

*A pro-life message to the Knights of Columbus, British Columbian and Yukon State Council*

Blessed John Paul II in *Evangelium Vitae* quoted Pope Paul VI “despite its hardships, its hidden mysteries, its suffering and its inevitable frailty, this moral life is a most beautiful thing, a marvel ever new and moving, an event worthy of being exalted in joy and glory.”<sup>1</sup> As Catholics we celebrate the gift of life, we praise the God of life, who gives life, the sacred value of all and every human life from the first moment of existence to its natural end.

The Knights of Columbus have a special role in the promotion of the Culture of Life. As men of faith you are called to defend and protect life, in your lives, in your families and throughout the world. Whether that is to witness for life at the annual March for Life or other vigils; to help women in crisis pregnancy situations through donations and support; to educate members about the moral and social harm to society caused by abortion and euthanasia; or to lobby government and support legislators who put forward legislation to protect human life.

As Knights it is important that we understand the Church’s social doctrine. Anything that affects human life and dignity should be of concern to us. We can and should be involved in efforts to stem the tide of violence, to alleviate poverty, promote fair treatment of migrant workers, to eliminate unjust discrimination, to reject unethical practices such as assisted suicide and euthanasia and restore in law the right of life of the unborn. Catholic social doctrine is an essential part of the Church’s mission of evangelization<sup>2</sup> and at the heart of that teaching are the life issues.

All of us need to ask the Lord for increased courage to speak the truth about the inherent dignity and sacredness of human life every more clearly, but never with disrespect for person.

With gratitude for the work of the Knights in supporting pro-life initiatives in the Archdiocese I offer you my blessing and the assurance of my prayers, I remain

+ J. Michael Miller CSB

✠ J. Michael Miller, CSB  
Archbishop of Vancouver

<sup>1</sup>(Paul VI, *Pesiero alla Morte* (Brescia: Istituto Paolo VI, 1988,) cited in Joh Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*, 84.)

<sup>2</sup>. Compendium of the Scoial Doctrine of the Church, 66