

# Culture of Life Program 2015 - 2016

Knights of Columbus Culture of Life programs are the very essence of being a Catholic and a foundation of the order's principles! Respect for life allows our councils to stand in solidarity with our priests and our Church.

While our society constantly changes, we must exercise great care and attention to ensure that the gift of life is always received and protected. We are called to ensure that the aging and elderly persons are cherished, valued and appropriately cared for. We need to be engaged in the dialogue surrounding euthanasia, protecting the dying from being killed and protecting our medical health professionals from being engaged in ending, rather than protecting human life.

**“Changing Lives and Saving Lives”**. SK Carl Anderson's message, what does he reflect in this statement? The statement reflects that every time we discourage an abortion we save a life and thus we change lives.

We have distributed the 500<sup>th</sup> Ultra Sound machine mostly in the US, but we making inroads in New Brunswick and Alberta.

Pro- Life has become one of the six main programs of the Knights of Columbus and in particular it is strongly connected to the Family.

What can we do to continually promote our program:

- Firstly, ensure that we have a Culture of Life couple - representing your council and please forward those names to me by Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>. **(Still waiting)**

**“Respect Life from conception until natural death.”** This was the Tri Diocesan past theme, we will continue to use it in our March next year.

**We need your support in the March particularly with the issues on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide coming forth, we also need Rural support in towns and cities to support these issues Manitoba wide and it is time to get started! I have been trying to get the Rural support off the ground for 3 years and as our Supreme Knight would say it is time to “Go Out and Do It!”**

**“Life is for Everyone”** Is this year’s Tri Diocesan theme for the National Week for Life, May 8 to May 15. Our March will start at noon Thursday, May 12/2016.

The Tri Diocesan meets once a month, we are inspired to have the 3 Archbishops, Archbishop Richard Gagnon, Archbishop Albert Le Gatt, Archbishop Lawrence Huculak , also Rev. Dr. Fr. Michael Kwiatkowski, Chancellor Fr. Richard Arsenault, the Knights, CWL and UCWLC , Life Vision, Campaign Life Coalition, U of M Students, Couples for Christ, etc. partaking in these monthly meetings.

- This is a year-long multi-dimensional program working towards promoting the Family as the Knights did last year and continue to promote “The Family as they are doing this year with the travelling Icons.
- We are asking you for that assistance to ensure that the Family is **“ FULLY ALIVE “** in our councils and Parishes, thus **“ Building the Domestic Church” in our councils and Parishes.**
- **Pope Francis declared the “Jubilee Year of Mercy!”** The primary reason for making the pilgrimage to a church is of course for the renewal of our faith and to seek God’s holiness in our lives. This Jubilee, Pope Francis wants us to have a true “ Encounter with the Mercy of God.” It is all about forgiveness, grace and a new beginning in life and amazing Mystery of Repentance!
- **There will handouts given to everyone in this room on the topic of Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide to inform you what has transpired and what is happening going forward as we near that ultimate decision!**

Peace be with you and your family!

May you have a prosperous and successful Columbian Year!

On behalf of Connie and myself we wish everyone a Blessed and Peaceful Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!..... God Bless!

Vivat Jesus!

Merlyn Onyschuk PSD,  
Culture of Life Director

