



OKLAHOMA STATE COUNCIL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR LIFE



December 13, 2016

Dear Pastors:

Saint Teresa of Calcutta said, "If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed *just one*." The Knights of Columbus and the Center of Family Love are challenging Catholic Churches across Oklahoma to adopt, *just one*, intellectually and physically disabled friend who lives at the Center of Family Love, and for each church to raise money on behalf of their friend. This appeal will be called *The Joy of Mercy Appeal* also known as *The Love Challenge*.

We are proud to be the founders of the Center of Family Love where they have been serving those who cannot care for themselves for 35 years. The Center of Family never charges their residents or their families for the care they provide in the event the resident's cannot afford to live there. Incidentally, the Center of Family Love must raise \$10,000 annually to meet each of their needs.

The Love Challenge is an appeal that will run through the end of June 2017. The Center of Family Love will work the Knights of Columbus at each parish to designate a "Team Champion" who will accept *The Love Challenge* on behalf of their church.

The Center of Family Love will provide the "Team Champion" with their own website where donations can be accepted on behalf of each friend and a video explaining how *The Love Challenge* works. The Team Champion will work to assemble their "Team of 12" and together they will set a parish goal and run a campaign challenging their friends and parish family to be the difference in their disabled friend's life.

We are thankful for these endorsements from Archbishop Coakley and Bishop Konderla, and all they do for the Center of Family Love.

"We believe every human life is sacred and we accept the responsibility of serving one another out of reverence for Christ. The Center of Family Love reverences each person created in the image of God and bears witness to the compassion of Jesus Christ every day. Please support the Joy of Mercy Appeal and share with our brothers and sisters who are served by the Center of Family Love." –Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

"I believe this Appeal will provide a unique experience for our parish families to come to know a person who lives with disabilities and to experience the joy of what it is like to help care for a child with disabilities. It's important that we support this appeal for some of our most vulnerable brothers and sisters in Christ." –Bishop David Konderla

If you have any questions about this appeal, please do not hesitate to contact me at 918-850-2203 or by contacting Nellie Sanders with the Center of Family Love at nsanders@cflinc.org or 405-263-7100.

Your support means so much in our efforts to serve those with disabilities and to be united in doing what our Holy Father asks in tending the sheep- those marginalized and often forsaken by others.

Vivat Jesus,

Robert L. Melko
State Deputy