



Culturae Vitae

November 2014

Volume 1 Number 1

<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 PRESENTATION

Were you unable to attend KCLS this year? If not, then you can view the PowerPoint presentation given by the State Culture of Life Chair Couple. It is available on the state KC web site:

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

This presentation provides an overview of the main Culture of Life issues. We hope that the content will provide a good starting point for further study. Also, we hope that you will be motivated to publically defend the Church's teaching on these Culture of Life issues. 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.

MUTUAL HELP AND SUPPORT!

We are asking councils to identify Pregnancy Centers in your area. Reach out to them and ask them about their needs. Find out about their fundraisers, and let us know about those events so that we can help promote them.

We want each council chair couple to develop a program with specific activities that match the talent and level of interest within the council. We are a resource for council chair couples, so let us know what you need.

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

We want this monthly newsletter to be a 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!

WHAT PRO-LIFE MEANS TO ME

by John Hauler (council 9016)

The Knights of Columbus has been involved in the Pro-life movement since the Roe v. Wade decision on January 22, 1973. As Knights, we have the obligation to carry the Pro-life message to as many people as possible. This message must be kept in the minds and view of the public at all times. Pro-

Life is not just an October or January “event,” it is year round commitment.

From September 24th through November 2nd, a 40 Days For Life campaign has taken place in front of the local abortion chamber on Colonial Drive in Baton Rouge. This is a peaceful, prayerful action that has no confrontation. The power of prayer is evident. Forty Days for Life started with just one person in Austin, Texas who wanted to do something positive. It grew into a world-wide activity that has seen the closure of many of these death houses as well as many of workers who have had their eyes opened and walked off their jobs of killing babies.

At present there 297 vigils in 11 countries and so far this year 409 babies have been confirmed saved as of this writing. To be a confirmed save, the mother of the baby to be aborted tells a prayer warrior that she changed her mind about the abortion and she will keep her child.

There are many ways to be active in the movement: joining a local Right to Life organization, raising money to help local pregnancy centers, holding a baby shower to collect items a baby needs, promoting the election of Pro-life candidates by simply sharing the facts of where they stand on the issue of life.

I am pleased to serve as President of Baton Rouge Right to Life, Inc., and so I am able to meet with many Pro-life people. Baton Rouge Right to Life held a Life Chain this past October on the streets of Baton Rouge by standing on the sidewalk, not blocking or interfering in any way with traffic or pedestrians. Participants held Pro-life signs while silently praying for an end to abortion.

Members also sold Right to Life calendars after Masses on one weekend, allowing the public to contribute to the movement as well as go home with a year-long reminder of what it means to be Pro-life. Calendar sales can also be used as a fundraiser for groups or donated back to the Right to Life movement.

Many KC councils in the Baton Rouge area also provide meals to those intrepid souls who travel to Washington, D.C. each January 22nd to take part in

the National March For Life. Hundreds of thousands of people from across the United States take part. Eleven busloads of students and chaperons left from Baton Rouge last year to join with many others from Louisiana. KC councils provided 500 sandwiches, breakfasts, and snacks for those buses of students.



Baton Rouge Knights of Columbus also came together this past January to place over 800 crosses on the grounds of the Diocese of Baton Rouge Catholic Life Center in preparation for the annual Bishop's Pro-Life Rally.



A great way to increase your Pro-life knowledge is to go to the Louisiana Federation's web site: <http://www.prolifelouisiana.org>. At the top of the main page, you can enter your email so that you can get automatic updates on the state legislature as well as U. S. Congress. It is simply an easy way to stay informed. The Federation does not have a regular mail out, but the internet is certainly a great tool to use.

Prayer is the most important part of the movement. No one knows what will happen when a person sees someone praying for them. However, do not let apathy take hold. Prayer and work go hand in hand to accomplish miracles.

COMPASSIONATE BURIALS FOR INDIGENT BABIES

By Sam Mistretta (Council 3743)

During KCLS in July, Don Caskey (Council 1905) told us about a charitable organization called Compassionate Burials for Indigent Babies (CBIB) www.cbibabies.org. This organization provides dignified burials for abandoned or indigent babies. They also bring comfort to their families, and help raise awareness of the Safe Haven Law so babies won't be thrown away.

The founder and director is Mrs. Lise Naccari (504-202-3111). Don told us that a gentleman that he works with has been making the coffins with their council buying the materials and assisting with the cost of some specialized equipment. They need help with the standard funeral expenses. Mrs. Naccari can provide more information as well as CBIB's web site.

Please take a moment to check out their web site and learn how you can support their work.



KNIGHTS FOR LIFE by Chris Davis (Council 10728)

Worthy Brother Knights, I am deeply honored to be asked to write an article in our first pro-life newsletter. I have been active in the pro-life movement for many years. In fact, one of the most compelling reasons for joining the Knights of Columbus was the tremendous amount of pro-life work our order does every year. I am a Knight for Life and proud of it!

One of the most compelling reasons for joining the pro-life movement involves a personal story that I call *'The Story of Three Mothers.'* These three women were all college age, they were all unmarried, and they were all pregnant. The first woman made the wrong choice. Abortion was not even legal at the time. She endured physical suffering later in her life because she had difficulty conceiving. Not surprisingly, she suffered emotionally and spiritually as well. Eventually she gave birth to one beloved child and later adopted another, who was every bit as beloved as the first.

The second woman made the right choice; she carried her child to term. God gave her the gift of life in her child and she lovingly passed on that gift to someone else through adoption.

The third woman in the story was indeed my own mother. Seldom does a day go by that I don't thank God for my very life and I cannot worthily express how grateful I am to both of my parents for choosing life, and preserving that gift for me.

I have told this story to every church, every group, and every person who would listen throughout my years in the pro-life movement. I sometimes wonder what it was like for my mom to be eighteen years old, unmarried, pregnant, yet determined to have the baby that would grow up to be me. I also wonder what the expression was like on my dad's face when she told him the good (rather, I prefer to say GREAT) news! If you can put disbelief and confusion together with eagerness and joy, then you've got the look of a single man when his girl tells him such news. I know this because I had those same feelings, and surely the same expression, when my girlfriend shared some news of her own with me! Her exact words were, "I missed

something I shouldn't have missed." I dismissed the idea of her being pregnant, blaming the situation on stress. We were both doctorate students in science at the time and she was getting ready for a big exam that week. However, she took a home pregnancy test and came out of the bathroom with two lines, indicative of a positive result. But, if you held the little stick further away and kinda squinted, the second line was almost not even there (denial can have a firm grip!). As scientists, one of us came up with the brilliant idea of performing a negative control. In other words, someone who could not possibly be pregnant needed to take the second test (these things come in boxes of two) so the negative control could be compared to her result. I adamantly resisted, "*I AIN'T TAKING NO PREGNANCY TEST!!*"

So, ...when I came out the bathroom there was clearly only one line! Denial was over. Reality was here. I began to think, "What...a surprise! What...a gift! What...*are we going to do!!????!*"

We talked about adoption for 45 seconds, but it didn't take long for us to come to the decision to raise the baby together. And it didn't take much longer for our families and friends to embrace the coming of Patrick. Preparing for Pat was not hard. I had done this twice before in my previous marriage for the birth of my two daughters. Unfortunately, like far too many marriages these days, mine ended in divorce and subsequently became annulled in the Church. Despite being raised in two different households, my daughters are model children at St. John Berchmans Cathedral School in Shreveport. They make honor roll, they play sports, and they are involved in many Church and community service activities. They make me very proud, they never cease to amaze me, and they humble me. I knew the day would come when they would begin to ask questions. And, I was prepared for that too.

After a not-as-difficult-as-expected talk about where babies come from, I told them without hesitation that they should wait until marriage. With an equal lack of hesitation, my oldest asked, "Well then, how was Patrick born?" Never underestimate how savvy a child of twelve can be. I told them both that what I did was wrong. I told them both that I have a renewed vow of chastity since Pat was born. And I

made them a deal, "If you promise to wait until you get married, I promise to wait until I get married again." They both smiled, nodded, and shook my hand! Although I have broken some promises in my life, *I won't break this one!*

All of those weekends volunteering for Camp Joshua paid off, not just for the students but for me, too! I did more than just make sure they went to all of their pro-life sessions. I listened and I learned; I re-learned all the things I was taught in Catholic school. Some of us are slow learners, but an old(er) dog like me can learn new tricks and so can you.

In fact, Knights of any age can take part in pro-life activism no matter where you are. A great place to start is recruiting high school students for **Camp Joshua** (www.campjoshuala.org). Another powerful activity that any Knight can participate in is **40 Days for Life** (www.40daysforlife.com), an intense prayer effort on the sidewalk to end abortion. The Fall 40 Days for Life campaign ended earlier this month with 38 confirmed saves that we know of in Shreveport, Lafayette, Baton Rouge, and New Orleans. **Sidewalk Advocates for Life** (www.sidewalkadvocates.org) is another sidewalk prayer campaign to end abortion that runs year round. Advocates are asked to join a peaceful prayer vigil outside the Shreveport abortion facility on a regular basis, perhaps once a week or even just once a month throughout the entire year. Perhaps SAFL will come to Baton Rouge and New Orleans, too.

There are many other pro-life activities throughout the great state of Louisiana in which many Knights have taken part. Many of us have raised money to purchase ultrasounds for pregnancy help centers in many locations, including the Ark-la-tex Crisis Pregnancy Center in Shreveport. I would like to extend a personal thank you to those Knights who made this possible. The Knights of Columbus literally lead the way in full in the Louisiana Life Marches in Baton Rouge and Shreveport-Bossier. We sponsor groups to go to the March for Life in Washington, DC or hold our own marches like the one in Covington. Knights hold baby bottle campaigns for the multitude of pregnancy help centers and maternity homes throughout the state. We've funded pro-life billboards and attended pro-life banquets.

I sometimes have the opportunity to emcee events such as these. When I do, I look into the audience and I always see my fellow Knights of Columbus. And I always thank my brother Knights for the work that we have done and the sacrifices that we have made. And I always say, “*Vivat Jesus.*” And I always hear the proud chorus of Knights in reply, “*VIVAT JESUS!*” Yes, Jesus lives in the heart of every good Knight. And that is why I am and always will be a *Knight for Life!*

CULTURE OF LIFE SURVEY RESULTS

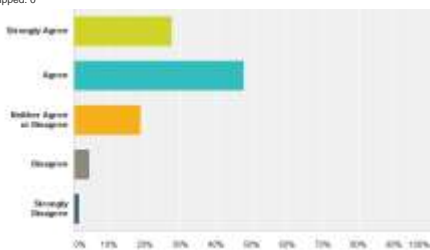
A Culture of Life survey was sent primarily to Culture of Life chair couples at each council to collect ideas and suggestions to help develop the State Culture of Life program. The goal is build a Culture of Life in the state of Louisiana through the Knights of Columbus.

The survey was conducted from September 12th to October 10th, 2014. A total of 69 responses were received out of 193 survey requests sent by email.

The survey results showed strong support for the implementation of Culture of Life couples at each council. Most respondents thought that they receive sufficient support from the Knights of Columbus to conduct an effective program, but there were a significant number of respondents who did not think so. Therefore, there is room for improvement in this area.

Q2: I am receiving sufficient support from the Knights of Columbus to conduct an effective Culture of Life program in my council.

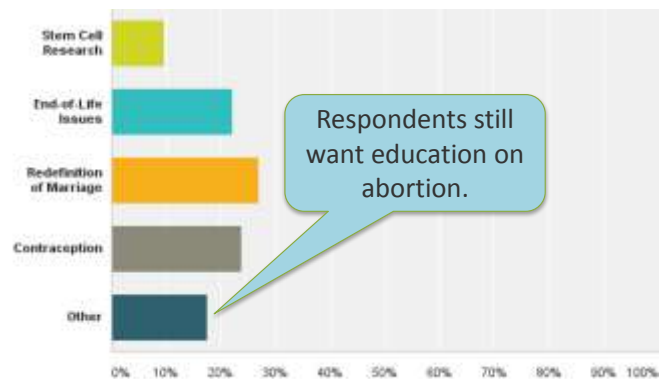
Answered: 69 Skipped: 0



A series of questions concerned whether to include specific topics under the Culture of Life, namely: embryonic stem cell research, surrogacy, marriage redefinition, human cloning, euthanasia, contraception, and natural family planning. There was strong support for all of these topics, but

surrogacy received the least number of positive responses.

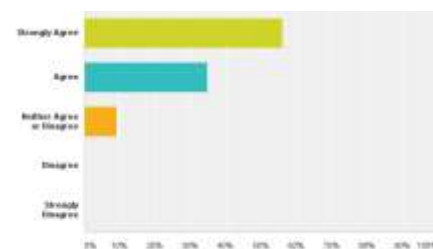
Survey respondents also wanted the Knights of Columbus to help them find news articles and commentary related to the Culture of Life. The survey results also indicate that there is no single area that needed more educational emphasis over others. Survey respondents had a diversity of responses regarding educational needs. Despite the long time emphasis on abortion, respondents still wanted more education in that area.



Finally, a series of open ended questions were used to determine what areas need improvement or should be de-emphasized as well as what could be done to increase participation. Generally speaking, the majority of comments can be categorized by suggestions in the area of promotion, education, and church activities. Your state Culture of Life chair couple will be working to incorporate these ideas into the state program over the coming months.

Survey respondents also overwhelming want the Knights of Columbus to help them become aware of Culture of Life activities in their local area.

Q12: I want the Knights of Columbus to help me become aware of Culture of Life activities in my local area.



Your state Culture of Life chair couple will be developing specific initiatives to address as many of

these suggestions and concerns as possible. Please continue to share your ideas, suggestions, and concerns so that specific actions can be taken to enable the Knights of Columbus to be more effective in building a Culture of Life.

The full results of the survey as well as the verbatim comments are available on the state KC web site: <http://www.louisianakc.org/programs/cultureoflife/>

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Each month, we would like to highlight council Culture of Life activities. Please send us a brief description of your event and pictures of the event to share with other Culture of Life chair couples. We want to share successful events with others so that they also conduct effective programs.

**COUNCIL 3743 AND ST. ALOYSIUS PARISH
TEAM-UP FOR 40 DAYS FOR LIFE**

By Sam Mistretta (Council 3743)

On Thursday, October 16th and Friday, October 17th, St. Aloysius Parish and KC Council 3743 participated in 40 Days for Life in Baton Rouge. 40 Days for Life is a focused pro-life campaign with a vision to access God’s power through prayer, fasting, and a peaceful vigil to end abortion. The campaign runs from September 24th through November 2nd. We are happy to report that thirteen babies had been saved by October 17th. Please continue to pray for an end to abortion everywhere in the World.

During these two days, Fr. Joseph Sanjay (St. Aloysius Parish Parochial Vicar) and Deacon Chauvin Wilkinson were present to pray with us. During this event, Ken Thevenet (St. Aloysius Liturgical Director) led us as we sang the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Also, a group of students from St. Thomas More School in Lafayette came to pray.

Ross McCalip, Council 3743 Culture of Life Director, did another great job of coordinating council participation. We also want to thank all of the knights, family members, and friends who participated this year.



COUNCIL 7856 MAKES DONATION

Taken from The Catholic Commentator

On May 26, 2014, the Knights of Columbus Council 7856 in St. Francisville and Jackson delivered a check for \$3500 to Frances Broussard, center, of the Problem Pregnancy Center in Baton Rouge. The donation was from the proceeds of the KCs Culture of Life's Baby Bottle Campaign held at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in St. Francisville and at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Jackson. Pictured, from left, are Chip Savoie, Broussard and Dan Heath, grand knight of Council 7856.

**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.



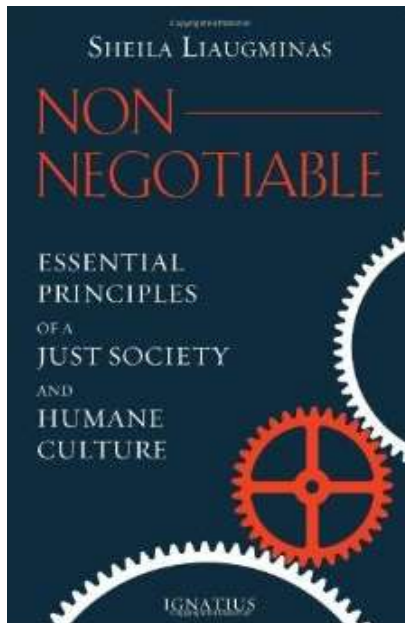
Please encourage your councils to get involved in one of these two marches. More information may be found at www.LALifeMarch.com.

EDUCATION CORNER**BOOK RECOMMENDATION**

How do we build a Culture of Life in world that has embraced a culture of death? For Catholics, prayer is primary. However, Jesus Christ taught us to act in the world. To have success, we must understand how errors are made and how to change hearts and minds. A new book by Sheila Liaugminas is an excellent starting point.

During our KCLS talk, we emphasized the need to speak a common language and that language can be the natural law. However, people have lost that language so there is a need to re-introduce it. This book is clearly and concisely written and so it can provide a deeper understanding of the moral foundation for the Catholic position on several Culture of Life issues such as abortion, end-of-life, and marriage.

In the Introduction, the author describes a situation in which she was “asked to recommend a book for a Repect Life group heading into an election and confused by all the arguments they were hearing about the moral issues involved in candidates’ and parties’ positions. They needed a book on what the Church teaches and why...” She thought that she had a book like that, but after searching her library, she didn’t find one. So, she decided to write one.



INTERNET ARTICLES OF INTEREST

This article sheds light on the impact of surrogacy on children:

<http://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2014/10/the-new-focus-on-childrens-rights>

This article discusses the results of a recent Government Accounting Office (GAO) report that provides evidence of Affordable Care Act (ACA) subsidizes abortion on demand:

<http://www.ncregister.com/blog/joan-desmond/watchdog-report-sets-record-straight-obamacare-subsidizes-abortion-on-deman/>

This article provides commentary on a recent study linking the contraceptive pill to breast cancer:

<http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/a-dangerous-spin-some-docs-downplay-study-linking-pill-to-breast-cancer/>

This article is a news story about a recent district court ruling overturning a law designed to police campaign speech that raised strong First Amendment concerns:

<http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/susan-b.-anthony-list-wins-challenge-to-ohios-false-statement-law/>

This article is a news story about the U.N. leader’s promotion of abortion:

<http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/pro-lifers-cry-foul-over-u.n.-leaders-promotion-of-abortion#.VBXUYPlhO-A.mailto>

Knights of Columbus Receives Award:

<http://www.cardinalnewmansociety.org/CatholicEducationDaily/DetailsPage/tabid/102/ArticleID/3615/Knights-of-Columbus-to-Receive-Notre-Dame-Award-for-Pro-Life-Efforts.aspx>

This article helps put the recent Supreme Court decision on marriage laws into perspective:

<http://www.crisismagazine.com/2014/defense-marriage-isnt>

This is an article about why we have to continue pro-life campaigns:

<http://liveactionnews.org/why-pro-life-campaigns-matter-and-why-we-have-to-keep-running-them/>

If you would like to receive a daily email of links to some of the best Catholic news and commentary available on the Internet, subscribe for free at www.newadvent.org.

QUOTES OF THE MONTH

“The moral problem with abortion is of a pre-religious nature because the genetic code of a person is present at the moment of conception. There is already a human being...To not allow further progress in the development of a being that already has the entire genetic code of a human being is not ethical. The right to life is the first human right. Abortion is killing someone that cannot defend himself.” Taken from: **On Heaven and Earth: Pope Francis on Faith, Family and the Church in the 21st Century** by Jorge Mario Bergoglio and Abraham Skorka, Image, 2013.

“It is impossible to further the common good without acknowledging and defending the right to life, upon which all the other inalienable rights of individuals are founded and from which they develop. A society lacks solid foundations when, on the one hand, it asserts values such as the dignity of the person, justice and peace, but then, on the other hand, radically acts to the contrary by allowing or tolerating a variety of ways in which human life is devalued and violated, especially where it is weak or marginalized.” Taken from *Evangelium Vitae*, Saint Pope John Paul II, 1995.

“If you’ve got an immoral law, you’ve got to work to change that. You’ve got children being killed every day. It goes on forever. That’s the great scandal, and that’s why there’s such a sense of urgency now. There’s no recognition of the fact that children continue to be killed, and we live, therefore, in a country drenched in blood. This can’t be something that you start playing off pragmatically against other issues.” Taken from “Interview with Cardinal George” by John Allen quoted in **Non-Negotiable** by Sheila Liaugminas, Ignatius Press, 2014.

PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Prayer to End Abortion:

Lord God, I thank you today for the gift of my life, and for the lives of all my brothers and sisters. I know there is nothing that destroys more life than abortion, Yet I rejoice that you have conquered death by the Resurrection of Your Son.

I am ready to do my part in ending abortion. Today I commit myself never to be silent, never to be passive, never to be forgetful of the unborn.

I commit myself to be active in the pro-life movement, and never to stop defending life until all my brothers and sisters are protected, and our nation once again becomes a nation with liberty and justice not just for some, but for all. Through Christ our Lord, Amen!

Rev. Frank Pavone

Gospel of Life Ministries

