

BUILDING A CULTURE OF LIFE

WHEREAS: The delegates attending the Order's annual conventions have consistently and unanimously approved resolutions that affirm the order's commitment to building a 'culture of life' by publicly opposing abortion, embryonic stem cell research, human cloning, euthanasia, assisted-suicide and other offenses against life; and

WHEREAS: The members of the Knights of Columbus, in solidarity with our bishops and priests, have consistently sponsored pro-life programs and initiatives that oppose the aforementioned practices and defend the dignity of the human person from conception to natural death; and

WHEREAS: The late Pope John Paul II reminded us in his *Evangelium Vitae* that the first and fundamental step in engaging a post-modern culture is forming every conscience about the incomparable worth of every human life; and

WHEREAS: The consistently supports the family as the fundamental community of life and love wherein children experience the love of their parents and thus become aware of their own dignity as well as the dignity of others; and

WHEREAS: We recognize that the support of the family is the most fundamental aspect to building an overall 'culture of life,' and that the late Pope John Paul II reminded us of this when he told us in *Familiaris Consortio* that "the future of humanity passes by way of the family" ;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Knights of Columbus renew our deep commitment to oppose any governmental action or policy that promotes abortion, embryonic stem cell research, human cloning, euthanasia, assisted suicide, and any other offenses against life, and that we continue to speak out to our elected representatives about the need to enact legislation to oppose these practices and protect human life in all its stages; and

FURTHER RESOLVED: That in working to establish a "culture of life" in accord with the late Pope John Paul II's vision, and reaffirmed by Pope Benedict XVI, we will continue our active cooperation with the Bishops' Conferences of our respective countries; and

FURTHER RESOLVED: That we continue our efforts to charitably inform, educate, and motivate our elected officials, the public, and our own members about the importance of being consistently and unequivocally pro-life; and

FURTHER RESOLVED: That we recognize that abortion results in two victims, the unborn child who is denied life, and the post-abortive woman who often suffers a lifetime of depression and anxiety related to her abortion experience; and

FURTHER RESOLVED: That we support programs that provide women facing crisis pregnancies with alternatives to abortion, including adoption, and that we support projects that provide spiritual support to those women suffering from the traumatic emotional and psychological after-effects of abortion; and

FURTHER RESOLVED: That reaffirm our commitment to building a “culture of life” by promoting policies that favor the family, and by recognizing that it is within strong and healthy families that moral values are taught and that the spiritual and cultural heritage of the nation is transmitted; and

FURTHER RESOLVED: That we call for the adoption of laws that recognize and protect the right of conscience for doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other medical personnel, guaranteeing that they may not be forced to provide medical services which violate their religious beliefs; and we insist on similar protection for Catholic hospitals; and

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 for the legalization of assisted suicide, euthanasia, or other offenses against human life; 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, to fasting, to doing penance in reparation for the evils perpetrated against the gift of life, to seek the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary who herself said ‘yes’ to life, to intercede on our behalf for the establishment of the “culture of life.”

Submitted by:
State Officers