

MISSION STATEMENT

We the officers and members of Fairview Council 4044 Knights of Columbus acknowledge that the providence of God allows events to happen which He will use to His advantage to bring His will to fruition. The tremendous growth of this council is such an event and is seen as a sign that we must use our leadership to further God's kingdom here on earth in whatever manner possible. We pledge to be an example of leadership to all our brother knights.

Therefore, we support the actions of the Massachusetts State Council in its effort to encourage all Knights of Columbus to reaffirm and practice the long-standing commitment to the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception to the moment of death.

We especially support the "Crusade For Life Resolution" passed unanimously by the delegates of the Supreme Council held in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1998, in Boston in 2000, and in Toronto in 2001. This resolution confirms officially our policy that public officials or candidates for public office who do not support the legal protection of unborn children against abortion or who advocate the legalization of assisted suicide, euthanasia, or partial birth abortions not be invited to any Knights of Columbus event.

The "Crusade For Life Resolution" notes two important Papal encyclicals which we should use as spiritual guides in our fight against today's "culture of death." In his encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*, Pope John Paul II has reaffirmed that abortion, infanticide, and assisted suicide are contrary to God's law and the common good of every nation. Also, Pope Paul VI in his encyclical, *Humanae Vitae*, 33 years ago, warned of the threats to society, the family and the individual person that would develop and expand in societies that repudiate the divine law regarding human dignity and the procreation of human life.

This resolution also restated the policy of "prohibiting such persons from renting or otherwise using facilities over which (the Knights of Columbus) has control, or speaking at K of C events, or bestowing upon these individuals honors or privileges of our Order of any kind, or inviting them to serve as honorary chairpersons of events, celebrations, or committees, or hold any office in the Knights of Columbus."

The formal passage of this resolution unquestionably solidifies our informal policy which has been in effect for many years but which had never been in writing. We further declare our right to enforce this resolution according to the "Charter of the Knights of Columbus, granted by the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut," Section 3, page 3 of the 2001 edition of Charter Constitution Laws, Knights of Columbus.

CRUSADE FOR LIFE

WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II in his encyclical, *Evangelium Vitae*, has reaffirmed that abortion, infanticide, euthanasia and assisted suicide are contrary to God's law and the common good of every nation; and

WHEREAS, Pope Paul VI in his encyclical, *Humanae Vitae*, 33 years ago, warned of the threats to society, the family and the individual person that would develop and expand in societies that repudiate the divine law regarding human dignity and the procreation of human life; and

WHEREAS, the Knights of Columbus has begun a new educational campaign to encourage Catholics, under the banner of 'Celebrate the Gospel of Life' and under the protection of Our Lady of Guadalupe, to become "the people of life and the people for life" as urged by Pope John Paul II in *Evangelium Vitae*; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Knights of Columbus reaffirms its historic commitment to be unconditionally pro-life and to seek the restoration of full legal protection for the unborn, the sick, the handicapped, the terminally ill and the elderly, and that the Order will continue to oppose vigorously any governmental actions that in any way promote, legalize, or finance the performance of abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, or assisted suicide;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we continue to deplore the marketing of all abortifacient drugs, and in particular RU-486 and Preven; the performance of late-term abortions and especially such barbaric practices as partial-birth abortion; the use in research of tissue from aborted babies; the sale of organs and other body parts of aborted babies; and embryonic stem cell research, which fails to recognize the inherent dignity and value of every human life;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we condemn and oppose the direct or indirect efforts of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) or any other group, nation, or individual, to advance, encourage, or promote contraception, sterilization, or abortion among, or to force contraception, sterilization, or abortion upon, other nations or individuals, or to undertake other activities that lessen respect for human life, or to condition economic assistance to governments or individuals upon their adoption or acceptance of population control practices and policies;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that in working to establish the "culture of life" defined by Pope John Paul II, we will continue our active cooperation with the pro-life programs of the Episcopal conferences of our respective countries, with other responsible pro-life organizations, with programs that provide needed assistance to women who experience crisis pregnancies, and with those who work to facilitate adoption so that suitable families may welcome into their homes children who are in need of care;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we adopt as policy at all levels of our Order a commitment to proclaim more widely, forcefully and effectively our Order's pro-life position;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that our Order continue to respond to the challenge of Pope John Paul II in *Evangelium Vitae* for "the renewal of a 'culture of life' within Christian communities," and continue our activities at all levels to inform, educate and motivate our own members as well as the public, including public officials, regarding the dignity and sanctity of human life at all stages;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we reaffirm our long-standing policy of not inviting to any Knights of Columbus event persons, especially public officials or candidates for public office, who do not support the legal protection of unborn children, or who advocate the legalization of assisted suicide, euthanasia, or the infanticide known as partial-birth abortion, and of prohibiting such persons from renting or otherwise using facilities over which we have control, or speaking at Knights of Columbus events, or bestowing on them honors or privileges of our Order of any kind, or inviting them to serve as honorary chairpersons of events, celebrations, or committees, or hold any office in the Knights of Columbus; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we once again commit ourselves to praying the Rosary frequently, to fasting and to doing penance in reparation for these grave evils, asking the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary for an end to these offenses against human life and for the establishment of the "culture of life."