

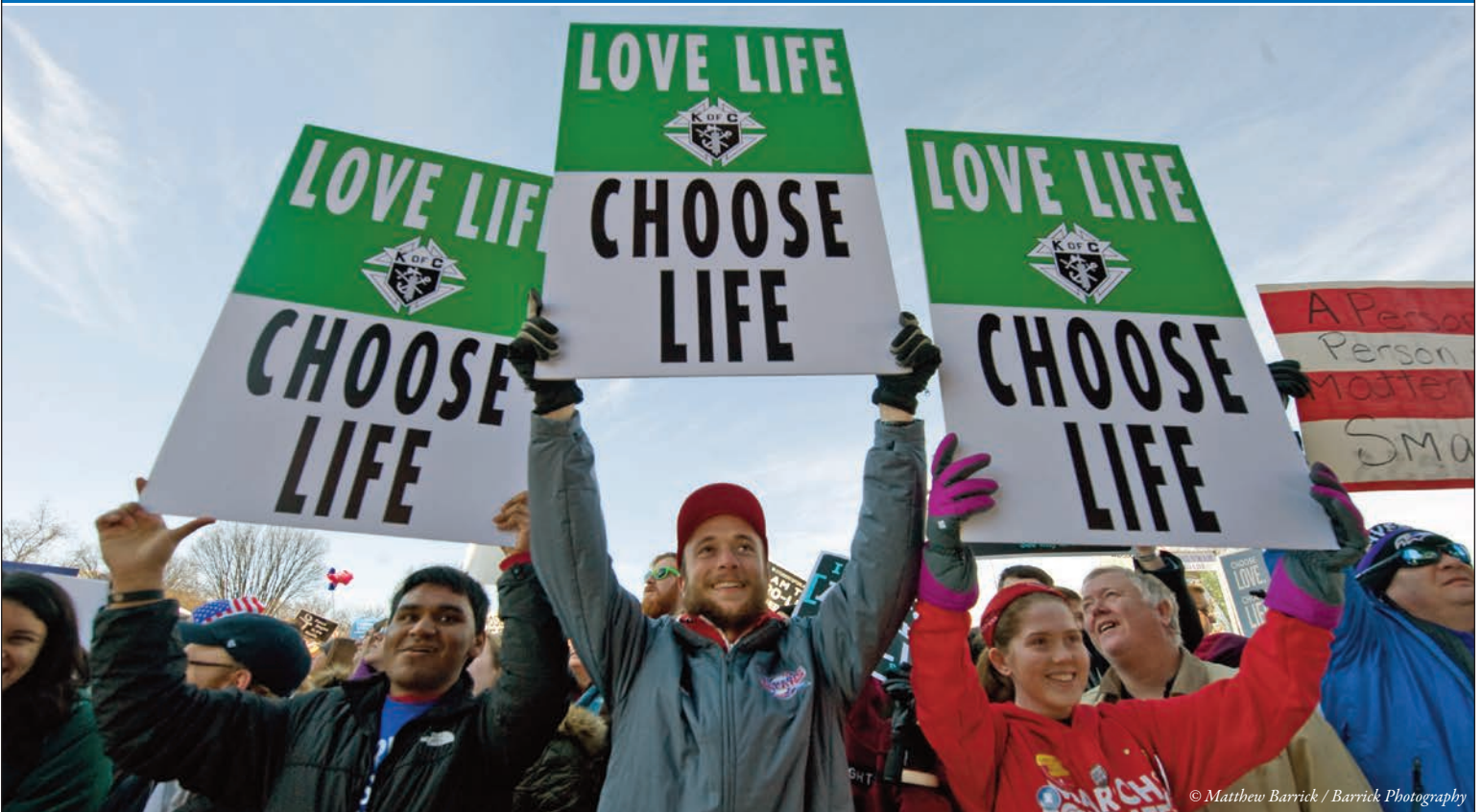


IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

KNIGHTLINE

NEWS FOR KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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Pro-life Catholics, Pro-life Men, Pro-life Knights

Knights of Columbus pro-life activities are a vital way Knights roll up their sleeves and make a lasting impact. From placing ultrasound machines to helping people facing the end of life, our pro-life stance inspires what we do and helps us heal broken communities.

This *Knightline* highlights just a few of the thousands of Knights that sustain the pro-life cause. Their stories are the perfect inspiration during October, which marks Respect Life Month, or anytime throughout the year.

With efforts like these, we'll be able to stand up against — and ultimately defeat — the threats against life.

For details on getting pro-life programs started or increasing your pro-life efforts, visit kofc.org/life.

Explore the New and Improved KofC.Org

The online home of the Knights has a fresh look. Now more engaging, the site highlights three key areas — growing our membership, improving the member experience and refreshing our brand identity.

Visit the new site and check out the News Hub and the redesigned pages on Fraternal Mission, Charity, Faith and Insurance.

Please note: Some of the web pages have not yet been updated but will be changed during upcoming phases of the project, ensuring a seamless experience throughout the site. Phase two is expected to be completed by the end of 2019.

Visit kofc.org today. Or, read more by clicking [here](#).

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Once Silent About Being Pro-life, This Florida Knight Is Now Actively Saving Lives

Art Reilly is the advocate and a past grand knight of Incarnation Council 15332 in Sarasota, Fla. A proud father of two and grandfather of seven, he serves on the Board of Directors of the Sarasota Medical Pregnancy Center, which saves approximately 700 lives a year.

What first motivated you to care about pro-life issues?

I have always been pro-life. However, during my very busy business career, my home, family and parish occupied all my free time. In addition, during those years, the topics of abortion, euthanasia and even capital punishment were not the subject of discussion among business colleagues, family, social friends or even at Mass.

Over time, the national political dialog elevated the issue and increasingly raised my awareness of what was happening. The post *Roe v. Wade* reality of abortion became more widely known and shook the national conscience. I began to recognize abortion for what it is — a moral offense against God and the sanctity of his gift of life. I saw abortion as an act that society would one day soon look upon as it does human slavery today.

How did joining the Knights impact your pro-life work?

My business career had me traveling domestically and internationally about 80% of the time and about 150,000 miles a year. Once I retired, I joined the Knights as a charter member of Incarnation Council 15332. I quickly met other Knights who were very active in pro-life work. Their character and example gave me avenues to promote the pro-life cause by helping moms, saving babies and building stronger families.

Can you describe your council's pro-life work?

Our council's first grand knight was an active pro-life leader and encouraged Knights to pray in front of the local Planned Parenthood.

So by the end of our first year, Respect Life was a significant program in our council. Knights had begun serving as our parish's 40 Days for Life coordinators, and we began working with other local councils to collect funds to purchase an ultrasound machine — which average \$30,000 — for a nearby pregnancy center. Our drive was more successful than we could have imagined and, through the K of C Ultrasound Initiative, we were able to purchase not one but two ultrasound machines.

Do you have a favorite story of a "pro-life moment"?

A couple of years ago, during a 40 Days for Life program, I was speaking about the Sarasota Medical Pregnancy Center (SMPC). That evening, I received a call from a friend. She told me that her co-worker was in an abusive relationship and was considering an abortion. My friend asked if I could help in any way.

I contacted the center early the next morning and asked them to follow-up: A SMPC nurse counselor got the necessary contact information and then called the young woman.

The woman told the SMPC staff that she had been scheduled to have an abortion, but it had been postponed — the local Planned Parenthood office had closed in anticipation of Hurricane Irma. And the woman had been pondering whether the hurricane was a sign from God, that she should not have the abortion. The call from the center further solidified her notion that God was leading her on another path.

For some time I never knew the end to this woman's story. But in January, my friend informed me that her co-worker had an ultrasound and had chosen a name for her baby. And in June, my friend showed me pictures of her friend's very happy and healthy baby girl.

Do you have tips to share with councils or individual Knights looking to get motivated in doing pro-life work?

My tip: Be aware of all the pro-life resources in your area and learn how they fit together.

I find that even people who are committed to the pro-life position do not know what local pregnancy centers can provide. If they knew, they could better educate women who feel overwhelmed and alone.



Being pro-life is a family affair for Art and his fellow members of Incarnation Council 15332. Here council member Tim Ryan and his children distribute roses on Mother's Day. The proceeds of the sale raised funds for the SOLVE Maternity Homes. (Image courtesy Art Reilly.)

Helping the Culture of Life

How Knights Save Lives by Supporting Mothers and the Unborn

A pregnant woman in need first seeks assistance from a pregnancy center supported by the Knights of Columbus.



3,000

The estimated number of pro-life pregnancy centers in the United States, many of which are funded in part by K of C councils.

515,000 hours

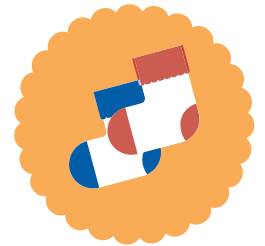


The amount of time Knights volunteered in 2018 to provide material, financial, labor and other support to pro-life pregnancy centers and the women they serve.

At the pregnancy center, she is offered options counseling. This includes information on parenting and adoption, support groups, peer counseling and referrals.

\$54 million

The total value of all ultrasound machines placed by councils since 2009.



1,135

The number of life-saving ultrasound machines placed by councils since 2009.



This ultrasound machine gives her a window into the womb, allowing a mom to see her baby and hear his heartbeat. Often this is a life-saving moment.

She is also offered a free ultrasound scan funded by the Knights.

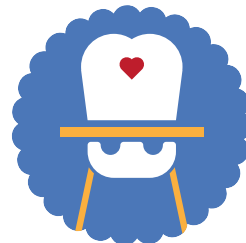
\$3.7 million

The amount donated to pregnancy support centers by councils in 2018 to help women during pregnancy and following the birth of their newborns.



236,000

The annual number of unborn children saved each year, if each ultrasound machine saves just four unborn babies per week.



After her baby is born, the mom is offered material assistance, including diapers, maternity clothes, strollers, cribs, car seats, job and housing assistance and referrals, along with other resources.

How These Maryland Knights Support Life — One Ultrasound Machine at a Time

By Mickey Dillow

Dillow, a past grand knight from St. John Francis Regis SJ Council 7914 in Hollywood, Md., shares what motivated his council to get involved in pro-life work, and how it's an ongoing effort.

Getting involved in pro-life work: From zero to 100%

When I joined the Knights of Columbus in 2003, I knew almost nothing about Care-Net Pregnancy Center of Southern Maryland which operates three offices: two in St. Mary's County and one in Calvert County.

At that time, very few K of C councils were involved in supporting Care-Net. Upon becoming grand knight in 2008, I began to look for ways to support their pro-life ministry. Our council began making yearly financial contributions to Care-Net.

More than just money

With the help of a few of the wives of brother Knights, we decided to organize a baby shower event to obtain needed items (such as diapers, formula, and clothing) to be given to mothers in need of assistance. Our council provided a luncheon for the women of our parish. Wives of brother Knights from neighboring councils were also invited. Cost of admission was simple: a gift for a mom in need. The shower was a resounding success and has become an annual event. This year, we filled three vans with gifts for Care-Net as well as cash donations in excess of \$1,000.

1, 2, 3 ultrasound machines

In 2009, as part of the K of C Ultrasound Program, our council joined seven other councils to help cover the cost of an ultrasound machine for the Care-Net office in Lexington Park. In 2017, we helped sponsor a second machine.

But, since there are three Care-Net offices, a third machine was needed. At the same time, we realized that the first machine we donated in 2009 was at the end of its useful life. So in 2018, I initiated a campaign to obtain the new machines.

I was able to obtain a \$5,000 donation from the American Heritage Girls based at our parish and \$7,500 from a church drive initiated by a past grand knight at a nearby Calvert County council. We gave Care-Net funding for two new ultrasound machines in March 2019, presenting the check in front of 700 people at their annual banquet.

Ongoing support and a lasting difference

With three ultrasound machines now in place, we focus on raising approximately \$20,000 per year to cover the clinical operating expenses for their ultrasound machines.

Of the women who come to Care-Net for ultrasounds, 90% carry the baby to term.

I am convinced that, through our support of Care-Net, we are making a huge difference. The key to being able to continue and increase support for them is through engaging each parish community along with the individual councils in those parishes.



Melissa and her daughter, Destiny, proudly show Destiny's 3D ultrasound taken at Heartbeat of Miami Pregnancy Help Medical Clinics. The center received the ultrasound machine thanks to Knights in Juan Pablo II Council 14215 in Miami. (Image by David González)

Florida, from Page 2

It's important that Knights realize that pro-life centers vary greatly from one to the next. Some centers offer very basic services, but may not offer continued counseling. Others offer a range of services for more long-term help.

Knights should encourage pro-life organizations to work together in what I refer to as their local "culture of life ecosystem." That way, the whole community can give a mother the help she needs, for as long as she needs it.

Have you found promoting pro-life work helps grow your council?

It certainly has contributed greatly to an increase in the pride that our Knights have for our council and its programs. Further, the council's leadership in this area has garnered respect from clergy and parishioners at our parish and at other local churches, including non-Catholic churches.

Have any questions about organizing your own pro-life programs?

Seeking advice or encouragement for successful implementation into your council? Contact fraternalmission@kofc.org.

For detailed instructions and access to all pro-life action steps, resources and forms, visit kofc.org/life.

Oklahoma Knights Help Hospice

By Andrew Butler

Knights love and care for all people — from the unborn to the elderly.

Knights from St. Mark Council 12108 in Moore, Okla., share their story about caring for those facing the end of life alone.



Visitors to the hospice facility walk past a chapel on the property. (Photo courtesy of St. Mark Council 12108)

MOORE, Okla. — What was once an abandoned nine-bedroom house is now a hospice serving the elderly who would otherwise die alone. The transformation was possible thanks to local Knights.

Ronald Larchick, grand knight of St. Mark Council 12108, said the house had the perfect layout to serve as a hospice, but was originally not in great shape.

“The house had sat vacant for a number of years, so landscaping was overgrown,” Larchick said. “There were a lot of things that needed to be done on the house.”

Using their own chainsaws, pole saws, trimmers and trash trailers, the Knights cut brush and trees. They cleared an overgrown flood plain behind the house using equipment donated by the council. Knights also rewired the intercom system and cable television system and replaced old locks with new electronic smart code locks.

In total, Council 12108 estimates that its members put in more than 2,000 service hours on the house — now known as St. John Paul II Dwelling — and donated more than \$1,000 worth of equipment.

The home is the newest of three hospices founded by Sister Maria of the Trinity, a religious sister and founder of the Gospel of Life Disciples hospice ministry. At each hospice, volunteers called Life Guards tend to the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of the elderly at no charge to them. For the poor, and for people without family, it is a peaceful place to stay until God calls them home.

When the first hospice opened in south Oklahoma City, Sister Maria said the Knights were the first to step up and volunteer to help the residents.

“They’ve just been good to us,” Sister Maria said. “It’s not any one thing but it’s been several different ways they’ve provided support — moral support, physical support and financial support.”

Knights and their wives volunteer at the three hospices by landscaping, gardening, providing meals and spending time with residents. Sister Maria shared that one such volunteer went on to become a Knights of Columbus insurance agent, and he now continues his life of service by helping Catholic families protect themselves financially.

The Knights help Sister Maria in other pro-life efforts as well. They provide Knights of Columbus “Defend Life” signs that she brings with her when she prays daily outside an abortion clinic.

“I just really love the Knights and feel like they’re the best pro-life group that we’ve got going in the United States,” Sister Maria said.

Take a look at the [Faith In Action programs](#) to see how you and your council can join Knights worldwide in promote the dignity of all human life.

Let us know how your council is supporting the culture of life by sending your story to andrew.butler@kofc.org or knightline@kofc.org.

Grand Knight's Checklist

Deadlines

- Continue collecting donations, charitable disbursements and volunteer data for the *Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity* (#1728) due on Jan. 31.

Planning

- Get a head start on your council's Coats for Kids, Food for Families and March for Life events.
- Plan your Christmas activities, such as an Advent celebration and the Orderwide Keep Christ in Christmas initiative.
- Don't forget to plan your Consecration to the Holy Family, the required program in the Family category. The Feast of the Holy Family is Dec. 29.
- Remain compliant with updated Safe Environment requirements (see kofc.org/safe for details).

Things to Consider

- Check out the updated kofc.org.
- Regularly meet with your pastor and your council's field agent.
- Welcome men of all ages to join, using the Form 100 or kofc.org/joinus.
- Work with regional growth directors and officers to implement the Faith In Action program model.

Share your questions, feedback and advice. Email us at knightline@kofc.org.

Our K of C Life Programs

March for Life
Special Olympics
Ultrasound Program
Christian Refugee Relief
Silver Rose
Mass for People with Special Needs
Pregnancy Center Support
Novena for Life

For more details on how to implement these programs, visit kofc.org/life.



COMING TO TERMS WITH OUR PRIDE

A CHALLENGE AND MESSAGE FROM
SUPREME CHAPLAIN ARCHBISHOP LORI

*“For everyone who exalts himself
will be humbled,
and the one who humbles himself
will be exalted.”*

— Lk 18:14

We live in the age of the selfie, in what the writer David Brooks has called the culture of “the Big Me.” Such a culture constantly urges us to exalt ourselves, but as Christians we need to be radically different by striving for humility. This means coming to terms with our pride, our desire for “likes,” approval and recognition. As Mother Teresa put it, “It is in being humble that our love becomes real, devoted and ardent.” Surrounded by the message to exalt ourselves, may we instead seek to humble ourselves and demonstrate real love to others.

This Month's Challenge

This month, I challenge you to kneel before a crucifix each morning and ask Christ to give you the gift of humility. I also challenge you, in this month dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, to pray the rosary (either as a council through the [Faith In Action Rosary program](#) or as an individual) for an increase in humility.

Questions for Reflection:

What are some ways you can grow in humility?

How can you strengthen your resistance to the lure of others' praise and the sting of their criticism?

Did the act of humbling yourself before Christ on the cross teach you anything about how to be humble?

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS INSURANCE

Knights of Columbus: A Boulder in the Rapids

By Tony Swanson

A Knights of Columbus insurance agent for nearly two decades, Swanson is an active member in his local community, having served on several committees and boards, including the local pregnancy resource center.

He and his wife, Cathy, have been married since 1996 and have five children.

He is a member of St. Cecilia Council 11823 in Hastings, Neb.

There were several reasons that a career with the Knights of Columbus was attractive to me back in the year 2000. Helping Catholic families, the freedom to set my own schedule and an opportunity to earn a very good income were all exciting aspects of a career with the Knights.

But none of those reasons were as important to me as the fact that the Knights of Columbus was a faithful Catholic organization run on Catholic business principles and in union with Catholic moral teaching, especially regarding pro-life issues.

After graduating from college in 1995, I went to work in education and quickly discovered that my faith was not necessarily welcomed in the work place, nor did the policy stances of the teachers' union match my beliefs on many social issues, including abortion.

So, when the opportunity came up to work for an organization that not only shared my pro-life beliefs, but also donated millions of dollars over the years to support the pro-life cause, I was all in. I also learned that my efforts as a field agent would directly impact the ability of the Knights to make those donations to the pro-life cause by bringing premium dollars into the Order.

Since I began my career with the Knights, many things have changed in my life. I went from having no children to having five wonderful children today. I am also now a general agent with the Order and have been blessed in many ways in my career.

Many things in the world have changed as well, but not for the better: What were once common and accepted beliefs about the nature of man and the God-given rights of the individual are up for debate. Many are now not only advocating for abortion all the way up to birth, but even condone infanticide in cases of "botched" abortions.

Despite all the craziness that has gone on in what St. John Paul II so famously called "the culture of death," the Knights of Columbus has remained steadfast in protecting life. They are faithful to bedrock Catholic business principles and the teachings of the Church, not just on the life issues, but on other Catholic teachings that have been so viciously attacked in our day.

The fidelity of the Knights to Catholic teaching has only become more important to me as I've watched so much of the world fall into moral disrepair around us.

The Knights has been like a mighty boulder in the rapids, refusing to be dislodged as the water and the waves crash against it. It is this steadfastness that gives me hope that no matter how dire things become in our culture, the Knights will stand firm in their convictions and hold fast to the truths of the faith.



Tony and his wife, Cathy, with their five children: Lainey, Isaiab, McGivney, Malachi and Elijah. (Image courtesy Tony Swanson.)

*Live in the Hastings, Neb., area and have a question about K of C insurance?
Contact the Swanson Agency at 402-463-2845 or email anthony.swanson@kofc.org.
To find an agent in a different area, visit kofc.org/findagent.*

MEMBERSHIP IN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS is open to men 18 years of age or older who are practical (that is, practicing) Catholics in union with the Holy See. This means that an applicant or member accepts the teaching authority of the Catholic Church on matters of faith and morals, aspires to live in accord with the precepts of the Catholic Church, and is in good standing in the Catholic Church.

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Robert Abbate – Virginia Beach, VA*
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Daniel Bax – Jefferson City, MO
Cameron Beddome – Red Deer, AB
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