introduced suffering and death to our human destiny. Yet, as people of faith, we can see death in a new light because of the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. Death does not just end earthly life but brings it to fulfillment in the resurrection.

Saying and believing these spiritual reflections on death does not necessarily get rid of an underlying fear of death. Death is a mysterious and unknown road to us and can be accompanied by pain and suffering and the dread of partings. Despite reflection on death and even given circumstances that may psychologically prepare us for death, such as prolonged illness, advanced age, and recurring suffering, 'nevertheless the fact remains that death...is something which naturally causes people anguish.' (*Declaration on Euthanasia*, section III.)

This is why we need others to help us deal with the fear of death and to assist us to die with dignity. Throughout the history of the Church, spiritual writers have reflected on death, and the faithful have been encouraged to pray for and prepare for a peaceful death. Even though many of us are now in an age and a culture of longer lives and greater cures, we will all have to confront the fears, denial, anger, and acceptance that can be linked to the dying process. This holds true for the dying person, health professionals, pastoral care workers, family, and friends of the dying. To be able to come through what might be a frightening process of dying is one of the great moments of growth in the human life cycle. In order for death to be such a moment we will need to confirm our trust in the mercy of God to be greater than all our sins and limitations, and we will hopefully be accompanied by people of comparison and faith helping us to gently open the door to eternal life."

Taken from **Life, Death, and Catholic Medical Choices (50 Questions from the Pews)** by Kevin O'Neil, CSsR and Peter Black, STD.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE MONTH

A Family Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of our family. Enlighten our hearts and minds that we may live more fully this vocation of love.

In our daily life and work, may we reflect the self-giving love which you, O Father, eternally show with your Son and the Holy Spirit.

Let your love be evident in the peace that reigns in our home and in the faith we profess and live. May our family always be a place of generosity, understanding, forgiveness and joy.

Kindly give us the wisdom and courage to be witnesses to your eternal design for the family; and grant that the Holy Family of Nazareth may always guide our path to holiness as a family.

