



*Knights of Columbus*

## NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL

40-27 235<sup>th</sup> Street, DOUGLASTON, NEW YORK 11363 - (718) 225-3787

*Arthur J. Harris – State Deputy*

An open letter to the New York Knights of Columbus  
SUBJECT: Culture of Life Fund

Delegates to the 127th annual Supreme Convention of the Knights of Columbus August 6th in Phoenix, Arizona adopted a [resolution](#) (Copy attached) that the Culture of Life Fund will be supported by an annual assessment of \$2 per member; and that Supreme Council encourages every member to make such additional voluntary contributions to the Fund as his personal resources may permit.

Given the \$3 assessment last year, I, along with the State Officers and Staff of the New York State Council felt that each member is due further explanation behind the resolution and its cause.

The main reason for this **membership funded, Culture of Life Fund** was to give the members a **sense of ownership in the programs, which the Culture of Life initiative was involved in at the individual state level.** This money is being used to provide the foundation for moving public opinion toward respecting the dignity of the human person and the fundamental right to life.

From the annual report of the Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson: "The new fund has enabled the Knights of Columbus significant impact in many areas, both in providing additional resource for groups like the Sisters of Life, Birthright International, Project Rachel, the National Life Center and the National Catholic Bioethics Center, as well as projects closely associated with the bishops of the United States and Canada, including the U.S. Bishops' Pro-Life Secretariat and the Catholic Organization for Life and Family in Canada.

The Culture of Life Fund has also enabled us to get new projects off the ground quickly, like the Ultrasound Initiative, in which the Supreme Council matches state and local council contributions for ultrasound machines for crisis pregnancy centers." The first ultrasound machines were donated to facilities in seven different states and Supreme Council is working to have at least one Ultrasound machine in every jurisdiction by the end of the year. Our Supreme Knight continued in his report, "The Ultrasound Project saves lives. **Up to 90% of women considering abortion choose to have their baby after seeing an ultrasound image.** They hear their baby's heartbeat; they see their baby's head and fingers. They know that it is a child, not a "choice." And here's the best part: you can't change that decision for life by an executive order. It can't be reversed by a court decision. Once the baby is born, mother and her baby have won. The Culture of Life has won. All of us have won."

Additional monies from the fund were used for the assisted suicide initiative in Washington State and the Embryonic Stem Cell initiative in Michigan. All matters of our Christian hearts. Marist polls were funded by the Knights and published on the Supreme Council Website, which confirmed a dramatic shift in public attitudes on abortion. Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson: "Late last year, we discovered that 84% of Americans would significantly limit abortion and that only 15% of those calling themselves "pro-choice" favored abortion at any time during a pregnancy. In fact, 71% of pro-choice respondents said they would significantly restrict abortions."

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Arthur J. Harris  
State Deputy  
230 Panorama Trail  
Rochester, NY 14625  
HOME: 585-248-2607  
FAX: 585-248-2607  
E-Mail: [aharris5@rochester.rr.com](mailto:aharris5@rochester.rr.com)

**ONE NATION, UNDER GOD, WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL, BORN AND UNBORN**

Right here in New York, as well as many other states, money from the fund was provided to the Bishops to "fight our fight" against same sex marriage and win the fight for protection of Christian marriages and families.

The membership funded, Culture of Life Fund, supports, protects and reaches out to core values of who we are as Knights of Columbus. The money assessed each member to this point is well worth the life of one unborn baby saved by our sacrifice or the union of man and woman in matrimony. The New York State Council supports this initiative by Supreme Council and felt that this further understanding of the fund to the New York membership was warranted.

Vivat Jesus,



Arthur J Harris  
State Deputy

## **Building a Culture of Life**

[http://www.kofc.org/un/eb/en/convention\\_2009/resolutions/life.html](http://www.kofc.org/un/eb/en/convention_2009/resolutions/life.html)

*Resolution on Building a Culture of Life adopted by the 127th Supreme Convention on Aug. 6, 2009.*

WHEREAS, in his encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*, Pope John Paul II called upon Catholics to become the "people of life and a people for life" to dedicate themselves to building a new culture of life; and

WHEREAS, contemporary threats to protecting human life from conception to natural death are the result of attitudes toward human life that have developed over many decades; and

WHEREAS, restoring a common respect for the sanctity of human life and the dignity of every human person will require much more than laws that ban or limit abortion, embryonic stem-cell research, euthanasia and similar threats against human life; and

WHEREAS, an effort to change the hearts and minds of millions of people will be much more demanding than enacting individual pieces of legislation; and

WHEREAS, the Culture of Life Fund established at our 126th annual meeting provides the foundation for pursuing a much larger goal of moving public opinion toward respecting the dignity of the human person and the fundamental right to life;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we commit ourselves to a long-term goal of building the culture of life that Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI have so strongly urged, and regard the establishment of the Knights of Columbus Culture of Life Fund as a significant step toward this goal; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fund will be supported by an annual assessment of \$2 per member; that the Fund will be administered by the Board of Directors at its discretion; and that we encourage every member to make such additional voluntary contributions to the Fund as his personal resources may permit.