



Knights of Columbus Council 9542

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

Washington, DC 20064

In Service to One, In Service to All

Happy New Year, Vivat Jesus, and welcome back! The month of January is an exciting time to return to CUA and to be in the nation's capital. In just the next couple of weeks alone we have the opportunity to give back to our community on the National Day of Service, witness history at the Inauguration of our next president, and then join thousands of Americans in the March for Life to continue the fight against legal, on demand abortions in the U.S. This last event is extremely important for our Council to play an active role, and I encourage each of you to participate in some capacity.

The March for Life was first started after the infamous U.S. Supreme Court rulings on *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* on January 22, 1973, which legalized abortions all throughout the nation. After these devastating decisions were made by the highest court in our country, people marched in peaceful protest through the streets of D.C. to voice their concern of such a disturbing practice. What started as just a small movement in our capital has since grown into the largest Pro-Life demonstration in the world. It now occurs each year around the anniversary of these Supreme Court rulings. It is the hope of many participants of the March for Life that January 22nd will not just come and go each year as any normal day, but rather be a reminder of the atrocious violation of human rights that our country has allowed and deemed acceptable.

Now, I know I am preaching to the choir in terms of pitching the argument of the pro-life movement, however, our duty and our work as Knights of Columbus does not just exist and end in this chamber. It is not enough for our members alone to recognize the great injustice taking place in this country. Sitting here tonight, turning to one

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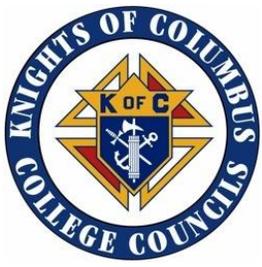


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another, and simply agreeing that abortion is wrong is not solving anything. We may consider ourselves Pro-Life, and tell others we are Pro-Life, but unless we truly live out the Faith and the Mission of our Order, we will not move any closer to putting an end to these inhumane medical practices being protected by law.

I've said it before in previous lectures, this is not your typical college fraternity. We did not join this organization to party hard or make decisions that we'll later regret. The Catholic Faith is not always easy to live, but together we make it a little more bearable for one another. In tough times there are tough decisions to be made; one of those is standing up against social injustice. Standing alone may be frightening, discouraging, and ineffective. However, when we stand together, it's a completely different feeling. It's empowering, encouraging, and highly dynamic. So I hope you will feel motivated to not only attend the March for Life but to also continue the fight on the other 364 days out of the year when you may not have thousands of supporters standing with you. Somedays (probably most days) you will have thousands against you, and I hope and pray you will always stand for what is right and make the impact we as Knights signed up to make in our community and in our nation.

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