



## Culturae Vitae

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

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### 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](mailto:smistretta2@cox.net).

#### KCLS CULTURE OF LIFE PRESENTATION

Were you unable to attend KCLS? 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.

### 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 [smistretta2@cox.net](mailto:smistretta2@cox.net). We want your council highlighted in the next issue!

### CULTURE OF LIFE SURVEY RESULTS ARE AVAILABLE

The results of a recent survey of Culture of Life chair couples is now available on the state KC web site:

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

### FREE MATERIALS FROM SUPREME

The Supreme Council has a number of Culture of Life materials to aid you. All of these 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](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](mailto:William.obrien@kofc.org).

**CULTURE OF LIFE RESOURCES****USCCB DIGNITY OF LIFE RESOURCES**

By Sam Mistretta (Council 3743)

Pro-life materials are available from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). The theme for this year's materials is: **Each of Us is a Masterpiece of God's Creation.**

The booklets cover: advanced medical directives, adoption, the devaluation of human life, healing from an abortion, poverty and abortion, and dealing with a miscarriage.

The booklets provide important information that is not presented by the main stream media on these topics. In short order, they delve deeply into some of the dangers of going along with fashionable viewpoints that seem like a good idea on the surface but actually lead to unintended consequences such as physicians deciding to withhold basic necessities of life or administering medical treatments against the wishes of the patient and family members. Another example is children conceived through IVF being left out of custodial agreements in a divorce. The booklets also contain very useful statistics. For example: "If the state's Medicaid program paid for elective abortions, their abortion rate was more than four times that of other women."

Electronic materials can be obtained from:

<http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/2014/respect-life-program-2014-pamphlets.cfm#Advance>

Also, printed materials can be ordered from the same web site.



Check out their web site for the 2015 Respect Life Program: [www.usccb.org/respectlife](http://www.usccb.org/respectlife). You can find up-to-date articles, bulletin inserts, and prayer resources for your family, school or parish. Much of the material is available in a pdf format.

**POPULATION RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

By Sam Mistretta (Council 3743)

The Population Research Institute (PRI) is a non-profit research and educational organization dedicated to objectively presenting the truth about population-related issues, and to reversing the trends brought about by the myth of overpopulation.

PRI is on the frontlines battling coercive sterilizations and forced abortions around the world. Population control is a reality and PRI is working to expose individual cases. Their web site [www.pop.org](http://www.pop.org) is a great resource for investigative reports and related news items.

Misinformation regarding human population trends and related government actions is another impediment to building a Culture of Life. One of their projects is a web site called [OverpopulationIsAMyth.com](http://OverpopulationIsAMyth.com). The first episode is only a minute and a half long, and it is eye-opening.

POPULATION  
RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE

**KC ULTRASOUND INITIATIVE**

By Sam Mistretta (Council 3743)

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](mailto:smistretta2@cox.net)).

**HUMANUM: JOHN PAUL II INSTITUTE'S  
ONLINE QUARTERLY REVIEW**

(Taken from the March 2015 issue of Knightline)

In 2011, the Center for Cultural and Pastoral Research of the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family in Washington, D.C., began a free on-line quarterly review of books and publications addressing current issues of family, marriage, love, children, health, and human life.

The name of the journal, *Humanum*, was chosen because each issue aims to discuss precisely what makes and keeps us human, and what does not. Articles address topics such as how we can rescue our humanity when it is at risk of being lost, particularly in its most vulnerable stages. Other topics of interest include: childhood, education, vocation, work, artificial reproductive technology, Catholicism and the future of medicine, same-sex unions, and technology in the home.

*Humanum* is offered to anyone concerned with the renewal of the civilization of love. Issues may be accessed at [www.humanumreview.com](http://www.humanumreview.com).



**CULTURE OF LIFE STORIES**

**COUNCIL'S COLLECTING ITEMS FOR BABY  
SHOWER COLLECTION DRIVE**

By Arline Mistretta (Council 3743)

In our continuing efforts to promote a culture of life and support those who choose life, we will be collecting items needed to help new mothers in caring for their babies. We are asking all councils to consider holding a baby shower collection drive in their churches or councils and bring the items collected to the state convention in May.

We are already getting word of individual councils collecting items at their church parish. For example,

The St. Aloysius Dignity of Life Committee organized a Baby Shower Collection Drive at St.

Aloysius Church at all Masses during the weekend of April 18th. St. Aloysius parishioners were very generous, donating car loads of items as well as monetary donations.



John Hauler told us that Fr. Hurst Council 9016 had also picked up baby items for the state convention collection drive. John said that “Unwed mothers need to know that others care about them and their babies; that they are not abandoned and on their own. Pregnancy centers also need to know that the Knights of Columbus are behind them and willing to help.” We hope that other councils will do the same!





CONSIDER SUPPORT FOR LIFENEWS

By John Hauler (Council 9016)

Fifty-seven million unborn babies have been denied birthdays of their own in the U.S. since Roe v. Wade. They never had a chance to take their first steps or say their first words. We have generations who have grown up entirely in a world where they and their peers could have been aborted.

That's where LifeNews ([www.lifenews.com](http://www.lifenews.com)) comes into play. LifeNews is the voice for the voiceless every week to millions of readers from across the United States and around the world. Where they can't speak up for their own right to life, we speak up and work with pro-life groups worldwide to be their advocate.

LifeNews needs your help today so that they can speak up for tiny defenseless babies. If you and or your council have the ability, a donation of \$250 or \$500 or even \$1,000 would go a long way to ensuring LifeNews can reach as many pro-life readers as possible with the pro-life message.

CONGRATULATION TO COUNCILS

Sam and Arline Mistretta (Council 3743)

A total of 91 councils submitted their Culture of Life activities forms for the 2014-2015 fraternal year. Twenty-four councils received 100 points for Culture of Life. This is a clear demonstration that these councils are fully committed to building a Culture of Life. Congratulations to the following councils for this accomplishment: 1208, 1317, 1437, 1905, 3015, 3407, 3729, 3743, 3779, 4508, 4663, 7557, 8840, 8978, 9016, 9623, 9973, 10293, 12906, 12989, 13425, 13819, 15006, and 15133.

COUNCIL'S PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES

John and Ella Campo (Council 3634)

Council 3634 in Norco is actively building a Culture of Life. This fraternal year, the council supported pro-life campaigns at both Sacred Heart and St.

Charles Borromeo parishes. Prayer sessions were held in front of the Metairie abortion facility. The council also placed hundreds of white crosses in front of church during the month of January. In addition, the council prayed the Rosary for life.

COUNCIL PRAYS FOR AN END TO ABORTION

By John and Marie Eitman (Council 9347)

Council 9347 in Metairie participated in a Rosary Crusade at the abortion facility in Metairie on three separate occasions throughout the fraternal year. The council also prayed the Rosary at their memorial brick garden and rededicated the Monument to the Unborn.

COUNCIL CULTURE OF LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

By Paul and Carla Eckert (Council 1437)

Council 1437 in Marquette purchased and delivered Christmas gifts for unwed mothers at Covenant House in New Orleans. The council also prepared and served a meal at the 40 Days for Life campaign party in Metairie. The chair couple distributed Right to Life signs and literature at Council meetings and participated in public information campaign regarding the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge to inform public to support only those organizations who do not fund or support human embryonic stem cell research.

COUNCIL CULTURE OF LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

By Jim and Vickie Jambon (Council 12529)

Council 12529 in Abita Springs conducted a Baby Bottle campaign for the Access Pregnancy Center, raising \$3,200. Also, more than 20 members of the council participated in 40 Days for Life. They also donated money to support students attending the March for Life in Washington, D. C., and provided \$700 for parish youth to attend Camp Joshua.

COUNCIL CULTURE OF LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

By David and Mary Daigle (Council 1317)

Council 1317 in Houma conducted a Baby Bottle Campaign to benefit Crossroads Pregnancy Resource Center in Thibodaux, LA. The program ran from January 11, 2015 thru January 18, 2015 raising nearly \$6,300. On January 11, 2015, a Culture of Life Mass was sponsored by the council

at St. Francis de Sales Cathedral. A new born child was presented to the church community as a representative of Pro-Life. The K of C 4th Degree Honor Guard was also present.

#### COUNCIL CULTURE OF LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

By Ralph and Robin Chauvin (Council 5013)

Council 5013 in Chauvin sponsored a Pro-life baby shower on November 2, 2014, collecting \$1,700 worth of baby items that were donated to Hope Restored for Life center in Houma. The council also cooked roast beef po-boy dinners for youth attending the March for Life in Washington, D. C. A Pro-life Rosary was organized with 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders to pray for an end to abortion. The event included speakers and a candle lighting ceremony. Ninth grade students led a prayer for the victory of life. The council also sponsored Holy Hours at church and at the chapel, praying the Rosary for the end to abortions. This was done each month. At each event, pro-life prayer cards and educational materials were provided to attendees.

#### COUNCIL CULTURE OF LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

By Don and Diane Caskey (Council 1905)

Council 1905 in Gretna conducted a Baby Bottle campaign for Access Pregnancy Center at each of their four churches. A memorial for the unborn was installed at St. Martha Catholic Church in Harvey. The council also participated in 40 Days for Life silent prayer event at the abortion clinic. The council also donated \$200 to CBIB (Compassionate Burials for Indigent Babies). The couple helped build 8 caskets for aborted & indigent babies.

#### COUNCIL CULTURE OF LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

By Voorhies and Betty Short (Council 7557)

Council 7557 in Broussard sponsored a Baby Bottle campaign on January 24 and 25, 2015. We were able to raise a total of \$11,985.00 for The Desormeaux Foundation in Lafayette. Council also sponsored a Pro-Life Walk on January 10, 2015 with 125 men, women, and children participating. The council distributed pro-life Rosaries, materials, information at church before and after the walk. We have also made some information available at church on an on-going basis.

#### COUNCIL CULTURE OF LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Jack and Ellen Heidenreich (Council 8840)

Council 8840 in Mathews conducted a Pro-Life Baby Bottle Campaign at St. Hilary Church, collecting \$2,700 for the Lafourche/Terrebonne Pregnancy Crisis Center. The council also participated in the Silver Rose Program. The council advertised in the newspaper, church bulletin, and emailed council members on their pro-life activities. The council also organized a pro-life mass at St. Hilary Catholic Church with knights carrying up a statue of the Virgin Mary in a cart of roses. After mass, the Rosary was recited in a procession to the Tomb for the Unborn.

#### COUNCIL CULTURE OF LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

By Fletcher and Tekla Cochran (Council 9973)

Council 9973 in Slidell organized a Baby Bottle campaign. The council also supported the Slidell Pro-Life Rally with contribution to St. Tammany Pro-Life. Council members also provided a meal at the St. Luke Youth Group Pro-Life Rally, and helped paint and install crosses for a Pro-Life prayer service. Annually, one Corporate Communion is dedicated to the unborn that includes a prayer service following Mass at the St. Luke Church. The council also attended a Pro-Life gathering at proposed Planned Parenthood site in New Orleans.

#### COUNCIL CULTURE OF LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

By Renny & Stacie Hollingsworth (Council 12989)

Council 12989 in Lacombe sponsored a Baby Bottle Boomerang. We distributed \$2014.00 to the Crisis Pregnancy Help Center and the Danielle Inn, a home for unwed mothers. The council also participated in the Slidell Life Chain and a prayerful protest in front of the Planned Parenthood construction site in New Orleans. Our council also handed-out pro-life voter educational material before the recent election. We also had the flyers put in the bulletin and in all church pews.

#### COUNCIL CULTURE OF LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

By Mike and Judy Babin (Council 13425)

Council 13425 in River Ridge sponsored the Baby Bottle campaign for the Women's New Life Center in Metairie, donating a total of \$2,000. We held

four special prayer sessions at the St. Matthew’s Monument to the Unborn following a family Mass. The council donated \$1,500 to the St. Matthew’s CYO to travel to the March for Life in Washington, D. C. The council also sponsored six young parishioners attending Camp Joshua.

**COUNCIL CULTURE OF LIFE HIGHLIGHTS**

By Chris & Kristen Thibodeaux (Council 13819)

Council 13819 in Houma sponsored its annual Pro-Life Baby Bottle Campaign in January 2015, raising \$2,000. In October 2014, the council held its annual Pro-Life Baby Shower to help re-stock the supply closet at Hope Restored for Life Crisis Pregnancy Center in Houma. In January 2015, the council held a jambalaya dinner to raise funds for the Vanderbilt Catholic High School Pro-Life. Forty-five members of the council took part in a letter writing and e-mail campaign aimed at stopping the proposed Planned Parenthood center in New Orleans.

**COUNCIL CULTURE OF LIFE HIGHLIGHTS**

By Dan & Sue Hake (Council 15133)

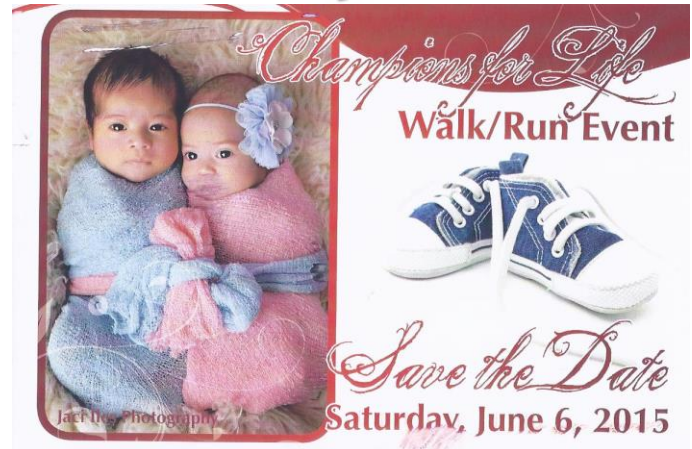
Council 15133 in Madisonville held a Baby Bottle campaign, raising over \$6,300. Members also participated in the Louisiana Life March in Baton Rouge and the March for Life in Washington D.C. The council also donated \$600 to the Louisiana Pro-life campaign.

**UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

**CHAMPIONS FOR LIFE  
WALK AND RUN EVENT**

On Saturday, June 6, 2015, the annual Walk for Life will take place at Stoner Boat Launch at 857 E. Stoner Avenue in Shreveport. The event supports the Ark-La-Tex Crisis Pregnancy Center (<http://www.altcpsupporter.com/>).

Registration begins at 8 AM with a 5K run and a 2 mile walk. No money is collected ahead of time, only pledges. This is a family event. Come rain or shine. There will be lots of great prizes plus a free T-shirt with each pledge level.



**NATIONAL RIGHT TO LIFE CONVENTION**

The National Right to Life (NRL) Convention 2015 will be held in New Orleans on July 9, 10, and 11, 2015. The convention will take place at the New Orleans Marriott located at 555 Canal Street in the French Quarter. Guest speakers include Dr. George Delgado, M.D., F.A.A.F.P., medical director of Culture of Life Family Health Care and a regional medical director with The Elizabeth Hospice, Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, and John McCormack, Senior Writer at *The Weekly Standard*.





Please save the date and spread the word for this awesome opportunity to be a part of the national movement to stand for life!

More information can be found on-line at: <http://nrlconvention.com/>.



### BOWTIES FOR BABIES

It's almost time for the third annual Bowties for Babies: A Southern Soiree Benefiting Life is set for later this spring!

The event will take place on May 19, 2015, from 7 to 10 PM at the Old State Capitol in Baton Rouge.

The event, benefiting Louisiana Right to Life's Advertise for Life project, will feature food and drink, a silent auction, live music by the Big Easy Jazz Band, and a special program lineup that includes:

- Sen. Jonathan "J.P." Perry, also known as the Cajun Comedian, who will provide his own special brand of quality comic relief.
- New adoptive parents Cary and Tyler Koch. Cary graduated from The Dunham School in Baton Rouge and the University of Virginia and is a wide receiver for the Hamilton Tiger-Cats of the Canadian Football League.
- Ramona Trevino, who worked for three years as the manager of a Planned Parenthood abortion-referral facility in Sherman, Texas, and now shares the story of her pro-life conversion thanks to the inspiration from a local Christian radio station and the prayers and public witness of a 40 Days for Life campaign.



SEN. J.P. PERRY



CARY KOCH



RAMONA TREVINO

There are several patron levels to choose from, and each includes tickets to the event among other perks. Tickets are also available at the following costs: \$125 per couple, \$75 per person, and \$50 per young professional (18-26). For more information on the event, visit [www.ProLifeLouisiana.org/Bowties](http://www.ProLifeLouisiana.org/Bowties).



### CATHOLIC INFERTILITY WORKSHOP

(Danielle Van Haute – Diocese of Baton Rouge)

The Office of Marriage & Family Life is offering a day-long workshop discussing the struggle of infertility from a Catholic perspective, including the spirituality of infertility, medical causes and treatment options, balancing hope and grief, and more!



Pass this information along to your parishioners, family members, friends who might be struggling

with infertility. Medical or mental health professionals along with any clergy or generally interested parties are also invited to attend this workshop.

Note: Priests and Deacons are invited to attend for FREE! When registering, be sure to include "Fr." or "Dcn." with your first name. Then, disregard information on payment. Please contact us if you have any questions about this.

Date: Saturday, July 25, 2015

Time: 9:30am - 4:00pm

Location: St. Thomas More Activity Center, 11441 Goodwood Blvd., Baton Rouge

Cost: \$10 per person, includes lunch

Register online: [www.MFLDiobr.org](http://www.MFLDiobr.org)

## Infertility: You're Not Alone

A day-long workshop discussing the struggle of infertility from a Catholic perspective, including the spirituality of infertility, causes and treatment options, balancing hope and grief, and more!



Carmen Santamaria



Dr. Caldwell



Darryl Ducote, LCSW

## EDUCATION CORNER



A message from LiveAction

## 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. Jesus Christ has given us a Church that teaches us.

“The Catholic Church has immense respect for the power of human beings to discover truth simply through experiencing reality and thinking carefully about it. God gave us our ability to think to enable us to discover truth. Thus the Church has fostered intellectual inquiry of every kind: philosophical, scientific, artistic, as well as theological. Indeed, the first universities were Catholic, and they were marked by a lively interest in all facets of human life.”

Two well respected Catholics: Janet E. Smith and Christopher Kaczor have written a wonderfully straight forward book entitled: **Life Issues, Medical Choices (Questions and Answers for Catholics)**. This book provides clear and direct answers to 57 important questions. This is a very practical book, so it can be an invaluable resource when answers are needed.

Some examples of questions addressed in the book are:

Which ways of treating ectopic pregnancies are moral?

Is it morally permissible to “adopt” a frozen embryo?

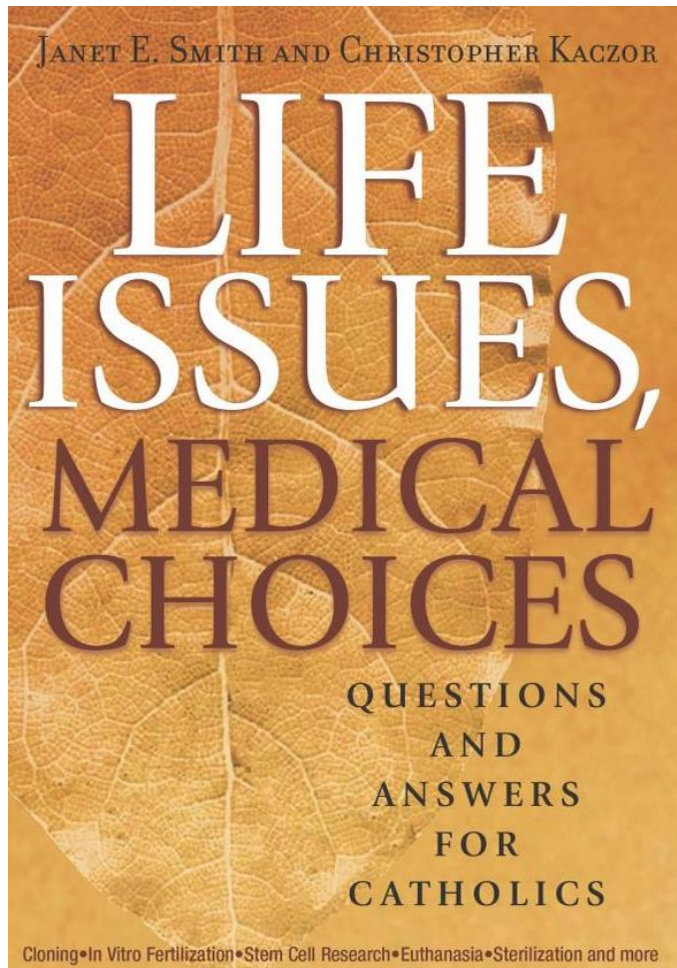
Why does the Church teach that contraception is intrinsically evil?

Is life always a good, even when it involves great suffering?

What is “brain death?”

Get a copy of this book and clear up the confusion.





### INTERNET ARTICLES OF INTEREST

[Thomas More Law Center Files U.S. Supreme Court Brief Defending Marriage Between One Man and One Woman](#)

[Indiana's RFRA Controversy: The Sexual Revolution's Next Stage](#)

[On Redefining Reality: A Dialogue](#)

[A 'Culture of Life' or a 'Tyrant State'?](#)

[New Yorkers Score Major Pro-Life Victory Over Cuomo's Abortion Agenda](#)

<http://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2015/03/i-wanted-that-kid-dead>

[STATEMENT: Failure to charge Lane for murder is "travesty of justice," says archbishop](#)

[Terry Schiavo's Brother: Jeb Bush 'Legitimately' Concerned About Her Treatment](#)

[More Than 100,000 Citizens Ask Mexican Supreme Court to Affirm Right to Life](#)

[A Time for Testing](#)

[Religious Liberty and the Secular, Irrational Elite Collide in Indiana](#)

["Who's going to Walkerton, IN to burn down #memoriespizza w me?"](#)

[Political Partisanship Over Abortion Blocks Human-Trafficking Bill](#)

[Catholic Schools Are 'Vehicles' of Pro-Life Movement, Say Pro-Life Leaders](#)

[The Transgender Bathroom Debate Revisited: It's Not Just In Theory Anymore](#)

[No murder charges to be filed against CO woman who cut baby from mother's womb](#)

[Government report confirms taxpayers forced to give \\$1.5 billion to Planned Parenthood](#)

[A Seamless Garment That Fits](#)

[Preach from the Rooftops: Evangelium Vitae at Twenty](#)

[A Catholic School Removes Teacher for Defending Faith](#)

[What You Should Know About Religious Freedom Restoration Acts](#)

[Planned Parenthood: Women should not see the ultrasound](#)

[Who Will Stand?](#)

<http://www.theamericanconservative.com/dreher/christians-frank-bruni-lgbt-religious-liberty/>

[RFRA & My Wedding Ring](#)

[Nebraska capital is abortion-free after abortionist unexpectedly leaves](#)

[Christians Must Go on the Offensive Against Gay Mafia](#)

[Why Surrogacy Violates Human Dignity](#)

[Is Indiana Really Full of Christian Haters Eager to Hate Gays?](#)

[Planned Parenthood: The Abortion Provider Funded on the Scale of a Small Country](#)

[Kansas governor signs abortion law](#)

[Equal in Dignity and Responsibility: Ministering to Those With Same-Sex Attraction](#)

[A Note from Creator Cakes](#)

[Building a Stronger Latino Culture of Life](#)

[Kansas Becomes First State to Ban Dismemberment Abortion](#)

[Indiana's RFRA Lessons](#)

[The Totally Phony Notion of "Unmet Need" for Contraception](#)

[Johns Hopkins reverses ban on detailed pro-life display](#)

[Pope Francis blasts 'gender theory' again: rejecting sexual difference is 'a step backwards'](#)

[MSNBC Host Says All Medical Students Should be Forced to Learn How to Do Abortions](#)

[Oklahoma becomes second state to ban dismemberment abortions](#)

[Nuns walk out of San Francisco Catholic school as students push gay activist campaign](#)

[Marriage Advocates Warn High Court: Children Will Suffer Most From Marriage Redefinition](#)

[Maggie's Story](#)

[Why Religious Liberty Arguments Aren't Working](#)

[Animus Towards Gay Sex Means Love for Homosexuals](#)

[Fetal Dismemberment, Bad for Baby, Bad for Mom](#)

[The Truth That Dare Not Speak Its Name — Catholic Teachings on Homosexuality?](#)

[Get Ready for Genetically Modified Kids](#)

### QUOTES OF THE MONTH

*"What is the law or teaching of the Catholic Church on the right or otherwise of a doctor to perform an abortion?"*

The Catholic Church teaches, and ever will teach, that no doctor has any right before God and in conscience to perform such an operation. The deliberate and direct destruction of innocent human life is forbidden by the commandment, 'You shall not kill.' Another principle insisted upon by the Catholic Church is that the end does not justify any morally evil means. And the commandment "You shall not kill" forbids the direct killing of an innocent human being before and after birth.' Taken from: **Radio Replies (Classic Answers to Timeless Questions About the Catholic Faith)** by Leslie Rumble, M.S.C.

This week, the Church lost a great servant of God, Francis Cardinal George. May he rest in peace. A segment of EWTN's *The World Over* program was dedicated to Cardinal George. The lead-in to the segment was a video clip of a statement from the Cardinal during a USCCB conference:

"You are not really a good person if you don't accept abortion as a universal human right not just a rare and tragic circumstance. If you in any way dare to say that, not homosexual persons, but homosexual activity is somehow not ordered correctly according to the will of God or nature. These things are now formative of all of us and particularly younger people in such a way that the faith becomes more and more incomprehensible. In other words, are the media creating a culture where it is practically

impossible to believe? In which case, it is going be extraordinarily difficult to be Catholic in this culture in 20, 30, 40 years... There is an implausibility to the faith now that wasn't there 20 years ago. And that's largely because of the entertainment media."

**PRAYER OF THE MONTH**

This prayer was taken from The Way of the Cross program at St. Joseph Cathedral in Baton Rouge on Good Friday 2015.

Lord, we pray for mothers and fathers who are in agony because they are tempted to abort a child. May they be given the good news that there are alternatives and may they make use of the help that is available. We pray that they view adoption as a miracle of life they can offer to another family, especially one struggling with infertility.

We pray for the mothers and fathers of aborted children, many of whom suffer deep grief and regret

in silence because they are told that their irreversible choice is no big deal. May they find healing through the compassion of others. We ask forgiveness and mercy for the women who have died from so called "safe, legal" abortions and ask that their memory will save others from making tragic mistakes. We pray that those involved in the business of child-killing repent and condemn their work. We pray for the innocent souls of the victims.

Lord, strengthen those misled by the phrase "death with dignity." Help us resist the culture of waste by cherishing the weak and fragile. Don't allow us to wash away our responsibility to speak out against abortion, assisted suicide, and euthanasia.

