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Dear Brother,

July 26, 2017

**Wow!** Last year, our Council had a few large contributions at the end of our three-month fundraiser for Birthright (\$500 and \$1,000) and with our matching funds provided \$13,600 to help them fund the great work that they do for women who have unplanned pregnancies and want to deliver their babies! Our first year raised about \$4,800 and with the match provided \$9,800.

This year, let's try to keep our ever growing "higher and higher" participation on an ascending horizon. I encourage you to consider increasing your donation from last year's contribution ...or if this is your first opportunity to make a gift, please do so at whatever level is comfortable to you. I'll outline a few basics that comprise the structure of Birthright.

Birthright (of Coatesville) is a non-denominational, fully-volunteer charity that helps women who have unwanted pregnancies. This charity is very dear to my heart and **its work is one of Pope Francis' favorite causes.** They arrange for doctors to deliver the baby and then, find suitable and loving parents for the child, if necessary. Birthright makes these benefits available on a 24/7 basis to all who request it. They coordinate each of these needs including obtaining all insurance and procuring all the medical service at no cost to the women. Birthright is virtually 100% staffed by volunteers who receive no compensation. Birthright's standards are high and their personnel are committed. Birthright **is 100% funded from charitable contributions.** In fact, they don't even have a fundraiser on staff... so they really need your (our) help!! They receive no funds from governmental agencies or social-service entities. I've learned that in the past, the workers have actually pitched-in to make ends meet when the rent or utility bill had to be paid. Things are still tight and their **outside** charitable donations are down from the pre-2008 level. One formerly key supporter was unable to continue their past-sizable donations. The following paragraph is a direct quotation from their website.

"Birthright has been providing love, support and hope to women facing unplanned pregnancies. 'It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth, and the right of every child to be born.' Birthright is here to be the friend that a pregnant woman needs as she navigates an unplanned pregnancy. We are available to women for as long as they need us. We offer love, friendship, and support to women who are pregnant or think they may be pregnant. Our services are always free, non-judgmental and confidential. We can also provide information, referrals, and resources to help the woman help herself. Birthright is unique and available 24/7 through our toll-free helpline. Birthright's focus is on **loving the mother, reminding her that there is hope and ensuring she is not alone.**"

Through the tireless efforts of Brother Chuck Reimer, **for years** our Council has been a steady and ongoing support to their efforts. Knights who put their spare change into plastic baby bottles supported his well-known "Baby Bottle" campaign. He fervently joins me in asking you to give at least something to help us reach **100% participation** of our K of C's membership. Whatever you contribute ...I will **DOUBLE** through my pledge to 'Match' any and all contributions. Please demonstrate **your support** with whatever gift that makes you comfortable. This year's 3-month campaign starts on August 1<sup>st</sup>, and ends on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Important: in order to preserve the tax deductibility of your gift, it must be made out to "Birthright of Coatesville" ...not the Council or the Knights.** Mail it to Knights of Columbus, St. Elizabeth Council 13141, P.O. Box 262, Uwchland, PA 19480.

I will close by sincerely thanking you for your consideration and participation... and, may God Bless, you and yours!

Yours in Christ Jesus,

*Charlie Knott*

Membership Director  
St. Elizabeth Council 13141