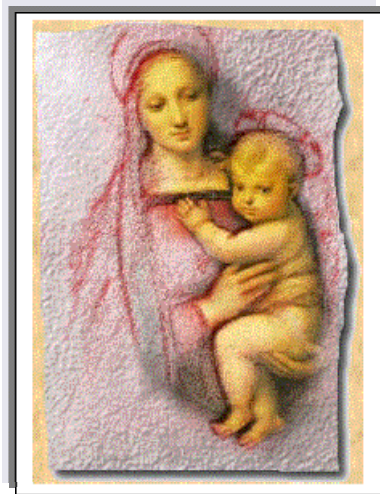


# *Culture of Life Guard --- Knights of Columbus--- Ontario*

**Pro-life Newsletter**

**Issue Number 001 Dec 2011**



## **Prayer to the Virgin Mary**

*○ Mary, Mother of Jesus and Mother of us all, we turn to you today as the one who said "Yes" to Life.*

*"You will conceive and bear a Son," the angel told you. Despite the surprise and the uncertainty about how this could be, you said yes. "Be it done unto me according to your word."*

*Mary, we pray today for all mothers who are afraid to be mothers.*

*We pray for those who feel threatened and overwhelmed by their pregnancy. Intercede for them, that God may give them the grace to say yes and the courage to go on.*

*May they have the grace to reject the false solution of abortion. May they say with you, "Be it done unto me according to your word."*

*May they experience the help of Christian people, and know the peace that comes from doing God's will.*

*Amen.*

## *Culture of Life Guard --- Knights of Columbus --- Ontario*

**Pro-life Newsletter**

Issue Number 001/11

Greetings and welcome to the 'Culture of Life Guard, Pro life newsletter of the Ontario Knights of Columbus. When Father Michael J. McGivney founded our order in March of 1882 his concerns were for the welfare of the widows and orphans of Catholic men whose lives had been cut short leaving them rudderless in a cold world. In short, Father McGivney was concerned over the uncertain future of Catholic families. His efforts of drawing together the men who would ensure that the family unit was preserved helped to keep young brothers and sisters from being separated and forcibly raised by others outside of their homes, if their mothers were able to retain a home.

In modern times the family has again come under attack, from all angles it sometimes seems. There are those who insist that the disposal of a living, unborn child should be a "right" of its mother. The elderly and feeble, rather than being revered and respected come under attack due to their "drain" on the economy and lack of "contributing" to society at large. We have, unfortunately, witnessed the rise of a 'Culture of Death'.

Remember the words of Beatified Pope John Paul II when he said: *"By reason of your order's distinguished record of concern for the poor, the disadvantaged and the unborn in particular, I am confident that the Knights of Columbus will continue to be in the forefront of the Church's efforts to promote a "culture of life", one which fully respects the spiritual dimension of human existence and the sublime dignity of each individual, created in the image of God and destined for eternal life with Christ."*

We are Pro Life and we maintain we will always be so.

Let our Pro Life programs at the council level be some of our best, let us hope that each of our brothers take up the cause of the unborn and may we all be proud of what we do this year with Pro-Life.

Vivat Jesus,

Bro. Guy Poisson

State Pro- Life Chairman, Editor Culture of Life Guard

## *Culture of Life Guard --- Knights of Columbus --- Ontario*

### **A message from State Deputy Joe Salini**

Worthy Brothers,

What makes the Knights of Columbus different from any other men's club besides its Catholicity, are the actions we perform for the weakest in our society. The projects that a Council undertakes, defines the spirit of our Order. Simply saying the words; charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism accomplishes nothing. It is by our actions that we are known. No matter how small you believe your contribution, it is nevertheless essential to the structure of an organization praised by the hierarchy of the Catholic Church as the most important lay organization of Catholic men in the world.

Any man, who has been, or is a member of the Knights, will tell you that he is a better Catholic, husband, father and person for his involvement in the Order. When you bring a man into our Order, you offer him a chance to grow in Christ and to do His will.

Few men care to join, or remain a member of, an organization whose sole purpose is to attend meetings and collect dues. It is the quality and diversity of the programs and the people that will attract new men and satisfy the souls of current members.

Some of the programs and ideas will enable you to develop a balanced calendar of social, fundraising and charitable events that will strengthen your Council, and provide purpose for its membership.

It is, however, with Pro Life that our order stands taller, make our degrees more meaningful and where our actions speak louder than words.

I encourage each council to develop a Pro life portfolio and appoint a Pro Life couple and work with your council to bring the message of Pro Life to our membership and your parish. I encourage each council to try to support the March for Life in Ottawa, support Pro Life Masses, participate in Life Chains, or to have them and above all pray for the end of abortion as a council and as a family.

Bro Guy Poisson, the Ontario Pro Life Director in this newsletter has suggestions and ideas for all of us to take part in and to support and to be proud of being Pro Life and to be part of the Culture of life.

Vivat Jesus

Fraternally



Joe Salini

State Deputy

*Culture of Life Guard --- Knights of Columbus --- Ontario*

**A message from Vice Supreme Master Nat Gallo, PSD**

Over the years, the Ontario Knights of Columbus have been very supportive of the Pro-life activities in our National Capital. The number of Knights and families participating in the March for Life has steadily increased, as has the participation of our Fourth Degree Color Corps at the various religious events, prayer vigils, Eucharistic celebrations, rally at Parliament Hill and the March through the streets of Ottawa.

As Vice Supreme Master for the Cardinal McGuigan Province, I invite and encourage all the Sir Knights that have the time and ability to participate, to join us this coming May in the largest sign of solidarity and support for life and respect for the unborn.

At the same time, I want to remind the Sir Knights who plan to attend in regalia that security personnel at the Hill have made it very clear **that no swords will be permitted**. Therefore, in compliance with their wishes, I direct them to wear their tux, cape, chapeau and service baldric while leaving the sword behind. Please do not jeopardize the participation of all our members by anyone showing up with swords.

Looking forward to seeing a record-breaking number of Sir Knights in colour. I thank you for your support and cooperation.

Vivat Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nat L. Gallo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "N".

Nat L. Gallo

Vice Supreme Master

## ***A Knights Pro-Life Checklist***

### **10. Vote Pro-Life.**

Perhaps it doesn't need to be stressed but we all have a serious moral obligation to vote for pro-life candidates whenever possible.

### **9. Bear Witness**

Knight of Columbus Pro-lifers have the option of spending more time, energy and resources on other kinds of charitable work, but they don't have the option of hiding, whether through private conversations, public meetings, selected activities, when the opportunity arises we must make it clear that we are against abortion and support life.

### **8. Rally 'Round**

Some people don't like formal public demonstrations or have no faith in them. Even if you are one of these, you should participate in a formal demonstration of support for the unborn at least once. Support the March for Life if you can.

### **7. Contribute Monetarily**

Many other causes are worthy of support, but everyone must give something for those who are working in the field.

### **6. Greet Newborns with Helpful Joy**

We need to make it crystal clear to expectant moms and dads that we are delighted for them and have a profound respect for their commitment to family life. We also need to be mindful of their special financial and emotional needs.

### **5. Control Casual Conversation**

Have you thought about how hard it is to be consistently pro-life in your speech? Watch those barbs about people with large families. We all need to remind ourselves often that children are a great gift, despite the enormous sacrifices of raising them, and we need to speak accordingly.

### **4. Prize Modesty and Chastity**

Widespread abortion stems directly from pagan attitudes toward modesty, chastity, and the purpose of sex. Pro-lifers need to promote modesty and help people understand the value of chastity whenever possible, especially in their own families.

### **3. Build Your Own Family Life**

Our children need to be pro-life after they leave home. The best way to make this happen is to raise our families with generosity, joy and love. How hard this can be at times!

### **2. Do Penance**

Shouldn't we try to offer some little deprivation each day for the conversion of those involved in the scourge of abortion?

### **1. Pray**

Prayer has a supreme importance in its own right as the primary personal means by which we strengthen our relationship with God. This growing union with God is essential not only to our own lives but to our effective intervention in the lives of others. Far from being a substitute for the other nine items on the list, prayer is the only way to ensure that we will do the other nine items—and do them well.

Moreover, we are dealing here with powers and principalities. Victory belongs only to the Lord of Life. We'd be wise to stick close.

## *Culture of Life Guard --- Knights of Columbus---Ontario*

### **Pro-life activities for your council as suggested by Supreme**

- Organize a council pro-life program under the direction of the pro-life chair couple.
- Send letters or personally contact your chaplain, pastor and members of the clergy offering whatever assistance they request in the fight against abortion.
- Promote and support the Order's pro-life efforts by displaying materials featuring the theme, "Defend Life" or "A People for Life."
- Distribute the Church's teachings on the sanctity of life as outlined in the Study Guide to Evangelium Vitae (#2914).
- Contact right-to-life committees or other pro-life organizations in your area. Work to coordinate your programs with those already in existence. Volunteer support, manpower, and finances.
- Create a public display of pro-life support. Place small white crosses in the lawn of your council home or parish, representing the number of lives lost to abortion locally each year.
- Promote letter-writing campaigns to provincial legislatures. Bring stationery to council meetings and have members write letters on the spot. Letters should express your views clearly, firmly and courteously, ask questions and demand answers.
- Raise funds for BIRTHRIGHT and similar pro-life organizations which help convince pregnant women to carry their babies to birth rather than to abort them. Volunteer manpower and services. In Canada call: BIRTHRIGHT (416) 469-1111.
- Carry the pro-life message to youth through the religious education programs, high schools, colleges, Squires, Scouts, etc. Deliver speeches, distribute literature and sponsor pro-life essay and poster contests. Arrange for a showing of pro-life films at council meetings, family events, community meetings.
- Criticize any and all pro-abortion programs sponsored by radio and television stations and ask for equal time dedicated to pro-life arguments.
- Arrange petition-signing campaigns. Set a goal for signatures and keep working until that goal is attained.
- Give gifts of thanks and congratulations to women who have "chosen life" by carrying their babies to term. On behalf of your council present new mothers with something as simple as the Knights of Columbus Congratulations Card (#2087, E, F, S, available at 25¢ each from the Supply department), or provide other practical gifts like diapers, food, blankets or clothing.
- Consider donating Christmas gifts to newborns and their single mothers temporarily housed in shelters. Work with local social service agencies or programs that counsel women to keep their babies or place them for adoption.
- Sponsor a "Tree for Life" program to collect baby items and supplies for unwed mothers and crisis pregnancy service centers.
- Demonstrate publicly your pro-life stance by presenting savings bonds or other gifts to the first child born at your local hospital on Columbus Day or New Year's Day.
- Consider presenting roses from the council to all mothers attending Mass on Mother's Day.
- Pray the rosary to end abortion. This simple, yet effective act can have enormous impact. A poster urging the recitation of the rosary as a weapon against abortion (#2073) and a prayer card (#2072) are available at no charge from the Supply Department. Offer your rosaries publicly outside abortion clinics. Individuals or groups peacefully praying the rosary outside such facilities are highly visible and effective.

## *Culture of Life Guard --- Knights of Columbus --- Ontario*

A message from Jim Hughes National President  
Campaign Life Coalition

October 11, 2011

Dear Brother Knights,

I would like to thank you for your support and involvement with the National March for Life in Ottawa since its inception in 1998.

The first March for Life was held on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 1998 to mark Canada's "Day of Infamy" in a significant way. All Canadians—ordinary citizens and political leaders alike—must begin to understand the unparalleled significance of May 14, 1969. It wasn't just the day the House of Commons approved the legalization of abortion: it was the day our country turned it's back on God, deciding that morality is subjective, and that fundamental human rights are negotiable. But we also have to appreciate the importance of May 14, 1998: on that day, Canadians of good will decided to reawaken the conscience of the nation, and to start rolling back the culture of death.

The first March for Life was attended by 700 participants which has continuously grown over the years to reach over 15,300 at last year's March held May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

As the Marches have grown in numbers of participants over the years, it has become necessary to have someone coordinate the involvement of the lay movements. To this end, I have re-appointed our Brother Knight, Dan Heffernan as the National March for Life Coordinator for Lay Movements/Organizations. If you need more info, please contact Dan at [NMFL@HEFFER.CA](mailto:NMFL@HEFFER.CA) or call 705-254-8719 or Campaign Life Coalition's office at 416-204-9749/1-800-730-5358.

The involvement of the Knights of Columbus has grown as well, with the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Honour Guard leading the March through the streets of Ottawa. Many other Knights have assisted with the logistics of getting buses to Ottawa with participants, assisting the youth, making it possible for them to attend the March and stay overnight to attend the Youth Conference on the day following the March.

The March for Life begins on the Wednesday evening a May 9/2012 with a Mass at St Theresa's Church 95 Somerset St. West, Ottawa.

Following the Mass participants march in a Candlelight Parade a short distance to the Human Rights Monument on Elgin St. where they listen to a few speeches.

This is followed by an Overnight Adoration at St Patrick's Basilica organized by the Knights.

Thursday morning May 10/ 2012 begins with Mass in both the Notre Dame Cathedral, and St Patrick's Basilica at 10 am, and a French Mass at St. Francis of Assisi church.

March participants gather on Parliament Hill at 12 noon to listen to guest speakers which have included MPs, in the past, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, and other Supreme Council officers

Following the short speeches a March through the downtown streets of Ottawa is lead by 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Knights of Columbus in full regalia

Upon returning to Parliament Hill participants listen to testimony given by a number of women and men who have experienced the pains of abortion.

The Program on the Parliament Hill concludes with a closing prayer service by Eastern Catholic Chaplaincy of Ottawa.

The day is wrapped up with a 'Rose Dinner' banquet at the Hampton Inn. Youth participation has grown so significantly that we had to divide the banquet into two; an adult banquet attended by 350 people, and a youth banquet attended by over 800 youth.

Friday after morning Mass the Youth gather for a YOUTH Conference where they listen to speakers, hold workshops, and strategize for the future.

### **What Can You Do?**

- Attend the March for as much or as little as is convenient for you.
- Be part of the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Honor Guard leading the March or at the overnight Adoration at St. Patrick's Basilica.
- Volunteer to do an hour or more of Adoration at St. Patrick's Basilica.
- Bring your Council's Banner to carry while at Parliament Hill and during the March through the streets of Ottawa.
- Purchase tickets for the Rose Dinner.
- Place an ad in the Rose Dinner Program.
- Assist with organizing and sponsoring buses from your community.
- Hold fundraising events to support the youth so they can travel to the March and stay overnight for the Youth Conference.
- Support the Candle Pledges by promoting them within your parish; all money raised through the candle pledges support the Youth Conference. Candle Pledge forms can be sent to you from Campaign Life's office.

Fraternally yours,

Jim Hughes  
National President  
Campaign Life Coalition



# *Culture of Life Guard --- Knights of Columbus --- Ontario*

## **Pro-Life - March for Life Washington, DC, USA**

**The Story:** The March for Life takes place in Washington D.C. on January 22nd each year. People who oppose the Roe vs Wade decision unite to show their solidarity in the fight to save our babies. The march begins midway from the Mall and continues up Constitution Avenue, passes the Supreme Court building and ends while people stand at that building in silence remembering the children who will never have the chance to see our nation's capital or witness any of the true wonders of life.

People come from all over this the US and Canada and from all over the globe to take part in this moving experience. It lifts the spirit to see so many who believe in the miracle of life and who believe that North America MUST reverse the trend of destroying human life. It is a time of weeping not just for those babies who have been aborted but also weeping because of the sheer and utter joy of sharing this emotional gathering of true human beings. The bond felt by those in attendance is so intense that hugging even complete strangers is euphoric.

The March brings all manner of people together. There are young and old; male and female; poor and the well off; healthy and handicapped; Catholics and Protestants; Jews and Muslims; Buddhists and Atheists, all united in their belief in defending the most vulnerable of all humans, the unborn. You will not believe those who will attend and from where they come from.

The March itself is short and relatively easy. The standing and waiting is an unfortunate part of this event. When more than 300,000 people have to funnel from the spacious Mall into a city street, there is a lot of shuffling of feet and rocking side to side.

**The Vision:** If you can ....What is the importance of you being there? To serve your God. To do the work He expects of you. To help mankind. To feel self-worth. To stop the barbaric action of aborting babies. Those are some very important reasons don't you think. If you cannot do this trip pray that day for those who are there and that their journey will be successful.

But even if you just want to be a part of something unselfish and truly satisfying, you can join others at the March on January 23rd, 2012 and feel good about yourself.

This will be more than a pilgrimage. If we can rally enough people and a large enough number of Knights to this cause, maybe it can inspire a gigantic movement throughout our country.

**The Action:** Because January 22nd will fall on a Sunday in 2012, the March will take place on Monday, January 23rd. Knights from around North America will join this "Crusade for Life".

The "Defend Life" poster with the Knights of Columbus symbol is available from Supreme Supply Department. Phone 203-752-4721 or 203-752-4214. The poster is exhibited below. This poster can be used not just for the Pro-life March in Washington D.C. on January 23rd, 2012, and the 40 Days for Life, but in Ottawa in May as well.

13

THE NATURAL  
**CHOICE**  
IS **LIFE!**

