



Culturae Vitae

September 2017

Volume 4 Number 9

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

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

PRELIMINARIES

COUNCIL CULTURE OF LIFE CHAIR COUPLES WANTED!

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

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

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

KCLS CULTURE OF LIFE PRESENTATIONS

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

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

The 2014 presentation provides an overview of the main Culture of Life issues. The 2015 and 2016 presentations are also available on the web site. The 2017 presentation provides updated information on pro-life topics and the grading form guidance.

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

WHAT IS A CULTURE OF LIFE?

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

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

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

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

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

CULTURE OF LIFE NEWSLETTERS ARE ON THE STATE KC WEB SITE

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

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



CULTURE OF LIFE RESOURCES**FREE MATERIALS FROM SUPREME**

The Supreme Council has a number of Culture of Life materials to help you. All of these materials are free of charge except for the shipping. A list of materials can be found on-line. Use this [new link!](#)

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

**KC ULTRASOUND INITIATIVE**

Is your council interested in providing an ultrasound machine for a local pregnancy center? If so, there is a program and resources from the Knights of Columbus available to help you successfully do just that. Use this [new link!](#)

The Supreme web site provides an overview and guidelines documents. There are also two forms that must be submitted to determine if your situation qualifies for this program: 1) Diocesan evaluation (form 9884) and 2) Application to Supreme (form 4886).

Your State Culture of Life Chair Couple is ready to assist your council in participating in this program. Please contact Sam Mistretta (225-975-1501 or smistretta2@cox.net) for assistance.

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

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

**DIOCESAN PRO-LIFE RESOURCES**

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

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

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

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

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

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

CULTURE OF LIFE STORIESWHY CHARLIE GARD'S LIFE WAS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

Rep. Brad Wenstrup, R-OH
Via Louisiana Right to Life

*Beaurecrats Should Not Stand
in the Way of Finding Cures*



Five grueling months went by as Chris Gard and Connie Yates battled with the U.K. courts for the right to fight for their son's life. (Last) week, they withdrew their petition seeking to bring Charlie to the U.S. for experimental treatment.

The fight for little Charlie's life caught the attention of the world, and now commentators and talking heads are busy casting blame. The case can be made that the delay caused his death. At the very least, the drawn-out court battle deprived Charlie's parents of the opportunity to see whether experimental treatment might have saved his life.

"A whole lot of time has been wasted," Ms. Yates said, through tears. "We are sorry we could not save you."

Regardless of blame, a little boy has lost his only chance at life. The heart-wrenching truth is that thousands of children around the globe die every day, for a myriad of reasons. But that does not lighten the weight of this death. The individual is what defines our humanity. Charlie's short life is a

reminder that every human life - no matter how great or small, young or old - has inherent dignity. Every life is worth fighting for.



And fight Charlie's parents did: They raised more than \$1.6 million to pay for their son to receive experimental treatment in the United States. They advocated fiercely. They refused to give up hope. In response, a renowned U.S. medical center offered to admit Charlie Gard and provide him with an experimental treatment. Rep. Trent Franks and I introduced legislation to expedite the process of bringing Charlie and his parents to the U.S. in order for them to pursue their last, best hope for their son's life.

Other members of Congress brought forward similar pieces of legislation. My friend Jaime Herrera Beutler, a congresswoman representing a district in Washington State, shared her own story of fighting for her unborn baby's life after the child was diagnosed with Potter Syndrome, a condition that develops in utero when no kidneys form. Her doctor told her that the condition was 100 percent fatal and suggested abortion as the next step. However, Jamie and her husband did not lose faith. They found a doctor who was willing to try an experimental treatment. It was successful, and today Jaime's daughter Abigail is 4 years old.

This is personal for me as well. When my little sister, Amy, was diagnosed with leukemia as an adult, the doctors told her that the only real cure would be a bone-marrow transplant. The insurance company refused coverage, though, on the grounds that it was an experimental treatment. Amy fought the company and successfully attained partial coverage, while paying the rest herself. We did the bone-marrow transplant, on her doctor's advice.

Today, 23 years later, Amy is married and the mother of two beautiful children.

My sister's doctor and Abigail's doctors were fighting for the lives of their patients. In contrast, Great Ormond Street Hospital was advocating for permission not only to withdraw treatment but also to block Charlie's parents from taking him to get treatment in the U.S. The hospital bureaucrats argued that the experimental treatment was not what Charlie's doctors deemed to be in his "best interest."

This is a far cry from past medical cases in which doctors have interceded in order to provide a child with treatment over a parent's wishes - with the justification of saving the child's life. In Charlie's case, it was the opposite. A little boy was being ordered to die because a third party, overriding the wishes of the parents, believed it could determine that immediate death was what was best for him.

The effect of any case like this ripple far beyond a single life. Not only would experimental treatment have provided the only chance to improve Charlie's condition, it also could have offered the opportunity for Charlie to increase the chance of recovery for others suffering from this condition in the future. A cure begins with one.

Charlie Gard's brave fight inspired individuals across the globe to join in his battle for life, for hope, and for cures. That will be his enduring legacy. His life should serve as a reminder that these principles must be the basis for any successful health-care system. As we debate health care here in the U.S., let us remember that any reforms we implement should be centered on improving health, preventing illness, valuing life, and striving for breakthroughs in treatments and cures. We should be encouraging - not inhibiting - innovation and experimentation in order to bring new cures and better care to the next generation.

Looking ahead, Charlie's parents hope to establish a foundation to ensure that Charlie's voice "continues to be heard." As we stand with the family, let both our nations be reminded of the risk incurred when our health-care systems are endowed with ultimate authority to determine which lives are unworthy of being lived and who may be denied their own fight for survival.



May all persons with disabilities be welcomed, loved and respected.

URGENT REQUEST

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

We urgently need more folks to be a presence on the sidewalk at the Women's Health Care Center at 2701 General Pershing in New Orleans to pray and witness. This is a note from Wilson Breaux who is a veteran sidewalk counselor serving at General Pershing most weekdays: "Like I have done in the past at Ridgelake, if anyone wishes to go out to the General Pershing mill at anytime after we leave to pray, witness, or whatever on a regular schedule, I will be glad to come out and help them get started." Please contact him at 504-888-7881.



ARCHDIOCESE OF
NEW ORLEANS
Respect Life

GET YOUR PRO-LIFE SIGNS

Benjamin Clapper, Executive Director for Louisiana Right to Life

Louisiana Right to Life is hoping Louisiana residents will help spread the pro-life message in their own yards during the 40 Days for Life campaign by offering pink pro-life yard signs free of charge.

LARTL is encouraging churches or other groups to distribute the signs on the weekend of Sept. 23 and 24 in advance of the 40 Days for Life Campaign. We ask that people and groups put the sign in their yards for the entire 40 Days for Life campaign, which ends Nov. 5.

When you get a sign, be sure to post a photo of your sign in your yard on social media to @LARightToLife with #ProtectThemBoth as the tag. For more information, call 1.886.463.5433.

Click [here](#) to fill out an order form to get your sign as soon as they are available.



BABY ITEMS NEEDED

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

ACCESS Pregnancy and Referral Center is in need of diapers, wipes and other baby essentials so that they can continue serving families in need within the community. They are nearly out of larger size diapers (size 4, 5, 6 and Pull Ups), wipes and baby clothing (Size 3 M – 12 M). You can help by participating in the ACCESS Virtual Shower! For questions please contact Michelle Black at mblack@ccano.org or 504-885-1141.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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

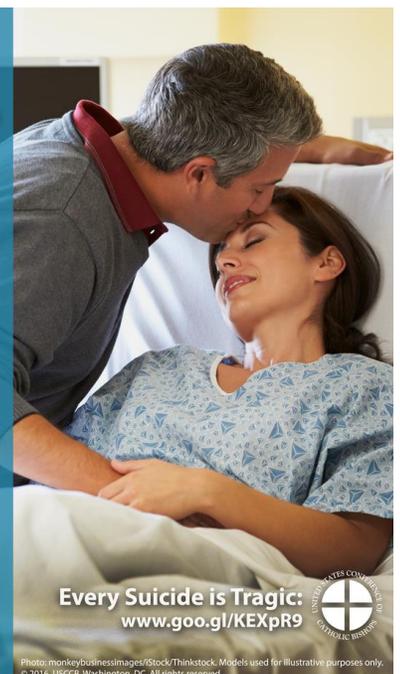
We continue to assist a local safe house, the [Free Indeed Home](#), where girls ages 12-17 who have been sex trafficked can come for healing.

If you or your group would like to participate in the collection of much-needed items, please contact the Respect Life Office at respectlife@arch-no.org to facilitate this. No drop-offs can be accepted.

The following items are needed:

- Cash or gift cards for grocery/big box stores
- Canned vegetables, flour, sugar, corn meal, seasoning, cooking oil, pasta, rice, cereals, canned meats, boxed cake mix, pudding
- Paper towel, toilet paper, paper napkins
- Comet Cleanser, Clorox Clean-up, dish detergent, disinfectant spray, multi-surface cleaner, baking soda, floor wax for hardwood floors, laundry detergent
- Feminine products
- Board games, puzzles, craft items
- Copy paper (cheapest kind), pens, pencils, crayons, color pencils, markers, dry eraser markers, loose leaf paper, notebooks, binders, printer ink for an HP 950 and 951, batteries (all sizes, primarily AA and AAA).

IN THE NETHERLANDS, REQUESTS FOR "HASTENED DEATH" WERE WITHDRAWN BY **85%** OF PATIENTS WHEN THEIR SYMPTOMS WERE BETTER CONTROLLED.



Every Suicide is Tragic:
www.goo.gl/KEXpR9

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ULTRASOUND FOR GIANNA CENTER

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

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

ULTRASOUND FOR WOMAN'S NEW LIFE CENTER

The Woman's New Life Center is located directly adjacent to the Delta abortion mill in Baton Rouge. The ability to show pregnant women their child in the womb has a huge influence on their decision to not have an abortion. Therefore, this is a critical part of their pro-life work. However, the machine is outdated and it is unable to provide clients with clear and accurate pictures of the baby.

Council 8147 in Gonzales will participate in the Ultrasound Initiative to obtain the ultrasound machine. They are looking for additional councils to pledge \$1,000 or more to help raise the required amount of money. Their goal is to raise, \$20,000.

If your council is willing to accept the challenge, please contact Ralph Roger (roger@dow.com, 713-306-6984). Thank you for your support!

ULTRASOUND FOR GRETNA CENTER

The [Community Center for Life](#) in Gretna provides pregnancy testing, confidential counseling, pre-natal and postpartum classes, educational literature, baby items, ultrasounds and an emergency shelter. Their ultrasound machine no longer works, and it needs to be replaced. This instrument is essential to their pro-life work. The cost of a new machine is estimated to be around \$33,500. This cost would include the machine, the tools associated with operating the machine, installation, training on use and also shipping.

Archbishop Blenk Council 1905 in Gretna is leading the effort to obtain a new ultrasound machine through the Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Initiative. Their council is asking other councils in the New Orleans area to make a donation to this effort. If you can help, please contact Glenn Esteve (gfe1905@yahoo.com, 504-405-2576) or Don Caskey (dcaskey53@yahoo.com, 504-884-0101).

ULTRASOUND FOR NORTH BATON ROUGE

John Hauler (Council 9016)

Barbara Thomas, Director of the North Baton Rouge [Women's Help Center](#), sent a message to me asking for help in obtaining a new ultrasound machine. The one that they have is outdated, and she says the company will only service it for the next year or so. I know one council by itself cannot afford to do this, but I am putting out a call for help.

If your council would like to obtain an ultrasound machine for this center through the Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Initiative, then please contact John Hauler at jehauler@yahoo.com or call 504-812-8753.



CULTURE OF LIFE MONTHLY REPORT

Michael & Catherine Abbate (Council 9623)

In August, Council 9623 Culture of Life chair couple sent e-mail note to the Louisiana US Senators to defund the Planned Parenthood Federation of America. The couple is also supporting the Catholics for Ken Cuccinelli program because Ken defends the unborn and the family. Later in August, the couple attended a peaceful and prayerful protest against the Planned Parenthood Facility in New Orleans.

ANOTHER DAY WITH WILSON AT THE ABORTION FACILITY

Shanon Snyder

Projects Director, New Orleans Right to Life

There were around a dozen women going into the facility this morning. Mostly young black women, of course. That demographic is always overrepresented at the facility, unfortunately. They outnumber white and hispanic women at least 4:1. Its just a crushing thing to watch. However, they're the most willing to stop and talk to us and take our literature.

One young black lady pulled in an Uber. She barreled out and I gave her some information as she went in. She came back out sobbing. I tried to talk to her, but from what I gathered she didn't want to go through with it and couldn't afford the procedure. I tried to catch her on the way out and offer to take her to the local pregnancy center, but she refused.

3 escorts were present today. They were cordial and not hostile, which was a nice change of pace. However, there was one psychotic woman who berated Wilson and I. She wasn't an escort, just some nondescript woman on the street. We'll call her Becky. Becky lives in the neighborhood.

Becky went on mocking my weight and Wilson's age and just saying really awful, hateful things. She screamed profanities and cursed at us from a safe distance, of course. Then, she walked about 200 yards away opposite of the clinic, and turned around and started up again. We didn't listen to her. Frankly, it was the closest thing to demonic I've ever seen. Obviously some deep self-hatred going on.

Later, as I was leaving, an escort stopped me. I'm a naturally defensive person, so immediately, my defenses were up and I was ready to go into persuasion mode. What she said surprised me, though. "You know, we're on opposite sides of this, but what that lady said was totally out of line and degrading. You're not less of person because we disagree on this. I'm sorry that happened."

I agreed with her and said we're both people with inherent dignity and that's why I'm out here: because I believe that everyone has equal worth and dignity including the unborn and their mothers. She shrugged. "That was just wrong, you know." Her name is Clarissa. I hope we have more conversations in the future. Who knows? Maybe she'll be converted to the pro-life side. She seems open to discussion, at least. I gave her some educational literature so maybe she'll be open to talking about it when I'm back out there next week. Pray for Clarissa that her heart will be changed.

Pray for the women we interacted with today and their babies. Thank you.

PRO-LIFE UPDATE TO COUNCIL

Council 9247

On August 10th, Council 9247 Pro-Life Director Charles Barbre speaks to the Council on current news on the local scene concerning the Pro-Life movement which is a major devotion of the Knights of Columbus.



PRO-LIFE UPDATE TO COUNCIL

David and Anne Gregory (Council 8342)

Council 8342 Prairieville, St. John the Evangelist purchased a newer used ultrasound machine for the Pregnancy Problem Center in Baton Rouge, and it was just installed a few weeks ago. Ultrasounds have resumed for clients. Learn more about the work of the PPC using this [link](#).

RIGHT TO LIFE CALENDARS

2018 Right to Life Calendar Now Available!

Since 1976, New Orleans Right to Life has published a Right to Life Calendar that showcases the beauty of life through the photos of babies and children in our community. Not only is the calendar full of fun & interactive material, but it is designed to educate & inspire those who see it.

Buy and Sell in Bulk - If you are a youth group, pregnancy center, or any other group that is pro-life, buy the Right to Life Calendars in bulk and sell them as a fundraiser. Pro-life groups in Louisiana have been doing this for years!

Organizations - Distribute the Right to Life Calendars to your members, donors, etc. What better way to provide supporters with information and dates they will have at their fingertips year round?

Individuals - Buy Some For Yourself, Family, and Friends: Take a look at the calendar below, and then order some for yourself! They make great Christmas gifts!

ORDER YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

1-99 Calendars: \$5 Each

100+ Calendars: \$3 Each

DINNER FOR LIFE

John and Elaine Hauler (Council 9016)

On Saturday, July 29th the Knights of Columbus of St. Maria Goretti parish hosted a Dinner For Life in New Orleans East. State Squires Chairman Kerry Williams of St. Maria Goretti and his brother Keith did an extraordinary job arranging the hall, a choir, and a fantastic dinner cooked up by Grand Knight Glenn Esteve and his crew from Archbishop Blenk Council 1905 in Gretna. The main speaker was Dr. Kathy Allen of Louisiana Right to Life Black Advocates for Life. A little over seventy people were in attendance, enjoying the presentations.

Pictured below is a group of Brother Knights who did the cooking as well as students from the PULSE Institute who helped set up the hall, served the meal, then cleaned up afterward. Please note that Keith and Kerry Williams are on the far left standing next to Glenn Esteve and his kitchen crew. On the extreme left are the six members from the PULSE Institute. Dr. Kathy Allen of Louisiana Black Advocates for Life is shown addressing the crowd, and the last is a picture shows the crowd.



PRO-LIFE CORNER

Don and Dee Caskey (Council 1905)

Brother Knights, the first deposit for the last of our four Baby Bottle Campaigns for Access Pregnancy Center was just deposited, and it was \$669 in cash and checks with almost ten pounds of change. Thanks to Infant Jesus of Prague parish for their continued support. As the money trickles in, I will continue to update the numbers.

The Community Center for Life is closer to receiving the Archdiocesan approval for our campaign to raise money for a new ultrasound machine through the Ultrasound Initiative. I've already made six examples for the yard angels, and I am anxiously waiting for the green light. District Deputy Arthur Newby has been raising interest for support in the other councils during his regular council visits. Thank You Arthur!

When we go into production we will need assistance and the use of some power equipment, mainly table sanders and scroll saws. A surface planer might be of help. However, our ladies are not sitting idly by. They are planning a baby shower.

If anyone reading this newsletter wishes to learn a whole lot more about Quality of Life and Social Justice issues, and the programs offered within our Archdiocese, then please attend the **Jazzed for Life** event that will be held on September 9th starting at 9 AM at the University of Holy Cross in Algiers on the "BESTBANK." There is no fee to attend, but they need you to register at <https://respectlife.arch-no.org/jazzed-for-life>.

Yours in Christ,
Don and Dee Caskey

REQUEST FROM DESORMEAUX FOUNDATION

The [DesOrmeaux Foundation](#) dba The Women's Center of Lafayette, St. Marguerite d'Youville Home and Baby & Me Boutique are extremely grateful for all of our amazing donors and friends!

Because you have been so generous in the past in helping our moms and their babies - we are again asking for your help with items that are costly and are used daily by our three ministries.

Here is a list of needed items at this time:
Windex, Furniture Polish, Toilet Bowl Cleaner, Fabuloso, Lysol Spray, 409 All Purpose Kitchen Cleaner, Murphy's Oil Soap, 13 Gallon Trash bags, 33 Gallon Trash Bags, Rolls of Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Tri Fold Paper Towels, Kleenex, Vacuum - small for carpets and floors, DVD Player, Diapers: Sizes newborn, 4, 5, and 6.

If you are only able to donate one of these items - please know that if there are 50 of you - we are set for months!!

Your may bring your gifts to:
1331 Jefferson Street, Lafayette, LA 70501

Please pray for those Moms that walk out of our offices still undecided about her pregnancy - they and our consultants need the Holy Spirit touching their hearts.

"I call upon you, my dear brothers and sisters, to cling to Jesus Christ in all your important work for the pro-life cause. Never allow yourselves to become discouraged or frustrated by the lack of apparent success. This work is not your own! It is the Lord's, who has a special love for children and for the weak. Trust in Him and in his strength. As Church, we are Christ's Body and he will not disappoint." Most Rev. John C. Nienstedt



A PRO-LIFE PLEA

Wayne Gravois (Council 10080)

The Fourth Degree Assembly 419 in Baton Rouge is issuing a CHALLENGE to all Knights of Columbus Assemblies in Louisiana to promote local council participation in a Baby Bottle Campaign during the 40 Days for Life Campaign scheduled from September 27th to November 5th. The campaign date is international with more than 700 cities all over the world participating. The dates are set by the national 40 DFL organization.

To help promote the program, we are offering a one-time contribution of \$100 to the first 6 councils that participate. This money can be used for the purchase of about 100 baby bottles. Most councils purchase their bottles from Heritage House ([link](#)).

Depending on the quantity purchased the cost of each bottle is about \$1. I am told the average donation per bottle returned is \$20. There is a blank tag on each one that the council can place their individual information. Our council is planning to start the campaign on Saturday October 30 and it probably will run for 4-5 weeks, finishing at least a week before the 40 days campaign ends so we can collect the returned bottles.

Of course, every council has to determine how to allocate the funds raised as they see fit. Our Assembly is suggesting that each council divide-up donations as follows: 25% to the purchase and/or maintenance of an ultrasound machine at a local pregnancy center, 25% to support high school students attending the March for Life in Washington D.C. in January, and 50% the council's pro-life projects and activities.

We also are planning to give out a Precious Feet lapel pin to every donor.

We hope that you will consider this worthwhile life saving cause. Please contact me at waynegravois@yahoo.com. May God continue to bless the work of the Knights of Columbus.

UPCOMING EVENTS

PRO-LIFE TALKS AT ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH IN PRAIRIEVILLE David and Anne Gregory (Council 8342)

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Prairieville will be have two pro-life talks during the month October. The dates and speakers are as follows:

1. The Death Penalty on October 5th by Father David Kelly from Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans.
2. The End of Life according to Catholic teachings by Dr. John Meinert from OLOL College on October 19th.

Both talks will be at 7:00 P.M. in the St. Francis Activity Center. For additional information, contact Deacon Randy Clement at 225-673-8307.

2018 LOUISIANA LIFE MARCHES

Life March South in Baton Rouge will take place on January 20, 2018, Life March North in Shreveport will take place on January 27, 2018, and Life March Central in Alexandria will take place on February 3, 2018.

Make plans for your council to participate!



WNLC BORN TO RUN BATON ROUGE

The Woman’s New Life Center’s Born to Run event in Baton Rouge will take place on November 4, 2017. It will start at the North Boulevard Town Square in Downtown Baton Rouge.

Schedule is as follows:

- 7:30 am - Runner sign-in
- 8:30 am - 1-mile Fun Run/Walk begins
- 9:00 am - 5K begins
- Post-race "Birth"day Party to follow

Use this [link](#) to register for the event.

Have fun, get a great workout, and help women and babies all at the same time!



JAZZED FOR LIFE!

Jazzed for Life! Respect Life Coordinators’ & Volunteers’ Day will take place Saturday, September 9, 2017 from 9 AM to 1 PM at the Moreau Center on the campus of the University of Holy Cross (4123 Woodland Dr, New Orleans). **Registration is required!**

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

Attendees are asked to bring a donation to help our local safe house for girls ages 12-17 who have been sex-trafficked (canned goods & paper products)

This is sponsored by the Respect Life Office & hosted by University of Holy Cross in New Orleans. ALL parish Respect Life Coordinators AND their committees are invited! For more information, contact Debbie Shinskie at respectlife@arch-no.org or go to this [web site](#).



GALA FOR LIFE

Woman’s New Life Center invites you to our annual Gala for Life. Join us for a charming evening as we dance the night away and enjoy an exquisite selection of Louisiana cuisine at club XLIV in Champions Square on Friday, October 6, 2017 (Patron Party 7:00 – 8:00pm; Gala 8:00 – 11:00pm) Use this [link](#) to register for the event.

Sponsorship opportunities available. Please call (504) 496-0212 for more information.







Compassionate Burials for Indigent Babies
Presents a Gala at the Historic



Music, Dancing, Food & Drinks

Sunday, October 22, 2017
6pm-9pm
402 Lafitte Street Mandeville, La 70448

-Silent Auction *\$50/Ticket*
-50/50 Raffle *cocktail attire*

Register early for complimentary bus transportation!

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UPCOMING RACHEL’S VINEYARD RETREAT
Trista Littell, Diocese of Lafayette

Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat for Post Abortion healing will be held October 6-8, 2017. Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat is an extraordinary opportunity for any person who struggles with the emotional and spiritual pain of abortion. The weekend is a unique and effective process designed specifically to help you experience the mercy and compassion of God. This process is extremely helpful for those who have difficulty forgiving themselves or others. The weekend will help your soul find a voice and transform the pain of the past into hope!

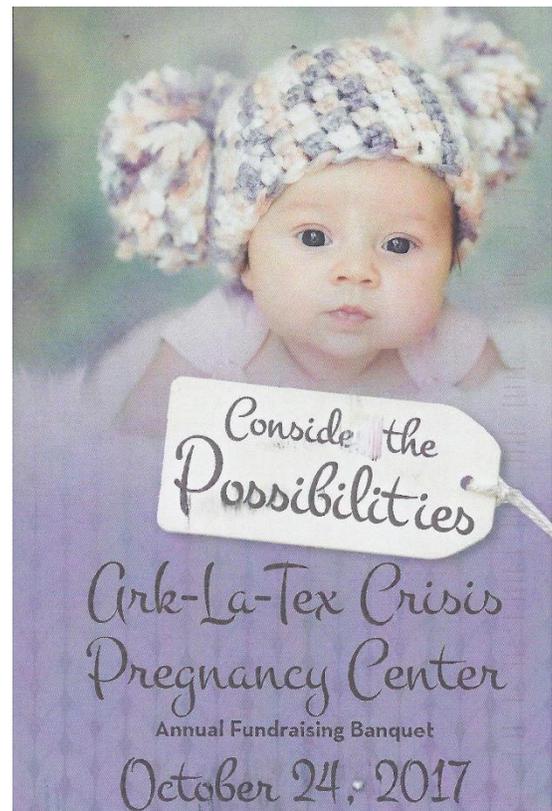
For more information and to register call 337.261.5607 or email tlittell@diolaf.org. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.

Project Rachel - Individual post abortion healing sessions are held regularly. For more information, please call Karol or Trista @ 337.261.5607.



ARK-LA-TEX FUNDRAISER

Ark-La-Tex Crisis Pregnancy Center will hold their annual fundraising banquet on Tuesday, October 24th at the Shreveport Convention Center. The keynote speaker will be Ryan Bomberger, Founder of the Radiance Foundation. Seating begins at 6:30 PM with a complimentary dinner and program from 7 to 9 PM. An opportunity to make a financial donation will be extended. Call 318-861-4600 for more information. To find out more about their pro-life work, click on this [link](#).



PLAN TO ATTEND PRO-LIFE BREAKFAST

KC Council 9247 at St. Jean Vianney in Baton Rouge will host their second pro-life breakfast in the SJV parish hall on Saturday October 7th at 9:00 AM. The featured speaker will be state representative Katrina Jackson from Monroe. She has been the lead author on many pro-life bills passed by the legislature. Tickets are only \$20 and can be purchased from any Council 9247 member. All knights are encouraged to attend and support council 9247’s pro-life efforts.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

After 44 years of legal abortion-on-demand in our nation, we must unite in our local communities, and across the nation for an end to abortion. Stand with us this fall to protect women and unborn children from abortion through inter-denominational prayer, peaceful vigil, and community activism.



The 2017 Campaign will take place from September 27th through November 5th. Events are held at three locations:

- o New Orleans-Planned Parenthood
- o Baton Rouge-Delta Clinic
- o Shreveport-Hope Medical Group

This event saves lives and helps people become knowledgeable and active on the life issues.

This is a major activity for the Knights of Columbus. Make plans for your council and parish to participate in 40 Days for Life!



40 Days for Life Louisiana is an interfaith pro-life effort that involves prayer and fasting. People of faith throughout our city and region are invited to

join together for 40 days of fervent prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. It is a peaceful vigil of standing for life through a 40-day peaceful witness outside of a local abortion facility.

For more info, go to:

- o www.40DaysForLifeBR.com
- o www.40DaysForLifeNOLA.com
- o <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/shreveport/>

There is still time for your parish or council to participate in 40 Days for Life. Please contact the State Culture of Life chair couple for assistance.



GROWING UP GRACEFULLY

Growing Up Gracefully is a Mother/Daughter Program for Young Ladies in 8th through 12th Grade and their Mothers. The program will be held at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in the Parish Activity Hall, 11441 Goodwood Blvd. Baton Rouge, LA 70815. Date is **Tuesday, September 19, 2017**, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Cost is \$25 for mother and one daughter (non-refundable) and add \$5.00 for each additional daughter attending.

Presenters will be Susan Caldwell, MD, CFCMC, & Sarah Denny, MA, FCP. This program is being offered by Hope Woman's Clinic, Woman's New Life Center and the Diocese of Baton Rouge Office of Marriage & Family Life.

Use this [link](#) to get complete information on the program and how to register.



LIFE FEST COMING SOON!

Life Fest - Proclaiming the Gospel of Life as Missionary Disciples will be held on October 7th at the Catholic Life Center in Baton Rouge. The Gospel of Life is not a message for us to keep for ourselves, rather we are called to bring this message of truth and hope to others! Dr. Brian Pedraza, Associate Professor of Theology at Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University, will be the Keynote Speaker for the day. Breakout session topics will include End of Life, Human Trafficking, Post-Abortion Ministry and more! This event is free with lunch provided. The day will culminate with the Annual Respect Life Mass at 4:00 pm. Registration for this free event will open soon!



ANNUAL RESPECT LIFE MEETING
OF PRO-LIFE COORDINATORS
Trista Littell (Diocese of Lafayette)

The Annual Respect Life Meeting of Pro-Life Coordinators will be held September 9, 2017. You can register on-line using this [link](#).

Date: September 9, 2017
Time: 9:00 a.m. – Noon
Where: Immaculata Center
1408 Carmel Dr.
Lafayette, LA 70501
(Marian Hall – enter through east side of building)

DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE—OFFICE OF PRO-LIFE APOSTOLATE
Invites Parish Pro-Life Coordinators and/or Representatives to the
2017-2018 RESPECT LIFE MEETING
This year's theme is "Be Not Afraid"
Date: September 9, 2017 Time: 9:00–Noon
Where: Immaculata Center • 1408 Carmel Dr. • Lafayette, LA 70501
Marian Hall — Park and enter through side of building.

The Respect Life Packet will contain articles on topics including:

- ◊ How to Build a Culture of Life
- ◊ Top Reasons to Oppose Assisted Suicide
- ◊ What To Do When a Friend Is Considering Abortion
- ◊ Understanding Conscience
- ◊ Catholic Considerations for Our Earthly Passing
- ◊ Death Penalty Catholic Q & A

EDUCATION CORNER

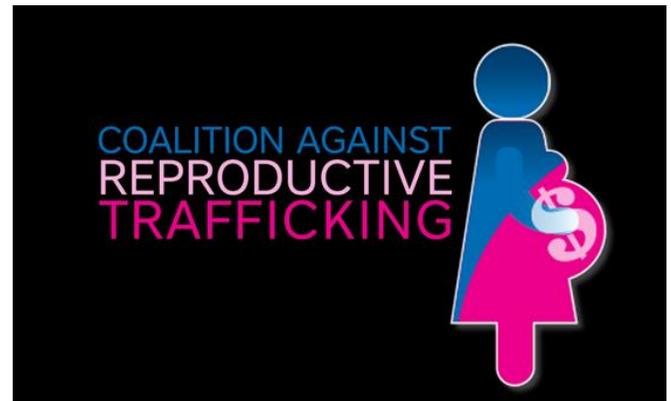
HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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

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

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

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



SIGN-UP FOR LACCB ACTION ALERTS



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



BE READY TO TAKE ACTION ON PRO-LIFE LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

Are you interested in an easy way to contact your senators and U. S. representatives regarding pro-life issues? If so, then you should check out the Human Life Action (www.humanlifeaction.org).

Human Life Action is a project of the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment, Inc., (NCHLA). Since their founding in 1974, they have:

- Enabled the grassroots to advocate at the federal level for pro-life legislation;
- Educated citizens about the need for a Human Life Amendment to the U.S. Constitution;
- Created pro-life legislative networks to assist dioceses, state Catholic Conferences, and Catholic lay groups;
- Worked closely with the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in support of their pro-life legislative agenda.

You can sign-up for email action alerts so that you can provide timely input to your government representatives about pending pro-life legislation.



RESOURCES FROM THE USCCB

Pro-life materials are available for purchase from the USCCB. Use this [link](#) to obtain an electronic copy of their catalog of pro-life publications and resources.



SPEAKING A LANGUAGE OF LIFE

Caitlin Thomas

In the Church's efforts to teach about the grave evil of assisted suicide and the threats it poses, we must use clear and vigorous language. And it is always, always important that we do so with love.

Assisted suicide is suicide. In the few states where it is legal, physicians willing to do so prescribe lethal drugs at the request of patients seeking the drugs to end their own lives. Proponents of assisted suicide use terms like "death with dignity" and "aid in dying." But these are misleading. They are the sickly-sweet phrases of a poisonous ideology that attacks our full dignity and worth as human beings.

These phrases go beyond word games and become flat-out contradictions carefully etched into law. In fact, every state law (and proposed bill) legalizing assisted suicide in this country follows Oregon's law, proclaiming, "the actions taken in accordance with [the law] shall not, for any purposes, constitute suicide [or] assisted suicide." So, according to the law itself, assisted suicide isn't assisted suicide? The only sensible response to this legal blustering must be something like this sentiment from a wise character in C.S. Lewis' *The Great Divorce*: "Every disease that submits to a cure shall be cured: but we will not call blue yellow to please those who insist on having jaundice."

We should not be seduced by slippery language into ignoring hard truths. The dying process can be painful, messy, full of uncertainty and difficult questions—just like life. But there is death with authentic dignity: dying at peace with God and our loved ones. Dying or terminally ill persons deserve the best care we have to offer, including appropriate treatment of symptoms and pain relief. There is a way to face this process with peace, not by hastening death, but by experiencing the support and loving care that our society should offer to those preparing for death. Assisted suicide, on the other hand, hurts the individual and the entire human family, sending a message that some lives are "completed" or not as valuable as others. We should kill the pain, not the patient.

Truth always walks hand-in-hand with love. It is not enough to say, "suicide is bad." We must also say,

"life is good"--especially when life is old, fragile, differently abled, so young and so small our eyes cannot see it, or of a different skin color or place of origin.

We should learn how to best love those who are close to death. We should pray for holy deaths for them and for ourselves, recognizing that Jesus brings us to new life with Him through His death and resurrection. We should pray for the grace to build a true culture of life. And we should affirm the goodness of life in all that we do and say.

Caitlin Thomas is a staff assistant for the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. To read the U.S. bishops' 2011 policy statement on assisted suicide and related resources, visit www.usccb.org/toliveeachday.



2017-2018 USCCB RESPECT LIFE PROGRAM
THEME: BE NOT AFRAID!

NEW materials are produced each year by USCCB to help Catholics understand, value, and become engaged with supporting the dignity of the human person, and therefore the gift of every person's life.

Materials are developed for use in parishes, schools, and faith-based ministries, but are also suitable for individual use. The program begins anew each October (Respect Life Month) and continues through the following September.

The new brochures developed for the years' program include:

- What to Do When a Friend is Considering Abortion
- How to Build a Culture of Life
- Top Reasons to Oppose Assisted Suicide
- Catholic Considerations for Our Earthly Passing
- Death Penalty: Catholic Q & A
- Understanding Conscience

All pastors will receive program materials sent directly from the USCCB. Parishes may then decide how many brochures, posters and flyers to purchase. Also included is a resource guide with suggestions on implementing the program. Parish Respect Life Coordinators will be notified when the materials are sent to pastors.



INTERNET ARTICLES OF INTEREST

[Infanticide Advocacy Published by NYT](#)

[This New Way of Understanding Infertility May Be More Accurate \(and Empowering\)](#)

[FDA chides US doc who genetically modified human embryo in reported 3-person IVF](#)

[Planned Parenthood's claims about 'free' ultrasounds are a sham](#)

[Judge axes order reducing jail time for sterilized inmates](#)

[Victory! Chile Stops Abortion Activists From Legalizing Abortion](#)

[Pregnancy Center Saves LA Babies from Abortion](#)

[Why Melinda Gates Is Wrong About Contraception](#)

[Billionaire Musk's surprising tweet: World headed toward collapse without more children](#)

[Archbishop Chaput: 'The future belongs to people with children, not with things'](#)

[What If You Support Your Child's "Gender Confusion?"](#)

[Amid Human Embryo Gene Editing in Oregon, Ethicists Say Procedure Is Immoral](#)

[International humanitarian group promotes and provides abortion](#)

['Human Coalition' Helps Change Hearts of 'Abortion-Determined' Mothers](#)

[Euthanasia used for 4.5 percent of deaths in the Netherlands](#)

[But What About Abusive Marriages?](#)

[Decision Time: Your Gay Friend is Getting "Married"](#)

[The Charlie Gard Case Portends a Frightening Future](#)

[Lena Dunham Epitomizes Our Self-Enforcing Police State](#)

[National Trust staff told to wear gay pride badge or stay out of sight](#)

[Pope Francis vs. America's Gay Lobby](#)

[Canada May Pay Doctors More to Euthanize Their Patients](#)

[Airline botches pro-gay ad, proves marriage is only between man and woman](#)

[Pope orders Belgian Brothers of Charity to stop euthanasia](#)

[Pope Francis says it's 'terrible' that children are taught they can choose their own gender](#)

[Medical waste disposal company stops doing business with 'many Planned Parenthood' clinics](#)

[Planned Parenthood's New Low: Teaching Transgender Ideology to 4-Year-Olds](#)

[Guttmacher Institute Says Latin American Children Must Learn Homosexual Sex](#)

[Gene Editing: Unmoored Science](#)

[Watch one of the greatest minds at Princeton justify abortion — and James Franco's response](#)

[Planned Parenthood: "Irreplaceable" and "Lifesaving"? – Infographic](#)

[China continues coercive family-planning measures, despite end of 'one-child' policy](#)

[Abortion-Pill Reversal: The Next Frontier of Informed-Consent Laws?](#)

[Iceland kills 100% of babies with Down syndrome in abortion: New report](#)

[Defusing Homosexual and Transgender Landmines](#)

[A Litany of Horror at the UK's Second-Largest Abortion Provider](#)

[Gender Identity Idiocy](#)[Catholic Medical Center Brings Natural Reproductive Health to New Hampshire](#)[BBC Gender Show: No More Boys and Girls](#)[Court Sides With Wis. Photographer Who Declines to Cover Same-Sex Weddings](#)[Scientists Erase Heart Disease Defect in Human Embryos](#)[I'm Teaching Fertility Awareness to My Girls. Here's Why You Should, Too](#)[Shunning the Disabled](#)[Sexbots, or How the Pill Made Women Obsolete](#)[It's a Monstrous Thing to Slay a Unicorn](#)[VIDEO PICKS OF THE MONTH](#)

Sidewalk Advocates for Life posted this [video](#) on Facebook. This is the inspirational story of the closing of the Bossier City, LA abortion facility -- in short, how a man shut down the abortion facility in his community through the power of prayer and peaceful outreach! To God be the Glory! And a HUGE thank you to Chris and his amazing team!

A shout out to our dear friends at 40 Days for Life who aided Chris in building a peaceful prayer vigil every Spring and Fall, as well!

We rejoice with you, Chris!



(Note: Chris Davis is a District Deputy and Culture of Life Director for his council).

[QUOTES OF THE MONTH](#)

“The moral gravity of procured abortion is apparent in all its truth if we recognize that we are dealing with murder and, in particular, when we consider the specific elements involved. The one eliminated is a human being at the very beginning of life. No one more absolutely innocent could be imagined. In no way could this human being ever be considered an aggressor, much less an unjust aggressor! He or she is weak, defenceless, even to the point of lacking that minimal form of defence consisting in the poignant power of a newborn baby's cries and tears. The unborn child is totally entrusted to the protection and care of the woman carrying him or her in the womb. And yet sometimes it is precisely the mother herself who makes the decision and asks for the child to be eliminated, and who then goes about having it done.

It is true that the decision to have an abortion is often tragic and painful for the mother, insofar as the decision to rid herself of the fruit of conception is not made for purely selfish reasons or out of convenience, but out of a desire to protect certain important values such as her own health or a decent standard of living for the other members of the family. Sometimes it is feared that the child to be born would live in such conditions that it would be better if the birth did not take place. Nevertheless, these reasons and others like them, however serious and tragic, can never justify the deliberate killing of an innocent human being.”

Taken from Pope Saint John Paul II's encyclical letter *Evangelium Vitae*



PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Prayer to Christ Unborn

Dear Lord Jesus in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, before your birth You filled the unborn Baptist with the joy of the Holy Spirit.

Inspire us to see You in every unborn child.

Grant us the perseverance to defend vulnerable human life from abortion, abandonment, experimentation, and all violations.

Fill us with reverence for the moment of your Incarnation in Nazareth when the Word became flesh. Amen.

(Obtained from DayOfTheUnbornChild.com)

