



## Culturae Vitae

July 2016

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

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

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

The 2014 presentation provides an overview of the main Culture of Life issues. The 2015 presentation provides specific guidance on the activity grading form.

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

### WHAT IS A CULTURE OF LIFE?

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

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

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

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

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

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

The results a 2014 survey of Culture of Life chair couples is available on the state KC web site:

<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 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](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).

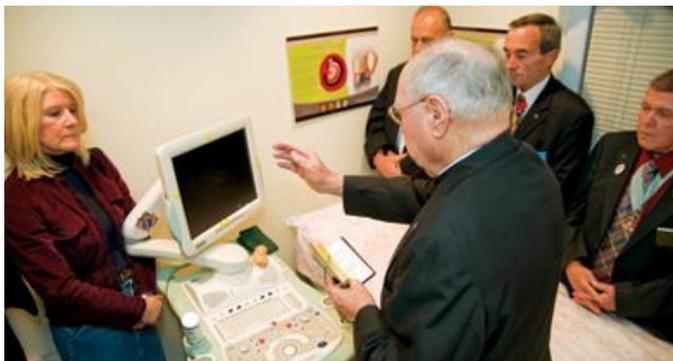
**CULTURE OF LIFE RESOURCES**

**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](mailto:smistretta2@cox.net)) for assistance.

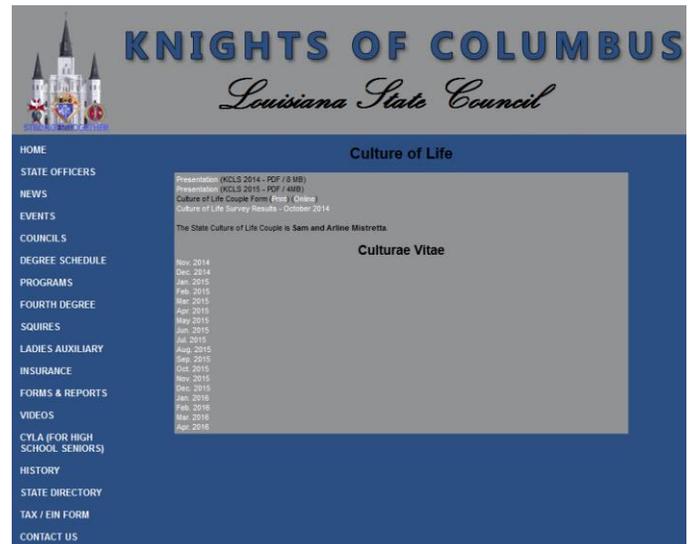


**CULTURE OF LIFE NEWSLETTERS ARE ON THE STATE WEB SITE**

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

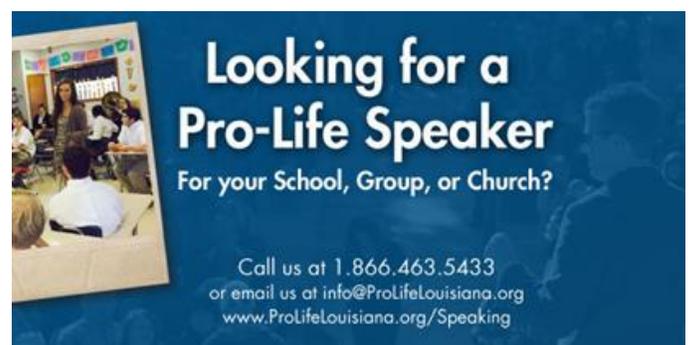
This will make it easier for you to share this information with others and utilize the information in your pro-life activities. The newsletter also provides helpful information and ideas to enable councils to receive 100 points in Culture of Life.

Please contact us if you cannot find what you are looking for.



**YOUR FIRST STOP FOR PRO-LIFE RESOURCES IN LOUISIANA**

Louisiana is one of the more pro-life states in the union. That is no accident, and continuous efforts are needed to avoid losing ground in our Culture of Death. While the attacks on the human person are global, we should start our efforts locally. There is no better place to look for help than Louisiana Right to Life (<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.



PLANNED PARENTHOOD UPDATE

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

The Planned Parenthood facility on Claiborne Avenue in New Orleans held their “grand opening” on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Cecile Richards, president of Planned Parenthood, who was present for the ribbon cutting noted: “We definitely built this (facility) so we can provide abortions,...” Louisiana Right to Life reports, “Planned Parenthood plans to sell 2,844 abortions on site each year over and above abortions already being performed elsewhere in New Orleans. The most recent numbers have Louisiana's abortion count at 10,211 a year, but if Planned Parenthood has its way, that number will increase by 28%.” Read more about Planned Parenthood’s New Orleans intentions [here](#) in their own words. More information can be found at this web site: [www.nolaneedspeace.com](http://www.nolaneedspeace.com).

ABORTION REVERSAL

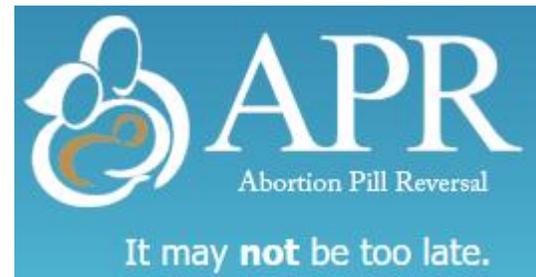
Debbie Shinskie, Director of the Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of New Orleans

Consider that the “abortion pill” (medical abortion, RU-486) is now more widely available than before. The General Pershing facility uses it. Planned Parenthood will most like use it. And the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has loosened its guidelines...it may now officially be used up to 70 days gestational age, rather than 49 days.

Women often take the first dose of the abortion pill and then regret it. You can read [stories](#) of hope, women who began a medical abortion and turned to the Abortion Pill Reversal procedure to save their babies and themselves.

Do you pray or minister to those entering and exiting abortion clinics? Abortion Pill Reversal

information cards are available to you free of charge. Included on the card is basic information about the ability to reversal the “abortion pill” as well as the contact information of the three local physicians who provide the Abortion Pill Reversal. To obtain the cards, please email [respectlife@arch-no.org](mailto:respectlife@arch-no.org).

END OF LIFE ISSUES/ASSISTED SUICIDE/EUTHANASIA

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

Devastating news from the American Medical Association this week: “Yesterday, at its annual meeting in Chicago, the American Medical Association (AMA) rejected a Louisiana State Medical Society proposal to reaffirm the AMA’s long-standing policy against physician assisted suicide. Instead it approved a study-resolution to explore AMA adoption of a neutral position on physician assisted suicide...” Read more [here](#).

Bravo, Louisiana State Medical Society, for standing strong for LIFE!

Archbishop Gomez of Los Angeles speaks out on the legalization of Assisted Suicide in the state of California. You can find his statement [here](#).

The Holy Father recently spoke out against Euthanasia...he told an audience last Friday: “True compassion does not marginalize, humiliate or exclude, much less celebrate a patient passing away. You know well that would mean the triumph of selfishness, of that ‘throwaway culture’ that rejects and despises people who do not meet certain standards of health, beauty or usefulness.” ([link](#))

Are you looking for a Health Care Catholic Advanced Directive for you or family members?

The Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops have a suggested option. Please visit the [website](#).

For those looking for a deeper bioethical discussion and a survey of the current legal landscape involving Determination of Death and Organ Donation, please use this [link](#) to download the document.

A Persistent Vegetative State is a deep unconsciousness. The person is not “brain dead.” It is a perplexing state of consciousness to say the least. Yet, the brain is a marvelous creation of God, and it continues to surprise medical science. Read about a recent miraculous story of recovery from a young man in a Persistent Vegetative State (video included) that highlights the importance of our Faith’s teaching on the care of those in this state. You can learn more using this [link](#).



### NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

**ATTENTION:** NFP teachers are needed for the Archdiocese of New Orleans! If you are interested, please contact the Respect Life Office at [respectlife@arch-no.org](mailto:respectlife@arch-no.org) or 504-286-1119 to discuss the possibility of training to teach Natural Family Planning in the Archdiocese. You are needed!

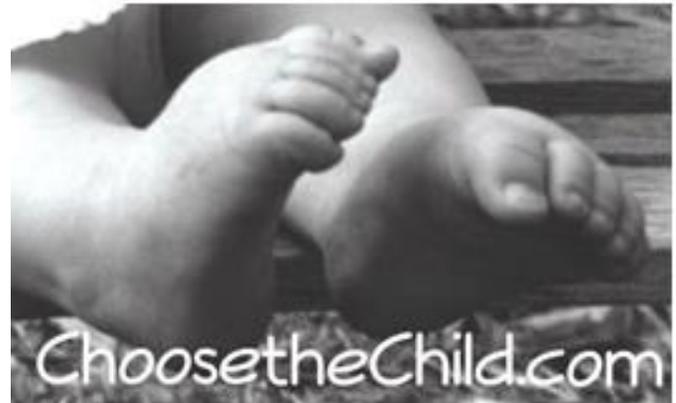
Natural Family Planning methods, class information, and contact information to register for a class can be found here: <https://respectlife.arch-no.org/natural-family-planning>.



### FOOTPRINTS FOR LIFE

Natasia T. Kissinger, ChoosetheChild.com

“Footprints for Life”: Empowering & Educating Children to Change the Culture



What is it? Footprints for Life is a program designed to encourage and empower children to build a Culture of Life. This program builds on a foundation of love, truth and dignity. The program covers all of the USCCB Culture of Life topics age-appropriately, and incorporates the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy into the study of these issues. It is designed to be easily integrated into an already existing program.

Who should use it? This program can be adapted for grades Kindergarten through 7th grade. All of the material was written to teach children of those ages and can be easily adjusted as needed.

Why should I use it with my students/children? As a mother of six children and a former elementary teacher, I see the many challenges to human dignity that our children are faced with daily. It is important that we teach them to love & respect others – no matter race, size, beliefs, etc. Also, children need to know that they CAN make a difference, even with the smallest of actions. By teaching our children to pray for, respect and support those in need, we raise children that stand for what they believe in and, most importantly, come to know that God will provide. The children of today have a passion for protecting life....they just need a path.

How do I use it? The program was created to focus on one or two USCCB topics per month. Each month contains everything you need to share the

lesson with your children. The lessons offer material that can be incorporated into one lesson or carried out in several lessons. "Footprints for Life" is designed to be used during the school year, September – May.

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

Natasia T. Kissinger  
 ChoosetheChild.com  
 504-339-5384 [ntkissinger@gmail.com](mailto:ntkissinger@gmail.com)

**BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGNS**  
 Phil Camel, Development Director  
 The Desormeaux Foundation

So much to do; so little time! We are putting together a very aggressive agenda for 2016. We have already doubled the number of Baby Bottle Campaigns since last year! We have completed 45 Baby Bottle Campaigns and have 5 more scheduled for the remainder of this year, which brings the total to 50 scheduled campaigns with the goal of scheduling 50 more before the end of the year!



The Acadiana Boy Scout Council will be helping with the distribution of Baby Bottles at Masses in every parish and the KC Councils in several parishes have stepped up to help as well.

The Baby & Me Boutique is moving to bigger space across the street. This space will more than double the retail floor space and the processing area. The building across from the Women's Center is also being renovated for use as DesOrmeaux Foundation (<http://desormeauxfoundation.com/>) offices.



We are starting a social media ministry! We have secured the talents of Norman Locke. Norman is a graduating senior in communications with a minor in English at ULL. He is assuming the position of Communications Manager. He will be working as an intern to improve our web presence as well as managing all social media sites for maximum exposure.

Norman has started this process and already has more than doubled online presence on social media. We're going to use social media to reach out to the participating parishes, schools, and organizations in order to get a consistent dialogue going between all of our followers.

The bottom line to all of this is that we are seeing an increase in sales at Baby & Me Boutique and Baby Bottle campaign requests, but most importantly we are seeing an increase in young women who need help, but are unaware of our services. So keep praying for all of us here! Keep letting EVERYONE know that if she needs help we are here. And keep listening to your heart because it is there He talks to you.

By the way Councils in Broussard, Lafayette (St Pius, St Edmunds and Holy Cross) have been our best fund raisers. But Councils in Eunice and New Iberia have recently really stepped up their involvement and I expect some great things in the future from them. We have had 43 campaigns in 43 parishes so far this year.



GIANNA CENTER ULTRASOUND INITIATIVE

The Northshore Knights of Columbus have formed a committee to obtain funds for an ultrasound machine for the Gianna Center of the Gulf South ([www.giannagulfsouth.org](http://www.giannagulfsouth.org)). The Gianna Center is a full service OB/GYN clinic focusing on infertility and cycle irregularities in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church. It is not a typical Crisis Pregnancy Center.

We have applied to Supreme and received approval under Supremes' Ultrasound Initiative Program. The cost of the Ultrasound machine is \$75,000. Supreme will match up to \$37,500. We are asking for Councils to hold a fundraiser or make a donation to this worthwhile cause.

We have set up the following sponsorship levels:

Platinum – Donations of \$1,000 or more

Gold – Donations of \$500 to \$999

Silver – Donations of \$250 to \$499

Bronze – Donations up to \$249

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Hart at (504) 615-1303 or [heartfore@bellsouth.net](mailto:heartfore@bellsouth.net).

Please make all checks payable to “Knights of Columbus” and send to St. Peter Parish Knights of Columbus, 125 East 19th Ave., Covington, LA 70433. Write Gianna Center on the memo line.

CULTURE OF LIFE STORIESFIGHTING SURROGACY

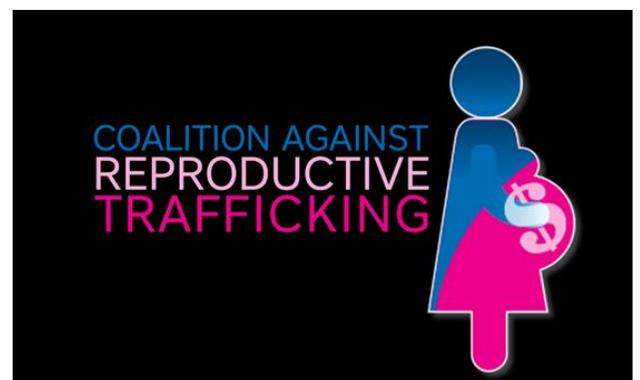
Charlotte Bergeron, 40 Days for Life Baton Rouge

The Center for Bioethics and Culture (CBC), <http://www.cbc-network.org/>, has produced a trilogy of [must-see films](#) that address third party reproduction including surrogacy. The films are on sale TODAY!

The founder of the CBC, Jennifer Lahl, has been helping fight surrogacy all over the world and here in Louisiana. She sent Gov. John Bel Edwards a powerful letter ([link](#)) requesting his veto of HB 1102 because of the documented medical, psychological and emotional harms to women and children linked to surrogacy. Surrogacy destroys more life than it creates by leading to more abortion via "selective reduction" of babies in the womb and frozen or destroyed embryos. We must become armed with knowledge about this new attack on the dignity of women, motherhood and the commodification of children.

Please consider purchasing a set of the films and share it with your family, friends, church and school. Your purchase will support the critical work of our friends at the Center for Bioethics and Culture that are leading the fight in the United States and are among the international leaders working to stop the reproductive trafficking of women and children. HB 1102 has passed both the Louisiana House and Senate but there is still time to ask Gov. Edwards to veto HB 1102.

Go to the Coalition Against Reproductive Trafficking's Action page for helpful information here: <http://reproductivetrafficking.org/action>.



BATON ROUGE RIGHT TO LIFE BREAKFAST

Charlotte Bergeron, Baton Rouge 40 Days for Life

A sell-out crowd attended the 6th annual Baton Rouge Right to Life Benefit Breakfast held on Saturday, June 25, 2016 from 9:00 AM -11:30 AM in the Parish Activity Center of St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 11441 Goodwood Blvd, Baton Rouge. The theme of the Breakfast this year was celebrating pro-life healthcare providers. The keynote speaker was Robert Chasuk, M.D., who currently serves as Associate Program Director for the Family Medicine Residency Program at Baton Rouge General and has been a member of the faculty there since 1994. He is Chief of the Family Medicine Division at the Baton Rouge General Medical Center. He is the medical director of the Wellness Center and Skilled Nursing Facility at St. James Place in Baton Rouge. He is also an Associate Clinical Professor in Family Medicine for Tulane University School of Medicine.

His interests include evidence based medicine and the treatment of infertility and other gynecologic problems using the Creighton Model FertilityCare System. He is certified as a medical consultant in NaProTechnology by the American Academy of FertilityCare Professionals.

Dr. Chasuk made the connection between the authentic healthcare offered by NaPro Technology that treats women as individuals instead of a “one-size fits all approach” and the role it plays in building a pro-life culture. NaPro Technology can assist families struggling with infertility, help with limiting family size using a natural method that is effective and is not reliant on dangerous hormones or medical devices. He also described the many challenges facing medical students and healthcare providers whose conscience rights are under attack.

Karen Stoehr, a jazz vocalist in New Orleans and mom of seven, shared the story of her youngest child’s challenging prenatal diagnosis and her courageous defense of her child’s life when she was urged to have an abortion by her doctor. Her story touched many present.

Wojciech "Al" Krotoski, M.D., Ph.D, M.P.H. was posthumously honored with the Joan Dowd Pro-Life Achievement Award. Dr. "Al," who passed away on

Jan. 1, 2016, was a researcher in tropical medicine and a Nobel Prize nominee. He was a leader of statewide, professional and local pro-life organizations and frequently testified before Louisiana Legislative committees. E.J. Shannon, Ph.D., a close friend of Dr. “Al” for many years as colleagues, accepted the Joan Dowd Pro-Life Achievement Award on behalf of the family.

David Haddad of Closer Walk Ministries filmed the talks presented during the Breakfast. Baton Rouge Right to Life will make the video available by early fall.

Group picture of healthcare providers:



Pictured: Back row: E.J. Shannon, Ph.D; Wayne Gravois, M.D., Sarah Chavez, M.D.; Keith Lorio, D.D.S.; Dan Marsh, M.D.; Front row: Francis Rinaudo, D.D.S.; Robert Chasuk, M.D.; Marco Chavez, M.D.



Robert Chasuk, M.D.

BATON ROUGE RIGHT TO LIFE BREAKFAST

John Hauler (Council 9016)

Baton Rouge Right to Life held their 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit Breakfast on Saturday, June 25 from 9:00 to 11:30 AM at St. Thomas More Parish Activity Center in Baton Rouge (at 11411 Goodwood Blvd). We celebrated pro-life healthcare this year.

Members of Fr. Hurst Council 9016 along with their Auxiliary members and members of the St. Thomas More Holy Name Society came together to buy, prepare, cook and serve at the event.

The breakfast was very successful. Many people thanked the cooks and other workers. The financial part is yet to be determined. Many people attended to support the pro-life cause as well as to learn more about different aspects of the respect life movement.



HELP REQUESTED FOR PREGNANCY CENTER

Dale and Judy Tureau (Council 8147)

St. Mark Council 8147 has been assisting a pregnancy and health clinic in Livingston, LA called the Family Resource Clinic. They mentor women and men who are considering abortion. They help with the mother’s health and try to nurture their partners to be good fathers to the babies.

A few years ago, the Knights of Columbus purchased an ultrasound machine for this clinic. Right now, their ultrasound machine is broken. When it works, they have a high success rate of the mother not aborting the baby. The clinic has absorbed two budget cuts from the state over the past year, and now they do not have the money to repair the machine.

We would appreciate it if someone who is knowledgeable about these machines could contact the clinic and assist them. We are also looking for councils to sponsor this great clinic. It is also possible for owners-operators to speak at your council meeting. If you are interested, please call Bryan or Julie Raspberry at 225-686-9755 or 225-939-3532 or call Dale Tureau at 225-647-8101 or 225-715-9927. Thanks!

IT'S A WRAP  
Louisiana Right to Life

Pro-Life Victories Abound in 2016 Legislative Session!

The 2016 Louisiana Legislative session was a huge success for life, with all bills in Louisiana Right to Life's Legislative Package approved overwhelmingly by legislators and supported by Gov. John Bel Edwards.

Four bills passed both the House and the Senate unanimously, while LARTL's signature piece of legislation, the Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Act, passed the House unanimously before meeting only slight opposition in the Senate, where it passed 36-2.

Here is a list of key pro-life victories this session:

Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Act (HB 1081 - signed into law on May 26): Ends the practice of dismemberment abortion, a second trimester abortion method where the abortionist uses forceps to seize and tear body parts from a living unborn child.

Women's Enhanced Reflection Act (HB 368- signed into law on May 19): Increases the time for reflection between pre-abortion counseling and the actual abortion procedure from 24 hours to 72 hours.

Defunding Abortion Businesses Act (HB 606- signed into law on June 2): Prohibits entities that perform abortions from receiving public funding for any purpose.

Compassionate Burial Options Act (HB 618- signed into law on May 11): Requires hospitals to inform parents who suffer the tragedy of miscarriage that they have a right to bury or cremate their child.

Baby Body Parts Profit Ban (SB 33- signed into law on May 26): Prohibits the sale of human body parts harvested as a result of an elective abortion.

The Unborn Child Dignity Act (HB 815- awaits the governor's signature): Requires that abortion facilities bury or cremate the remains of unborn children instead of treating them as medical waste.

Unborn Child Protection from Disability Discrimination Act (HB 1019- awaits the governor's signature): Protects unborn children who have been diagnosed with a disability in the womb from abortion simply based on their status as disabled or potentially disabled.

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR DETAILS ON 2016 PRO-LIFE BILLS.



MANDEVILLE TEEN'S PRO-LIFE VIDEO

Louisiana Right to Life

Isabella del Rio, a 15-year-old Mandeville High School freshman, is super passionate about the pro-life cause and recently sent us this speed drawing video she created and posted on YouTube.

[CLICK TO PLAY VIDEO](#)

Isabella attended last week's PULSE Leadership Institute, and she wrote a poem about the impact of abortion to read during the PLI mock committee at the Capitol. She has already reached out to the Mandeville City Council and hopes to read her poem there and propose pro-life activities in the Old Mandeville area.

She is also looking forward to being a member of the Northshore PULSE Rate Team, which she and other PLI students from the Northshore are putting together.

Isabella is the daughter of Brad and Dawn del Rio of Mandeville.

OBITUARY FOR CLAUDINE DESORMEAUX

Peter F. Sahuc, Sr.

We lost a good friend of the Pro-Life movement. Claudine Landry Desormeaux, 71, died as a result of cancer on Friday, June 17, 2016 at her residence in Maurice surrounded by her family.



She and her husband were Culture of Life Chair Couple at St. Alphonsus in Maurice, LA, so she is "one of us." She is also related to Brenda DesOrmeaux of the Women's Center in Lafayette by marriage.

Claudine Landry Desormeaux was a native and lifelong resident of Vermilion Parish, Louisiana. She worked for many years as a legal secretary before her retirement. Mrs. Desormeaux enjoyed camping, watching sports and following her grandchildren. She was a devoted Catholic, as evident in her daily prayer life. She was a member of the St. Alphonsus Catholic Church Community in Maurice, where she also served on the Ladies Altar Society and served as the "Right To Life" Coordinator at St. Alphonsus Church. Mrs. Desormeaux will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.

See more at this [link](#).



A PRO-LIFE ROSARY

John Hauler (Council 9016)

Deacon Pete Walsh offered up a Rosary on Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM at St. Patrick's Church in Baton Rouge to correspond with the prayer rally in New Orleans at the Planned Parenthood death house for their opening. We had about twenty-five to thirty people in attendance.



THE DEATH PENALTY AND THE CHURCH TODAY

Kyle Balkum (Council 9692)

Generally, most of our pro-life efforts and passion are directed at the evil of abortion, and rightfully so. After all, approximately 1 million abortions are committed each year in the U.S., destroying innocent life and wounding mothers, fathers, families and all of society. But there is another lethal practice that warrants our prayerful response. It's the death penalty. Much less common than abortion, the U.S. has executed 1,179 death row inmates since 1995, an average of 55 executions per year.\*

It must be made clear that the teaching of the Church does not condemn use of the death penalty in principle. Section 2267 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church states, “the traditional teaching of the Church does not exclude recourse to the death penalty, if this is the only possible way of effectively defending human lives against the unjust aggressor.” But in its wisdom, the Catechism concludes, “If, however, non-lethal means are sufficient to defend and protect people’s safety from the aggressor, authority will limit itself to such means... the cases in which the execution of the offender is an absolute necessity are very rare, if not practically non-existent.”

Throughout his pontificate Pope Francis has often spoken of the “culture of waste” that “leads people to discard babies through abortion.” But our current Holy Father, like Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Saint John Paul II before him, has also denounced the death penalty. In October 2014, speaking to the International Association of Penal Law, Pope Francis said, “It is impossible to imagine that states today cannot make use of another means than capital punishment to defend peoples' lives from an unjust aggressor... All Christians and people of good will are thus called today to struggle... for abolition of the death penalty.”

In a March 2015 letter to the International Commission against the Death Penalty, the Pope stressed that, “Today the death penalty is inadmissible, no matter how serious the crime committed. It is an offense against the inviolability of life and the dignity of the human person, one which contradicts God's plan for man and society and his merciful justice... It does not render justice to the victims, but rather fosters vengeance”. The Pope concluded, “The death penalty is contrary to... divine mercy, which must be the model for human justice. ... There is no humane way of killing another person.”

Before the U.S. Congress in September 2015, Pope Francis spoke of his conviction to advocate for the global abolition of the death penalty. “I am convinced that this way is the best, since every life is sacred, every human person is endowed with an inalienable dignity, and society can only benefit from the rehabilitation of those convicted of crimes.”

And just last month at the June 2016 gathering of the World Congress Against the Death Penalty, Pope Francis message stated, “nowadays the death penalty is unacceptable, however grave the crime of the convicted person. It is an offence to the inviolability of life and to the dignity of the human person... The commandment 'Thou shalt not kill' has absolute value and applies both to the innocent and to the guilty.”

Since 1973, 156 death row inmates have been exonerated!\* How many others were not exonerated and unjustly executed? This possibility alone is reason enough to abolish the death penalty.

Finally, during the 2015 Lenten Season Pope Francis reflected on Saint Dismas. Saint Dismas was the first saint in Christianity. He was sentenced to death. He was crucified alongside Jesus. He asked Jesus, "Remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus' response, "Today you will be with me in Paradise."

\*Statistics from Death Penalty Information Center ([www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/](http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/))



### PRO-LIFE CORNER

Don and Dee Caskey (Council 1905)

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta is widely known for her work with the "poorest of the poor." Her ministry was worldwide, even serving in the United States with communities in New York, San Francisco and Dallas. These communities serve the homeless, those with AIDS and those in hospices. She was also known for telling it like it is, THE TRUTH.

In 1994 she addressed the National Prayer Breakfast where she reminded then President Bill Clinton and other politicians at that event that true love hurts. This is when you give your all, for those you love, this is what Jesus did for us.

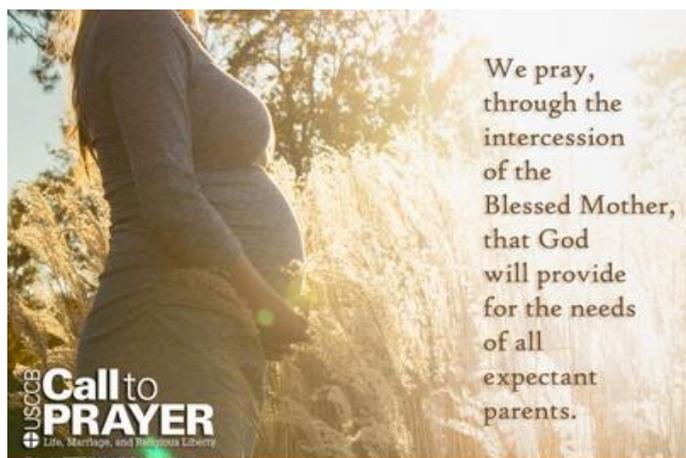
"...it is very important for us to realize that love, to be true, has to hurt. I must be willing to give whatever it takes not to harm other people and, in fact, to do good to them. This requires that I will be willing to give until it hurts. Otherwise, there is no true love in me and I bring injustice, not peace, to those around me."

In ending her remarks she addressed abortion, saying: "But I feel that the greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion, because it is a war against child, a direct killing of the innocent child, murder by the mother herself. ... any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want. This is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion."

As a country we have raised the false idol of "Me and what I want" to the level of blindly sacrificing our own unborn to fulfill our own desires. What will it take for our country to see the depth to which we have fallen? A land without love.

Yours in Christ,  
Don And Dee Caskey

This article was paraphrased from the daily reading of September 5th in "The American Catholic Almanac," a VERY good book for daily inspiration.



## CULTURE OF LIFE REPORT

Michael & Cathy Abbate (Council 9623)

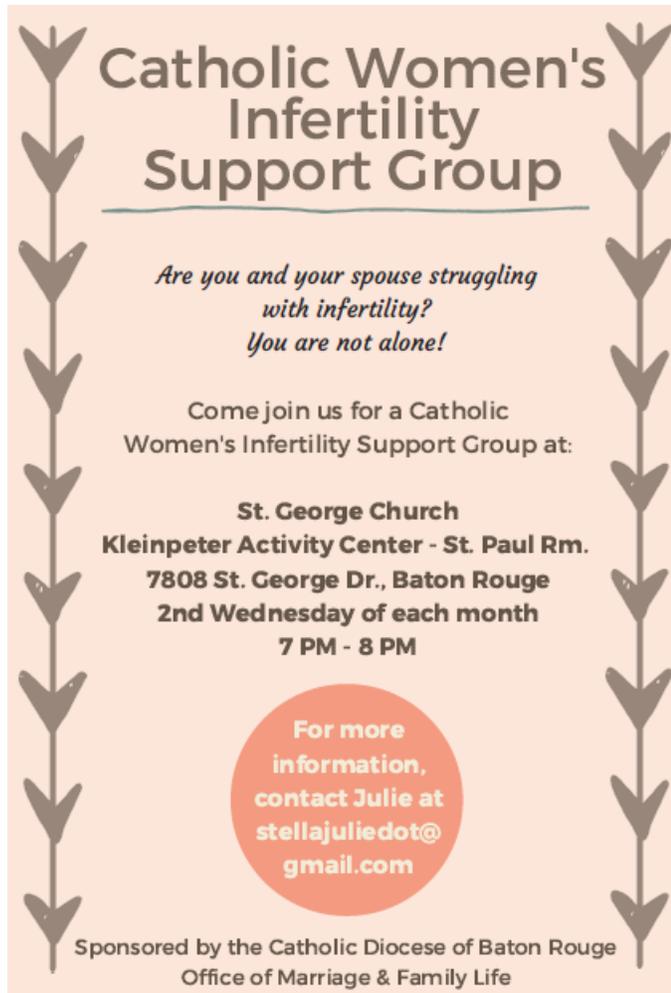
In June, the Council Culture of Life couple sent e-mails to State Reps. and Senators about the new health care law, and sent e-mails to Target's CEO about stopping the Bathroom Madness. men use Men's and women use Women's restrooms.

On June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, the Council Culture for Life Couple collected items (such as canned foods, toiletries, clothes, and toilet paper) at all weekend Masses to bring to a local home for young women who are victims of sex crimes and human trafficking for the Safe House in New Orleans. These items were delivered to the Safe House on Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> by the Culture for Life Couple.

On June 11<sup>th</sup>, the Council Culture for Life Couple joined in the Rosary March at the New Planned Parenthood Facility at 4636 South Claiborne Ave. in New Orleans from 9 am to 11 am. On June 12<sup>th</sup>, Council Culture for Life Couple sponsored the High School Students Peaceful Prayer Vigil in front of the Causeway Medical Abortion Clinic in Metairie. This was a 12-hour prayer vigil.

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, the Council Culture for Life Couple called and e-mailed the U.S. House of Representatives to protect the Unborn Children at 20 weeks of fetal age or later. H.R.1797 Bill. Each member was asked to vote in favor of the ban on late abortions.



UPCOMING EVENTS


**Catholic Women's Infertility Support Group**

*Are you and your spouse struggling with infertility?  
You are not alone!*

Come join us for a Catholic Women's Infertility Support Group at:

**St. George Church**  
Kleinpeter Activity Center - St. Paul Rm.  
7808 St. George Dr., Baton Rouge  
2nd Wednesday of each month  
7 PM - 8 PM

For more information, contact Julie at [stellajuliedot@gmail.com](mailto:stellajuliedot@gmail.com)

Sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Baton Rouge  
Office of Marriage & Family Life

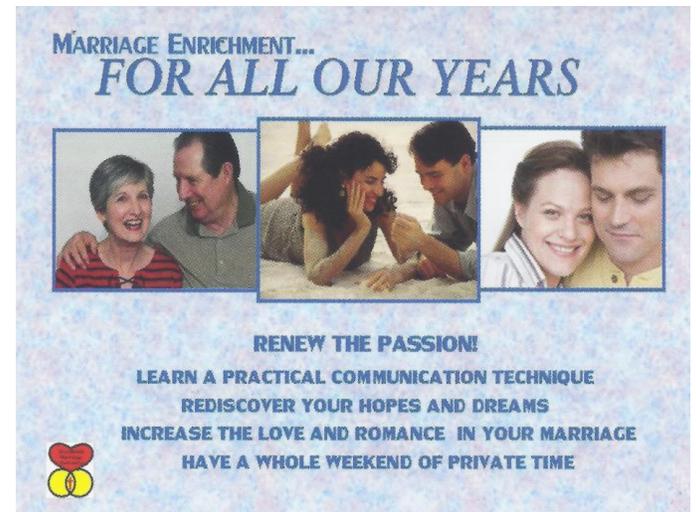
WORLD WIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME) is a weekend for married Christian couples who value their relationship and desire a richer, fuller life together. Attend a Marriage Encounter weekend and learn the tools needed to keep your marriage strong.

WWME is faithful to the Roman Catholic Church's teaching that marriage is a covenant that exists between one man and one woman. Any reference to marriage or couple made by WWME is in this context.

The upcoming events will take place at the Tracy Center in Baton Rouge. The next available weekends are: July 22-24<sup>th</sup> and October 14-16<sup>th</sup>. You can find more information about these events at their web site: [www.LAMS-wwme.org](http://www.LAMS-wwme.org) or call 800-586-5469.

An application fee of \$75 is non-refundable, and a donation will be requested on the weekend. You can receive a special \$25 discount on the application fee by using the discount code SAVE-25.



**MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT...  
FOR ALL OUR YEARS**

**RENEW THE PASSION!**

LEARN A PRACTICAL COMMUNICATION TECHNIQUE  
REDISCOVER YOUR HOPES AND DREAMS  
INCREASE THE LOVE AND ROMANCE IN YOUR MARRIAGE  
HAVE A WHOLE WEEKEND OF PRIVATE TIME

MARRIAGE RETREAT

How is Christ alive in one another? In our journey as a couple? How do we make Christ alive in our world?

The Christ Alive in Our Marriage Retreat will take place on Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup> from 8 AM to 4 PM at the St. George Activity Center.

Charis Retreat Team lead by Becky and Chris Eldredge presents this retreat for couples in their first few years of marriage. Take this opportunity to reflect on the meaning of your vocation and how you are being invited to live out your faith. Spend the day hearing talks by other young couples, talking with your spouse and other couples, praying and reflecting as a couple.

Cost is \$40.00 per couple and includes lunch and supplies. For registration, payment, and more information visit [www.charisministries.org](http://www.charisministries.org).

**Charis**  
CONNECT • ENCOUNTER • GROW

CHERS BEBES

Cher Bebes: Acadiana's Soirée For Life will take place on Wednesday November 2, 2016 at Le Pavillion in Lafayette, honoring Suzanne Tierney and Brenda Desormeaux with Keynote Speaker Bishop J. Douglas Deshotel. Join Us for a Great Evening for Life! Doors Open at 6:30; Event Begins at 7:00 PM. The event will raise funds to form the pro-life future of Acadiana!

This event features live Acadian music, delicious food and drinks, fun baby shower games, and Acadiana Pro-Life Awards.

This fun-filled evening will benefit the Drs. William Smith and Zerben Bienvenu Acadiana Pro-Life Education Fund. The Smith and Bienvenu Fund aims to educate thousands of middle school and high school students across Acadiana through interactive school-based presentations and activities. Through these efforts, we can strengthen the pro-life spirit of Acadiana for generations to come!

The November 2, 2016 event will be held in honor of two pioneers who dedicated their lives to building up Acadiana's strong culture of life and service, Ms. Suzanne Tierney and Ms. Brenda Desormeaux. Ms. Tierney and Ms. Desormeaux have served Acadiana very generously for the past 40 years through legislative involvement, education efforts, raising awareness of the humanity of the unborn, and assisting young mothers in need. They have set a remarkable example for today's pro-life generation to follow!

This will be an evening for our entire pro-life community to celebrate La Joie de Vivre! The evening will feature delicious food and drink, local Acadian music, and baby shower games.

For more information, contact us at 337.524.0044 or email Ryan Verret at [rverret@prolifelouisiana.org](mailto:rverret@prolifelouisiana.org).



## LOVE & LIFE

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S PLAN FOR  
YOUR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY



**Come hear the GOOD NEWS on  
Sex, Marriage and NFP**

THE SCIENCE OF FERTILITY AND HOW NFP WORKS. WHAT YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT THE PILL. TREATING MENSTRUAL DISORDERS AND INFERTILITY WITH THE SCIENTIFICALLY PROVEN AND LIFE AFFIRMING METHOD OF NAPROTECHNOLOGY.

**PRESENTED BY DR. SUSAN CALDWELL, MD**

DR. CALDWELL PRACTICES AT HOPE WOMAN'S CLINIC IN METAIRIE. SHE IS TRAINED IN INTERNAL MEDICINE, PEDIATRICS AND NAPROTECHNOLOGY.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 27 - 6:30 PM**

**ST. MARK CATHOLIC CHURCH, ACTIVITY CENTER  
42021 LA HWY 621, GONZALES**

CO-SPONSORED BY ST. MARK CHURCH AND THE DIOCESE OF BATON ROUGE  
MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE OFFICE

KCLS CULTURE OF LIFE SESSION

Knights of Columbus Leadership Seminar (KCLS) will be held on Saturday, July 16, 2016 at MSA-West Academy (57955 St. Louis Road in Plaquemine). The meeting begins at 9:00 AM. Again this year, there will be a special breakout session for Culture of Life chair couples and any others who are pro-life leaders in their councils.

This year, we are going to show a short video followed by a discussion period. There will be a detailed review of the new grading form, and we will introduce a new area of emphasis. We will also have a **special gift** for those in attendance, and free pro-life materials will be available on a first-come, first served basis. The session should wrap-up before lunch.

Please make sure that your council is represented. We look forward to seeing you there!



Natural Family Planning Awareness Week will be celebrated July 24 - July 30. Visit the USCCB [page](#) for resources such as Homily Notes, Intercessory Prayers, Social Media Graphics, and more!

*Diocese of Baton Rouge Inaugural*  
**Diocesan-wide Supper and Substance**  
*for Married Couples*

**Saturday, July 30, 2016**  
Premier Lanes in Gonzales  
1414 N. Airline Hwy  
**7:00-10:00pm**

**\$65 per couple includes:**  
Food, Live Band, Open Bowling Lanes

**WITNESS BY: DAVID AND KATE DAWSON**

Cash Bar, Arcade and Bumper Car package also available.  
Be a Lane Sponsor for a \$50 donation - Help make the event a success!

*Register Online!*

Limited to 150 couples!

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

Questions? Contact  
Jason and Emily Froehs  
225-620-5291

**SPEAKERS: David and Kate Dawson**

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Baton Rouge's sixth 40 Days for Life campaign will run from September 28 - November 6. Many varied talents are needed to make this event a success.

40 Days for Life Fall Campaign Planning Meeting will be held on July 26, 2016. Please consider helping with event planning, communications, outreach and site coordination. Come join us on July 26 at 7:00 pm in Room 104 at the Catholic Life Center, 1800 S. Acadian Thruway, Baton Rouge to hear how you can help. For more information contact: [40daysforlifebr@gmail.com](mailto:40daysforlifebr@gmail.com) or Danielle Van Haute at (225) 242-0164.





Use this [link](#) to sign-up or get more information.

**EDUCATION CORNER**

**THE RIGHT TO RELIGIOUS FREEDOM (USCCB)**

The Little Sisters of the Poor face a dire threat to their religious freedom in the United States. [Find out more](#) about what the Catholic Church teaches on religious freedom, including the groundbreaking Declaration on Religious Freedom (Dignitatis Humanae) from the Second Vatican Council.

Let's Talk! Small community gatherings are a great, simple way to build the life of our Church. They are also important for a healthy civil society. [Here are some ideas](#) for using the new video to kick start a small-group conversation about religious freedom.



Check out other related resources at : [www.usccb.org/freedom](http://www.usccb.org/freedom).

**SIGN-UP FOR LACCB ACTION ALERTS**

**Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops**

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](http://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.



CALLING ALL PRO-FAMILY GROUPS, JOIN  
US AND HELP SAVE THE FAMILY

Austin Ruse, President/C-Fam

Dear Friend, C-Fam, along with some very good allied groups, have launched The Family Articles and a coalition we are calling Civil Society for the Family.

The purpose of the Articles and the Coalition is to unite firmly in defense of the natural family and against any notion that the family can be redefined.

There is enormous pressure on UN Member States to go along with the dangerous new gender ideology that says any grouping of any sex under one roof is a family.

So far, the UN General Assembly has stood firm, but they need our help and they need it now. The pressure on them is unrelenting. We need hundreds of groups from all around the world to stand with pro-family delegations to the UN in defending the natural family.

I urge you to go here: <https://civilsocietyforthefamily.org> and stand in solidarity with literally half the delegations to the UN who standing for the natural family and against the new gender ideology.

This is for groups only. This is a coalition of organizations who are willing to lend their name to man-woman marriage. So, any group of any size from any country constituted for any purpose may sign The Family Articles and join Civil Society for the Family.

And then, spread the word. UN delegations need your help and they need it now.



INTERNET ARTICLES OF INTEREST

[Never Do Evil So Good May Come of It: Why Legislators Must Stop Justifying Surrogacy](#)

[Baby Bison and the Danger of "Misplaced Concern"](#)

[Will Australia Vote to Roll Back Abortion With Infant Viability Bill?](#)

[China's Population-Control Machine Reaches Disastrous Proportions](#)

[Words have turned the world upside down](#)

[Sorry, Adele: Surrogacy Doesn't Guarantee a Happy Ending](#)

[Ireland Won't Defend Pro-Life Law As Citizens Rally For It](#)

[Oklahoma Pro-Lifers 'Stunned' by Gov. Fallin's Veto of Anti-Abortion Bill](#)

[Of gorillas, control, and swiping left](#)

[Paraguay Defies Organization of American States, Defends Unborn and Family](#)

['Gender Identity': A Complex Battleground for Religious Freedom](#)

[Gorillas, internet mobs, and the culture of the living dead](#)

[State leader quits ACLU after daughters were 'visibly frightened' by men using women's restroom](#)

[Euphemisms for Killing](#)

[Africa could teach England a lot about building a culture of life](#)

[The unsexiness of death \(or what 'Me Before You' is missing\)](#)

[Pope Francis: In Combating Trafficking, the Victims Always Come First](#)

[Abortion clinic provided "whole brains" for youth summer camp](#)

- [Top Pro-Life Leaders and Researchers Join Call for Retraction of Fetal-Pain Study](#)
- [LA Archdiocese Prays Novena for Dignity of Life as Assisted Suicide Looms in California](#)
- [South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley signs 20-week abortion ban](#)
- [How ultrasounds are shaping women's views on abortion](#)
- [Archbishop Lori: HHS Mandate Part of 'Bloodless' Persecution Against Catholic Schools, Institutions](#)
- [Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards signs dismemberment abortion ban into law](#)
- [LA archbishop rips the seamless garment: Abortion and euthanasia 'stand alone' among today's injustices in US](#)
- ['She's Given Us a Purpose': Mom Pens Open Letter to the Doctor Who Advised Her to Abort Her Down Syndrome Baby](#)
- [Incoming Philippine President Proposes Three-Child Policy](#)
- [Mother pens letter to doctor who told her to abort her baby with Down syndrome](#)
- <http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/in-canada-assisted-suicide-and-euthanasia-now-just-other-medical-procedures/>
- [5 Feminist Pioneers Who Were Against Abortion](#)
- [This 19th C. Pro-Life Hero Quietly Saved Millions of Lives – Including Your Own](#)
- [Young Mom Who Fled Planned Parenthood and Saved Her Unborn Twins Has a Plea To 'Any Women Contemplating Abortion'](#)
- [Catholic Colleges: 'Gender Identity' in Title IX Threatens Religious Freedom](#)
- [Catholic universities must insure abortion, Obama administration rules](#)
- [Common Sense Turned on Its Head Once Again](#)
- [An Insightful New History of the Pro-Life Movement](#)
- [Elton John Inflates The Big Gay Marriage Lie](#)
- [The First Church of Secularism and Its Sexual Sacraments](#)
- [A Response to Fr. James Martin on the Orlando Massacre](#)
- [That Place Where Babies are Aborted? Don't Call It a 'Clinic,' Because It's Not](#)
- <http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/how-to-fight-modern-slavery-and-human-trafficking/>
- [Bishops Object to 'Shocking' Move That Forces California Churches to Cover Abortions](#)
- [Surprise! Surprise! Telling Kids the Truth About Sex Actually Works!](#)
- [JAMA Hides Fact That Unborn Babies Feel Pain](#)
- [What a Strong Bishop Can Do](#)
- [Judge Dismisses Hate-Crime Case Over Cardinal's 'Gay Empire' Remarks](#)
- [Supreme Court Overturns Texas Abortion Restrictions in Landmark Decision](#)
- [The Darkness is Deepening in a Land Overshadowed by Abortion](#)
- [Supreme Court Allows State to Force Pro-Life Pharmacists to Sell Abortion Pills](#)
- [Rule of Law Prevails in Absurd Texas Abortion Case](#)
- [5 takeaways from the SCOTUS abortion decision](#)

QUOTES OF THE MONTH

The following are selected quotes from Pope Francis during his visit to the United States in 2015:

“American Catholics are committed to building a society which is truly tolerant and inclusive, to safeguarding the rights of individuals and communities, and to rejecting every form of unjust discrimination. With countless other people of good will, they are likewise concerned that efforts to build a just and wisely ordered society respect their deepest concerns and their right to religious liberty. That freedom remains one of America’s most precious possessions. And, as my brothers, the United States Bishops, have reminded us, all are called to be vigilant, precisely as good citizens, to preserve and defend that freedom from everything that would threaten or compromise it.”

“[G]overnment leaders must do everything possible to ensure that all can have the minimum spiritual and material means needed to live in dignity and to create and support a family, which is the primary cell of any social development. In practical terms, this absolute minimum has three names: lodging, labour, and land; and one spiritual name: spiritual freedom, which includes religious freedom, the right to education and all other civil rights.”

“Religious freedom certainly means the right to worship God, individually and in community, as our consciences dictate. But religious liberty, by its nature, transcends places of worship and the private sphere of individuals and families. Because religion itself, the religious dimension, is not a subculture; it is part of the culture of every people and every nation.”

PRAYER OF THE MONTH

O Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, by God’s Grace you taught the world to see the Joy of the Christ Child in every precious life and to make known that each child is a blessing and is wanted.

By your intercession, sustain our good works of giving love and life to both the unborn and born, hope to all expectant and new mothers, and faith to all the friends and benefactors who support our endeavors.

O Blessed Teresa, mother to the destitute and forgotten, remember us before the Holy Christ Child, that we may be worthy of the promises of His Kingdom. Amen.

DesOrmeaux Foundation, Inc.,  
Lafayette, LA

