

CALIFORNIA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Respect Life Month — October 2026

Launching a Statewide, Year-Round Commitment to Aid and Support After Pregnancy

To: California State Officers, Chapter Officers, District Deputies, Council Grand Knights, and Assembly Leaders

Dear Brother Knights,

Each October, the Catholic Church observes **Respect Life Month**, reminding us that every human life is sacred—from conception until natural death. This October should also serve as the beginning of a coordinated, **year-round commitment by California Knights of Columbus** to assist expectant mothers, babies, and families in need throughout our state.

The Supreme Council recently highlighted a 2023 study reporting that **60 percent of women considering abortion said they would prefer to give birth if they received greater emotional or financial support**. This presents every Knights of Columbus jurisdiction, chapter, council, and assembly with both a challenge and an opportunity. When our Catholic communities unite to provide meaningful assistance, we can help mothers choose life with hope and confidence.

Put Faith into Action Through ASAP

The Knights of Columbus established **Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP)** in 2022 to strengthen pregnancy-resource centers and maternity homes that accompany women during pregnancy and after they choose life. These organizations may provide:

- Housing and emergency shelter
- Food, clothing, diapers, formula, car seats, and infant supplies
- Pregnancy, childbirth, and parenting education
- Medical-care and social-service referrals
- Employment and financial counseling
- Adoption information
- Continuing assistance following delivery

Since ASAP began in 2022, Knights have provided **more than \$10 million** to pregnancy-resource centers and maternity homes. During the last fraternal year alone, California Knights contributed nearly **\$2 million**.

The Supreme Council further strengthens qualifying local contributions by providing **an additional \$100 for every \$500 donated by a council or assembly**, based on qualifying contributions of up to \$2,000 during the fraternal year.

A Request to Every California Council and Assembly

Beginning this October, every council and assembly is encouraged to:

1. **Appoint or activate an appropriate Life leader to serve as the council's ASAP Leader** and coordinate the year-round effort.
2. **Meet with the pastor and parish leadership** to organize a unified parish response supporting expectant mothers, babies, and families.
3. **Partner with a local pregnancy-resource center or maternity home** and determine its most urgent financial, material, and volunteer needs.
4. **Involve the parish school and parish organizations** in fundraising, supply drives, volunteer service, transportation, facility repairs, and professional assistance.
5. **Make a qualifying ASAP contribution** and submit the necessary information to receive the Supreme Council's additional funding.
6. **Promote pregnancy-support services throughout the year** so women and families know that confidential help is available.
7. **Support the effort through prayer and public witness**, including Holy Hours, Respect Life Sunday activities, Rosaries for Life, and participation in local and statewide Walks for Life.
8. **Report and share successful activities** so that effective programs can be recognized and replicated by other California councils and assemblies.

October Is the Beginning—not the End

Let October be our **starting point, not our ending point**. Our statewide goal should be for every California council and assembly to unite its pastor, parish organizations, school community, charitable ministries, and families in a lasting partnership that supports expectant mothers throughout the entire year.

State officers, chapter officers, and district deputies are respectfully asked to distribute this appeal broadly, encourage local participation, and help ensure that ASAP becomes an active and visible commitment throughout the California State Council.

Together, California Knights can help ensure that no mother feels she must face pregnancy alone—and that every woman who chooses life is welcomed with love, encouragement, and tangible assistance.

For ASAP program information, eligibility requirements, and resources, please visit:

[Knights of Columbus — Aid and Support After Pregnancy](#)

Fraternally,

Richard Marciniak, PKG, PCP, PDD
California Knights of Columbus
State ASAP Coordinator