



## Pope Benedict XVI Addresses Knights of Columbus

*Encourages Knights to renew the Church in the spirit of Father McGivney*

**Editor's Note:** The following are Pope Benedict XVI's remarks to the Knights of Columbus Board of Directors during a private audience at the Vatican Oct. 3.

At the beginning of his Letter to the Romans, Saint Paul reminds his hearers that they are "called to holiness" (Rom 1:7). During my recent Pastoral Visit to the United States, I wished to encourage the lay faithful, above all, to recommit themselves to growth in holiness and active participation in the Church's mission. This was the vision that inspired the foundation of the Knights of Columbus as a fraternal association of Christian laymen, and it continues to find privileged expression in your Order's charitable works and your concrete solidarity with the Successor of Peter in his ministry to the universal Church. That solidarity is manifested

in a particular way by the Vicarius Christi Fund, which the Knights have placed at the disposal of the Holy See for the needs of God's people throughout the world. And it is also shown through the daily prayers and sacrifices of so many Knights in their local councils, parishes and communities. For this I am most grateful.

Dear friends, in the spirit of your founder, the Venerable Michael McGivney, may the Knights of Columbus discover ever new ways to serve as a leaven of the Gospel in the world and a force for the renewal of the Church in holiness and apostolic zeal. In this regard, I express my appreciation of your efforts to provide a solid formation in the faith for young people, and to defend the moral truths necessary for a free and humane society, including the fundamental right to life of every human being.



Pope Benedict XVI addresses the Knights of Columbus Board of Directors Oct. 3.

With these sentiments, dear friends, I assure you of a special remembrance in my prayers. To all the Knights and their families, I cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing, as a pledge of lasting joy and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ. ❖

## Knights Support Election Efforts to Build a Culture of Life, Defend Marriage

In anticipation of Election Day 2008, the Order has redoubled its efforts to promote faithful citizenship, encouraging citizens to vote for laws and lawmakers that uphold essential values such as life, family and faith.

Knights everywhere have been praying for the elections both privately and publicly — in their councils, parishes and homes. Many councils have even helped to organize a period of eucharistic adoration for the 24 hours leading up to the election.

Meanwhile, numerous councils and assemblies have organized "get out the vote" campaigns, as well as



State and local councils erected "Vote Pro-Life" billboards during the weeks and months leading up to Election Day, Nov. 4.

transportation for voters on Election Day.

Putting into focus our political responsibility to uphold and protect the dignity of human life, councils have also sponsored "vote pro-life" billboards and similar initiatives. These have complemented national efforts of the Order, including "vote pro-life" radio ads that have aired throughout the United States.

In addition to working tirelessly to end abortion, the Order has strongly

# Knights Express Appreciation to Pope Benedict XVI

*Supreme Knight and Board of Directors present Vicarius Christi Fund proceeds*



Pope Benedict XVI received the Order's Board of Directors in a private audience in the Clementine Hall of the Apostolic Palace Oct. 3

**D**uring Pope Benedict XVI's private audience with the Order's Board of Directors Oct. 3, Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson addressed the pope with words of gratitude. He thanked Pope Benedict for his recent visit to the United States and expressed the Order's solidarity with the Vicar of Christ.



Pope Benedict XVI greets Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson. Also pictured is Archbishop James M. Harvey, prefect of the Pontifical Household and a member of Milwaukee-Pere Marquette Council 524.

Speaking on behalf of Knights and their families around the world, Anderson pledged to Pope Benedict "greater efforts in building a new culture of life in all the countries in which we work."

"We will continue to answer your call to be co-workers with our bishops and priests in the new evangelization; and for the renewal of society, which is a special responsibility of the laity," the supreme knight said, adding that Benedict XVI's encyclicals, *Deus Caritas Est* and *Spe Salvi* have been "indispensable guides" to the Order as it strives to live out the vision of Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney.

**'We pledge greater efforts in building a new culture of life'**

The Board of Directors took the opportunity at the audience to present Pope Benedict with this year's proceeds from the Order's Vicarius Christi Fund. Since the fund's incep-

tion under the pontificate of Pope John Paul II, the Knights of Columbus has given more than \$44.8 million for the pope's personal charitable works.

Additionally, the supreme knight presented Pope Benedict with a special book summarizing the Order's Our Lady of Charity prayer program, which was undertaken in tribute to the Holy Father and his first encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est*. The book also listed the names of some 43,248 Knights who joined the Order at exemplifications held in honor of the pope's U.S. visit. ❖



## New Poll Finds Majority of Americans Favor Significant Restrictions on Abortion

A new poll commissioned by the Knights of Columbus has found there is more national consensus than division over the issue of abortion rights. Specifically, 71 percent of self-described “pro-choice” voters — and 84 percent of Americans overall — favor significant restrictions on abortion. Not surprisingly, Catholic support of abortion limitations — particularly among practicing Catholics — was even higher.

The poll, titled “Moral Issues and Catholic Voters,” was conducted by the Marist College Institute of Public Opinion.

Half of those surveyed identified themselves as pro-choice. However, 71 percent of those pro-choice voters went on to say that abortion should at least be significantly restricted to the first three months of pregnancy.

The term “pro-choice,” then, is unnecessarily polarizing and “hides what our polling data suggests is a broad consensus among the American people,” said Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson.

Announcing the poll results during a press conference in Rome

Oct. 14, the supreme knight said, “When given the chance to specify the circumstances in which abortion ought to be legal, [Americans] overwhelmingly do not support the central holding of *Roe v. Wade*.”

The poll further found that 71 percent of U.S. voters, and 82 percent of practicing Catholics, said they would vote for a candidate who maintained that life begins at conception.

**‘Americans overwhelmingly do not support the central holding of *Roe v. Wade*’**

Although only 8 percent of voters overall favored permitting elective abortion at any stage of a woman’s pregnancy, the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decisions *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* allow for abortion on demand at any time.

More details of the poll can be found at [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org) and will be featured in the December issue of *Columbia*. ❖

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opposed other threats to human life and dignity, such as euthanasia and embryonic stem-cell research.

To help educate citizens and defeat a ballot initiative that would legalize physician-assisted suicide in Washington state, the Supreme Council has provided several grants to the Coalition Against Assisted Suicide. Similarly, the Order has given financial support to MiCAUSE (Michigan Citizens Against Unrestricted Science and Experimentation) to help oppose Proposal 2, a measure that would amend the Michigan constitution to allow for lethal research on live human embryos.

### DEFENDING MARRIAGE

At the forefront of legal threats to marriage is the decision of California’s high court last May to redefine marriage and make marriage licenses available to same-sex couples. Most recently, in a 4-3 decision on Oct. 10, the Connecticut Supreme Court became the third state supreme court to impose a redefinition of marriage through judicial activism. Such an imposition has raised serious concerns about religious liberty, the freedom of speech and the enforced social acceptance of a controversial lifestyle.

This year, three U.S. states have been given the opportunity to adopt proposed constitutional amendments defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman. Amplifying the local efforts of councils and assemblies, the Supreme Council has provided grants to initiatives working to promote these amendments — Proposition 8 in California ([ProtectMarriage.com](http://ProtectMarriage.com)), Amendment 2 in Florida ([Yes2Marriage.org](http://Yes2Marriage.org)), and Proposition 102 in Arizona ([YesforMarriage.com](http://YesforMarriage.com)).

In his annual report at the Supreme Convention in Quebec City, Que., last August, Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson called the defense of marriage “an issue of the greatest importance.” He said, “My brother Knights, just as we have been at the forefront of efforts to defend the sanctity of human life, we must be at the forefront of efforts to defend the sanctuary of human life — the institution of marriage.” ❖

## New Supreme Master, Warden and Director Installed



Newly appointed Supreme Master Lawrence G. Costanzo (left) with his predecessor Joseph P. Schultz, following his appointment by the Board of Directors Oct. 3. Costanzo had previously served as Supreme Warden, Vice Supreme Master and State Deputy of Arizona. Meclea “Mickey” Casavant, Past State Deputy of Alberta, was elected Supreme Warden at the same meeting. Thomas M. Wegener, Past State Deputy of Michigan, was elected to the Board of Directors by the delegates to the 126th Supreme Convention in Quebec City.



Meclea “Mickey” Casavant  
Supreme Warden



Thomas M. Wegener  
Supreme Director



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## A Fulfilling Career

BY THOMAS P. SMITH JR.  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
(AGENCIES AND MARKETING)

**I**n September, the Supreme Council hosted the annual College Council Conference. This conference was attended by approximately 150 student leaders from our councils on college campuses throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Dominican Republic and the Philippines.

In addition to asking the college Knights about their councils' membership and service programs, I enjoy finding out about their post-graduation plans. I encourage them, when thinking about a career, to consider the opportunities available to them with the Knights of Columbus.

With more than \$66 billion of

life insurance in force, our insurance program is growing. In order to sustain this growth, we need to continue to attract high-quality men to our field force of professional general and field agents.

## The Order needs high quality men to grow its field force.

Our ideal candidate is highly motivated, has a proven record of success, likes meeting new people and believes strongly in the value of Knights of Columbus Insurance. He's currently employed, but may be looking for a career change or to take more control of his career.

Are there men in your council who fit the above description? Give their names to your general agent or field agent. In addition to being one of your general agent's "centers of influence," if the man signs an agent

contract with us, you'll have the opportunity to earn some extra money for yourself and your council through our "Fraternal Fistful of Dollars" program (if you don't know the details of this program, e-mail me at [thomas.smith@kofc.org](mailto:thomas.smith@kofc.org) and I'll send them along).

I also encourage you to check out the "Career Opportunities" section of the Order's Web site, [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org), where you will be able to view a short video presentation on "A Day in the Life of a Knights of Columbus Field Agent" as well as hear from three successful field agents on what attracted them to their career and how it provides them with a sense of fulfillment they can't get anywhere else.

There has never been a more exciting time to be involved with Knights of Columbus Insurance! Why not offer that opportunity available to qualified men in your council? ♦

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