



# The Life Guard

Pro-Life Committee of the  
Knights of Columbus

## Ottawa

They were now new people, not plastic people. I often wonder what really happened to the rich young man who was challenged to give up everything he had to become what the master expected him to become to become a young man with other qualities. [Mtt 19: 20ff] Did he ever have a change of heart? Such can be said of the March for Life in May. How many hearts will be converted by way of our demonstration and recognize that God is the source, substance and maintainer of all life? Christians are not as the secularists would state that humans have the ability to create and to destroy life. That was Adam's sin as if is found in Genesis.



The season of Lent begins with us receiving the ashes of the previous year's palms. It comes through a full cycle from the rejoicing time of the crowds of Jerusalem to the time of penance leading us back to the rejoicing of the resurrection. The ashes as they are applied accompany the admonition of the priest to „repent“ and „to hear the Good News“.

Pro-life action is just that. It is a call to action and repentance in support of all dimensions of human life as created by God through our parents to the time when God calls us all to Himself. It is also a call to be people living in accord with the values enunciated by Jesus: To be therefore counter-cultural. Constantly, we are reminded to come back to the truth of the Gospel and to repent of the many ways in which we have deviated from such values as the Beatitudes and the Great Commandment. Let's make the March a living prayer and not a walk. Let us become living signs of God's Will as it ought to be played out in the world. Pray also that others may journey with us.

However, to be counter-cultural is difficult. The norm of society is to fit in and become as others want you to become. This is even more intimidating for our young people. Many find it difficult to move out of inaction and complacency and into a lifestyle supporting action. The challenge is even more pronounced when youth are in the minority. Schools, families and church should be recognized as resource centres for them to acquire the courage to stand in their places and proclaim: „I do not support the belief that humanity has all of the answers. The God of Ps 118 is my God and He looks over all human life from natural conception to natural death.“

As Knights of Columbus we need to state firmly that humans and human science does not have the answers to all questions. Humans and human science does not have the cure for all social ills. Knights need to empower and support the next generation in their moral decision making whether those decisions are personal or public (elections) and to affirm all that is good and the good of mankind. The action does not stop there, for as we help others we help ourselves.

If you cannot come to Ottawa for the Pro-Life March in May, do something pro-active in your own district. Speak to the religious educators in your Catholic High School and find a way where your action can compliment the curriculum in place in that school. The education of our youth is not begun and ended in school. It has to be nurtured in the home and community. There are components within the course of studies which are core to pro-life action. Let the young be sources of action for their parents. Being pro is much more sustainable than being anti, which is draining and contrary to the values of our faith in the Creed we profess each Sunday at Mass.

### **Christianity: A Call to Action**

A Christian must come to terms with the fact that our faith calls us into action not into complacency. This condition of our faith can not be ignored or put aside. It also provides us with challenges all of the time. During the „60s and later there were groups of young people who were called „plastic hippies.“ That is during the week they were everyday kind of people, indistinguishable from any other in a group. On the weekend they donned the multicoloured clothing and jewellery and headed to the action spots where the beat generation could be found. Unfortunately some Christians attempt to be or do the same thing. On popular causes they don the right clothes for the right occasion. It is like there is a moment to be Christian and a moment to flip off the switch. Our faith does not tolerate this kind of belief system. We are called into action, to stand against the values of a secular society and become as Jesus would want us to be protectors of all life as created by God. Our Faith calls us to be active proponents of Pro-Life.

After every one of Jesus' miracles the healed or hurting person was told to pick up their bed and go and be seen by others, usually Jewish officials. Their walk demonstrated that they had turned over a new leaf. They became someone other than what people had grown accustomed to see.

March 9, 2010

## **HOW PRO-LIFE ARE WE REALLY??**

Many of us Catholics are „pro choice“ even if we have never had an abortion or supported someone in making that decision. We are „pro choice“ by default - by our silence and our failure to take any action.

How can there be so many abortions in Canada when such a large portion of our population is Catholic and we have numerous Members of Parliament who are Catholic? There are approximately 90,000 abortions each year in Can-ada.

Would there be this many abortions if all the members of the Knights, CWL, and Legion of Mary were active in their opposition? Active, not only in prayer or letter writing to Members of Parliament, which *is* invaluable, but also by **publicly** showing our opposition to abortion by peaceful prayerful vigils in front of the many abortion facilities across Canada. These abortion facilities are killing unborn Canadian babies day after day, week after week.

Look how challenging it was to get Catholics to sign up for prayer vigil in front of local abortion facilities during the past 40 Days for Life Vigil held in 8 cities across Canada. We Catholics should have signed up in huge numbers, instead of two people signing up during a particular time slot, one person in the next time slot, and some time slots left empty. We did not show a strong presence. And yet the abortions continued to happen, supported by our tax dollars.

Where are our priests? We need to hear about this from all the pulpits in Catholic churches across Canada. They should be leading us in prayerful action. Lay people do and should organize pro-life activities, but endorsement must come from the pulpit to give authenticity and to encourage participation.

Abortion **is** a human rights issue. Pro-choice activists will say it is a religious issue, but it is the human rights of the unborn baby that is at stake. It is the unborn baby's beating heart that is being stilled. Pope John Paul II said, "The common outcry which is justly made on behalf of human rights – for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture, is false and illusory if the right to life, the most basic and fundamental right, and the condition of all other personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination."

Can we make a difference? YES! No matter how busy we are, how diversified we are even with other church re-lated activities, we need to come together as a unified group showing by our prayers and our presence at abortion sites that we are truly opposed to the killing of unborn babies.

Lois and Gord Duncan  
Pro-Life Couple, Council 8008  
Ottawa

On another level, in your home communities, why not try to sponsor parallel activities which would be taking place in Ottawa? That is sponsor all night Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Masses which have as their focus pro-life issues.

Michael McCarthy  
Pro-Life Coordinator, Knights of Columbus, Ottawa

### **Call for 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Knights**

If you or your Assembly will be in attendance for the March, there are a few other opportunities for you to contrib-ute. We have Honour Guards at each of the Masses, there is the all night vigil and ushers positions at the churches. Then of course you will take part in the March itself.

For the time being you could call me, Michael McCarthy at 613-742-0154 or use the email below. In the next issue of this newsletter we may have another person volunteering to receive calls.

We do need as many Fourth Degree Knights as can be available. Please let us know numbers and Assemblies when you contact us.

As Pro-Life Chair for Ontario, I am asking all Brother Knights and their families to participate in any and all Pro-Life activities all year long, but especially at the time of the National March during May of this year. If there are no events planned in your community get your council involved and form your own March, speak with your Pastor, your school principals and see how they can help and become involved. Get a presence of the Knights out in your community in solidarity with Knights all across Ontario during the Pro-Life week in May. Your support in Ottawa and all across our jurisdiction is important. Stand up for life from conception until natural death.

Joe Salini

For further reading please purchase a copy of : A Civilization of Love: What Every Catholic Can Do to Transform the World. Carl Anderson ISBN 978-0-06-133531-0

We are asking for content. Tell us what you are planning, your experiences or your experts in some aspect of Pro-Life. The Life Guard needs your support in everyway possible.

If you have an article on a Pro-Life topic please submit it to: michael\_mccarthy@sympatico.ca

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. [Gen 1: 31]

### **Schedule of events for Pro-Life Week in May 2010**

Wednesday May 12<sup>th</sup>

7:30 pm – Pro-Life Mass at St. Theresa Parish

9:00 pm – Candlelight vigil, the Canadian Tribute to Human rights monument

10:00 pm – All night adoration of the Blessed Sacrament ending with mass at 7 in the morning – St. Patrick’s Basilica

Thursday May 13<sup>th</sup>

10:00 am – Pro-Life Mass at Notre Dame Cathedral and simultaneously at St. Patrick’s Basilica.

12:00 – Gather on Parliament Hill for the Pro-Life Rally and march through downtown

4:00 pm – Silent No More Awareness Campaign on Parliament Hill

6:00 pm – Rose Dinner and Youth Banquet at the Hampton Inn (\$75 / person tentative)

Call :1-800-730-5358 before April 15th for tickets

Friday May 14<sup>th</sup>

9 am – Youth conference, Hampton Inn

There is a special guest rate at the Delta Hotel Ottawa. The hotel is virtually central to the three church in which liturgy will be taking place and a short distance from Parliament Hill. Single occupancy of \$139 will apply. In call-ing the hotel please mention that you are a Knight of Columbus and are looking for a room for the period of May 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>. Karen Wiersma will be your contact. Her number is 613-598-0312.

What plans has your Council or Assembly made for the feast of the Annunciation of the Lord on March 25<sup>th</sup>? This day has also been declared the Day of Prayer for the Unborn Child by Supreme.

