



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR LIFE

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: State Deputies

FROM: Charles E. Maurer Jr. *Charles E Maurer Jr*  
Supreme Secretary

DATE: March 17, 2015

SUBJECT: Supreme Council Policies re: Knights of Columbus Events & Public Officials

In light of recent events, the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council takes this opportunity to reaffirm our long-standing policies of not inviting to any Knights of Columbus event, persons, especially public officials or candidates for public office, who do not support the legal protection of unborn children, or who advocate the legalization of assisted suicide or euthanasia, and that we prohibit such persons from speaking at Knights of Columbus events, or bestowing on them honors or privileges of our Order of any kind, or inviting them to serve as honorary chairpersons of events, celebrations, or committees, or hold any office in the Knights of Columbus.

This clear position is based on the policy of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) that "The Catholic community and Catholic institutions should not honor those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles. They should not be given awards, honors or platforms which would suggest support for their actions" (*Catholics in Political Life*, 2004).

Violations of these policies by local councils result in public confusion about our positions, and damage to the good name of both the local council and the Order as a whole.

We therefore encourage you to take steps within your jurisdiction to ensure that these important policies are respected and followed by every local council.