



Knightline 5300

Division 5

www.kc5300.org



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GOLETA VALLEY COUNCIL 5300 – 1961 - 2011

February 2011

Catholic elementary schools moving to 200-day school year

By Paula Doyle, from The Tidings

At a time when California public schools have fewer instructional days due to the state budget crisis, Catholic elementary schools in the archdiocese will be moving to an extended school year this fall, adding four weeks of instruction.

According to Kevin Baxter, archdiocesan superintendent of elementary schools, the plan as announced at a principals' meeting last week is for as many schools as possible to adopt a 200-day academic calendar for the 2011-12 school year, increasing instruction by approximately 20 days.

All of the archdiocese's 210 parish elementary schools, with an enrollment of 52,000 students, will be operating under the 200-day calendar by the 2012-13 school year. Local Catholic schools will

retain flexibility in setting start and end dates for individual site calendars, though the academic year must conclude by June 30 each year.

The increase in the number of days will essentially add four weeks to the calendar, establishing an 11-month school year vs. the 10-month year currently maintained in alignment with California state requirements.

In 2009, due to the ongoing recession, the California legislature reduced the minimum number of days of schooling to 175 from the U.S. standard of a 180-day school year.

"The U.S. is kind of at the bottom with regard to length of the school year," Baxter pointed out. "A lot of countries --- like Indonesia, Japan, China and Singapore --- have 220-230 days and they outperform us on international tests because we're really in the middle of the pack." He noted that extending the academic calendar is a school reform idea that has been heralded for years, including recently by President Barack Obama.

"The relationship between more substantive, effective time in an academic setting and increased student performance is clear and the elementary schools in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles are responding to this critical national issue in order that our students grow up to be successful leaders in the global workforce," said Baxter.

Under the extended school year plan, elementary schools will have 200 academic days, plus three designated teacher development days and one day allocated for spiritual retreat. The 10 percent increase in instructional time will result in a 10 percent increase in salaries for staff. An increase in tuition cost is expected at most schools, although anticipated enrollment increases may offset the level of increase.

(Continued on page 5)

Picture and Article Submissions need to be in by the 20th of the month

All articles are to be submitted to:

Grand Knight Mark Vampola
 vamperz@cox.net
Deputy Grand Ed Barrier
Knight
(805) 683-4534 ebarrier@att.net

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Program Director's Report
By Ed Barrier, Deputy Grand Knight

Dear Brother Knights,

As you know, Lent is just around the corner and that means Lenten Fish Fries! If you are interested in volunteering, whether to help serve food, cook or after event cleanup, please contact Brother Mike Donovan (967-9506), our Fish Fry Chairman. Also, we will also have a St. Patrick's Day Dinner at the Parish Hall.

(Continued on page 5)

Schedule of Events

February, 2011

| | | |
|----------|--------|--|
| 02/07/11 | Monday | Officers' Meeting at Conference Room 8:00 PM. |
| 02/13/11 | Sunday | K of C Parish Pancake Breakfast from 8:30 AM to 11:00 AM |
| 02/14/11 | Monday | K of C 5300 Business Meeting, 7:30 PM at Parish Hall. |
| 02/21/11 | Monday | 4 th Degree Meeting |

March, 2011

| | | |
|----------|-----------|---|
| 03/07/11 | Monday | Officers' Meeting at Conference Room 8:00 PM. |
| 03/09/11 | Wednesday | Ash Wednesday |
| 03/11/11 | Friday | Lenten Fish Fry 6:00 PM Parish Hall |
| 03/13/11 | Sunday | K of C Parish Breakfast from 7:30 AM until 11 AM. Blood Drive from 8:00 AM until 12 PM |
| 03/14/11 | Monday | K of C 5300 Business Meeting, 8:30 PM at Parish Hall. |
| 03/19/11 | Friday | St. Patrick's Day Dinner |
| 03/25/11 | Friday | Lenten Fish Fry 6:00 PM Parish Hall |

April, 2011

| | | |
|----------|--------|---|
| 04/01/11 | Friday | Lenten Fish Fry 6:00 PM Parish Hall |
| 04/04/11 | Monday | Officers' Meeting at Conference Room 8:00 PM. |
| 04/08/11 | Friday | Lenten Fish Fry 6:00 PM Parish Hall |
| 04/10/11 | Sunday | K of C Parish Breakfast from 8:30 AM until 11 AM. Blood Drive from 8:00 AM until 12 PM |
| 04/11/11 | Monday | K of C 5300 Business Meeting, 7:30 PM at Parish Hall. |
| 04/15/11 | Friday | Lenten Fish Fry 6:00 PM Parish Hall |
| 04/22/11 | Friday | Good Friday |
| 04/24/11 | Sunday | Easter Sunday |

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: Discover a World of Good Things :
: in the Knights of Columbus :
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Insurance Agent's Report
David Farebrother, Field Agent

Sometimes it is Easy to Overlook the Simplest of Things

Take the beneficiaries on your life insurance policies. If your policy was applied for and issued several years ago, it could very well be that the person you originally selected as the beneficiary is no longer the person you would want to receive the policy proceeds. If you bought the policy when you were single, for example, you may have named your parents as beneficiaries. If you have since been married, that could be updated to reflect your spouse or your children.

Most people list a primary beneficiary – that person is specifically designated as the first in priority to receive policy proceeds. We also encourage the naming of a contingent beneficiary – an alternate person designated to receive policy proceeds, usually in the event that the original beneficiary pre-deceases the insured.

I routinely call all of our policyholders for annual review appointments, usually near the anniversary date of your policy – the date it was originally issued. One of the matters that I'll discuss during this review is the status of your beneficiary designations. If they need updating, and they often do, I can complete the paperwork during that appointment.

Call me – let's talk.

David L. Farebrother, FICF

CA DOI Lic # 0E547974

Office (805) 684-0053

Cellular (805) 766-2144

E-Mail: david.farebrother@kofc.org



Support Catholic Schools



Membership Director's Report
Sam Alfano, Membership Director

It is still not too late in the Columbian year to achieve a good finish to our quota of 15 new members this year. Each of us has the duty to ask our friends who you feel would be good candidates to join our Order. When approaching a potential member mention should be made that the Knights were established at St Mary's Parish in New Haven, Conn in the spring of 1882 by Father Michael J. McGivney. Father saw the critical need for moral and financial support for Catholic families. Since that early beginning the Order has grown to 1.6 million members in 13 countries. The principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism are at the core of our values. In the year 2005 Knights throughout the world contributed more than 63 million hours of service and this number keeps growing.

Members of Council 5300 contributed their share of volunteer time at St. Raphael's Parish and community activities. Over the years Council members have assisted in the Parish festival. The two co-chairs of the Festival are members of the Council. Council members are willing to help park cars in the church parking lot during the heavy use Holidays. Members are very involved in the maintenance of Church landscaping. The Council annually sponsors Boy Scout troop 105 and other youth activities. These are but a few activities in which the Council members take part.

Insurance for members is a very important part of Father McGivney's concern for members and their families. Insurance rates are very reasonable. Take that extra moment to talk to a potential member on the many advantages of joining our Council. You will feel better for it along with the possibility that you will have brought a member into the Council.

Our next 1st degree exemplification will be at our regular business meeting on February 14 (Valentine's Day) in the church hall. Candidates are requested to meet in the church crying room at 6:45pm. Contact me if you need the new form 100.

February Birthdays

| | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Rev. Antonio Cacciapuoti | 02-Feb |
| Richard J. Karr | 08-Feb |
| Patrick R. Maloney | 08-Feb |
| Joseph W. Hazher | 09-Feb |
| Joseph R. Darga | 11-Feb |
| Vincent L. Filippello | 11-Feb |
| John C. Luzader | 12-Feb |
| Gerald N. Liponi | 14-Feb |
| Lawrence C. Kubecka | 15-Feb |
| Ignacio G. Andrade III | 16-Feb |
| John C. Monaghan | 16-Feb |
| Teodulo Nungaray | 17-Feb |
| Dale J. Wenzinger | 17-Feb |
| Max F. Keller | 18-Feb |
| Walter H. Mc Cartney | 18-Feb |
| Rev. Cyril Nnadi | 19-Feb |
| John M. Peyton | 19-Feb |
| Paul C. Curzan | 20-Feb |
| Richard P. Danduran | 24-Feb |
| Brian F. Klinge | 25-Feb |
| Jose A. Rodriguez | 29-Feb |

(Elementary Schools, Continued from page 1)

"We think that the increase in tuition will actually be a cost savings to families who pay additional fees for summer programs to supervise their children when school is not in session," said Baxter. "The expectation is that the increase in tuition costs would be lower than the cost of a comparable summer program for families."

He added that research shows that the two-month summer break can negatively affect student performance, especially students from low income backgrounds.

According to local Catholic school principals who have had a 190-day school year in place for the last few years, extending the school year helps to counteract the academic regression that can take place over the summer.

"We started an extended school year two years ago because we felt too many children were out and about in the summer not properly supervised, and when they came back to school they had forgotten a lot

academically," said Karen Kallay, principal of Ascension School in South Los Angeles which currently has a 194-day year beginning in early August and ending mid-June.

She is delighted that all archdiocesan elementary schools will be adopting a 200-day school year, as Ascension has seen a jump in student test scores as well as an increase in student enrollment since implementing the extended year. Student enrollment at the predominantly Hispanic school increased by 30 students after the year was lengthened, bringing attendance to 257 students.

"It's been so advantageous for us. It has given our children the opportunity they so truly deserve," said Kallay, who spent 27 years as a public school principal in the Temple City Unified School District before coming eight years ago to Ascension.

Notre Dame de Namur Sister Judith Flahavan, principal of Nativity School in South Los Angeles, has also seen improvement among her 324 students' test scores since the school went to an extended year eight years ago, particularly at the junior high level.

Standardized tests administered in October show Nativity seventh grade students scoring at an eighth grade, one-month level, with eighth grade students scoring at a ninth grade, four-month level. "It's really amazing because many of our Hispanic students start school without speaking English," said Sister Flahavan, who has been Nativity's principal for 14 years.

When Anna Marie Silva, in her third year as principal at Santa Isabel School in East Los Angeles, implemented a 190-day year in the fall of 2010, more than 50 new students joined the student body, now totaling 234 students.

According to Silva, school parents were happy that the earlier start in mid-August reduced summer babysitting expenses, and students were pleased to be reunited sooner with their classmates. Teachers appreciated extended time for academics. "For everybody, it is a good situation," said Silva.

"We really do feel that this is a bold, big thing that people will hear about and, ideally, we can start to grow our schools and our enrollment," said Baxter. "We see this as a long-term vision for growth, insuring that our students are really well-prepared and also that our schools are going to be sustainable."

(Program Director's Report-Continued from Page 2)

If you want to help out in this event, please contact Brother Sam Alfano (see flyer on page 10). Myself and other brother Knights will be selling tickets to this event.

Also, Brother Brian Klinge and I are selling tickets for Rancho San Antonio Open House on Sunday, May 1st. Rancho San Antonio is a boys camp in Chatsworth, CA founded by the Catholic Big Brothers in 1933. The camp is often called "The Boys Town of the West." The Knights of Columbus have been supporting Rancho San Antonio since the 1950s. For more information about Rancho San Antonio, visit their website: <http://www.ranchosanantonio.org/>

I would also urge existing and new members to fill out the Member Interest Form, so that we can improve on existing events or add new events for the next Columbian Year. You can either e-mail the answers to me (ebarrier@att.net), or mail them to the Council at our address:

**Knights of Columbus
Goleta Valley Council 5300
P.O. Box 65
Goleta, CA 93116-0065**

Are You Interested in Receiving *Knightline* In Full Living Color Each Month?

By Joe T. Kovach, Knight Member since 1996

Any of the subscribers receiving the monthly KNIGHTLINE will have the option of seeing the entire issue in full living color starting in March. After reading this short item, if you are interested in this special offer, please write us a note, call us or email us your request.

There is a cost involved and the funds generated will go directly to the printer. In today's modern print world, everything appears to be published in full color. If the KC officers approve the use of advertisements this initial cost could be dropped, the mailing cost lowered considerably or everyone could

receive a full color issue. Would you object to seeing a few advertisements in each month's publication?

The cost to each subscriber wishing to receive a full color issue beginning in March varies depending on the size of the edition. The monies generated are directly tied to extra printing costs in color. These would be:

- 1). If the Knightline is a 16-page issue the cost would be \$2.50;
- 2). If the Knightline is a 12-page issue the cost would be \$2.25;
- 3). If the Knightline is an 8-page issue the cost would be \$2.00.

If you are interested, please give Bro. Joe Kovach a call at 805-964-0881, send him an email at joetk79@cox.net or write to him at 6528 Camino Venturoso, Goleta, CA 93117-1527. For starters we would want interested subscribers to sign up for 4-months. Deadline for the March issue is receiving payment by February 19. Each subscriber would have an account to show how much was paid, how much that issue cost and the balance in their account.

Some of you may be seeing the Knightline on the website. The pages in living color are spectacular especially the picture pages such as the one spotlighting Rev. Fr. Richard Kayizzi in this month's issue.

But the subscriber does not have a copy to keep, scan, read at leisure or show to others if the edition is not a printed version in full living color.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, COUNCIL 5300 OFFICERS FOR YEAR 2010-2011

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------|--|
| Grand Knight | Mark Vampola | (805) 708-2631 | vamperz@cox.net |
| Chaplain | Msgr. Stephen Downes | (805) 969-6868 | sdownes25@aol.com |
| Deputy Grand Knight | Ed Barrier | (805) 683-4534 | ebarrier@att.net |
| Chancellor | Jack Turney | (805) 967-9473 | jacknchrista@verizon.net |
| Warden | Jim Bradbury | (805) 964-8001 | cowbou@cox.net |
| Advocate | Patrick Donohoe | (805) 698-6102 | |
| Recorder | John Peyton | (805) 964-1685 | jpeyton999@msn.com |
| Financial Secretary | Chris Arnoult | (805) 964-6324 | francisarnoult@cox.net |
| Treasurer | Joseph Darga | (805) 964-3264 | newheart1229@cox.net |
| Lecturer | Joe Bauer | | |
| Outside Guard | Jose Meza | (805) 682-8637 | |
| Inside Guard | Raphael Cardenas | (805) 967-2309 | ggcon51@cox.net |
| Trustee-Three Years | Daniel Knauss | (805) 964-2442 | daniel@gvoptical.com |
| Trustee-Two Years | Francisco Cabrera | (805) 964-9485 | fcocabrera@cox.net |
| Trustee-One Year | Stephen Schlesselmann | (805) 968-9440 | sjschlesselmann@cox.net |

SERVICE PROGRAM ORGANIZATIONS

| | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|----------------|--|
| Program Director | Ed Barrier | (805) 683-4534 | ebarrier@att.net |
| Church Director | Vacant | | |
| Community Director | Vacant | | |
| Council Director | Tim Hogan | (805) 683-6344 | t4210@cox.net |
| Family Director | Vacant | | |
| Youth Director | John Vasellina | (805) 964-3466 | srym12@yahoo.com |
| Pro-Life Couple | Robert & Cecilia Marks | (805) 968-6008 | bobceci_marks@yahoo.com |
| Membership Director | Sam Alfano | (805) 967-0595 | r123range1@cox.net |

OTHER IMPORTANT CONTACTS

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------|--|
| Supreme Knight | Carl Anderson | (203) 772-2130 | info@kofc.org |
| State Deputy | Ivan Reek | | state.deputy@kofc-california.org |
| District Deputy | Ernie Guzman | (805) 320-8452 | ernieguz@sbcglobal.net |
| Faithful Navigator | Bill Furher | (805) 683-4236 | fuhreklnsk@msn.com |
| Insurance Field Agent | David Farebrother | (805) 684-0053 | dlfarebrother@aol.com |

CALLING COMMITTEE-COLUMBIAN YEAR 2010-2011

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------|--|
| Abels-Bunke | Mary Arnoult | (805) 964-6324 | fcarnoult@juno.com |
| Cabrera-De Ponce | Vacant | (805) 683-4546 | |
| Diani-Hazher | Evelina Curzan | (805) 964-4493 | dutchevy@cox.net |
| Hernandez-Lima | Patty Salcedo | (805) 245-2545 | patty_lopez@hotmail.com |
| Liponi-Modugno | Jacqueline Knauss | (805) 964-2442 | jackie@gvoptical.com |
| Moiso-Nungaray | Elaine McNamara | (805) 964-4526 | billmcnamara@alum.mit.edu |
| Osborne-Ruiz | Chawa Ramirez | (805) 964-3775 | |
| Salcedo-Turney | Julie Sanchez | (805) 964-3398 | |
| Uhte-Znovena | Vacant | | |



Rev. Fr. Richard Kayizzi
P.O.BOX 40316 Nakawa
Uganda-East Africa

16th January 2011

Dear Brother Knights of Council 5300

Re: APPRECIATION

Please receive many prayerful and best wishes for the New Year 2011 from Rev. Fr. Richard Kayizzi. I pray and hope all is well with you and your family members. I am happy and doing well as a chaplain of both the religious brothers of Christian Instruction and St. Savio Junior School here at Kisubi.

I am writing this letter to thank you for your recent donation worth 500 USD towards the purchase of the vestments for the chaplaincy. Please accept my renewed thanks for your generous contribution. I am very grateful indeed. Your donation is going to help me to get two chasuble Albs for concelebrants (white and cream in colors), Missal for week day readings and Sunday Missal as well.

I am very grateful for the spirit of brotherly fraternity based on love, care and generosity for me and my ministry.

I remain,

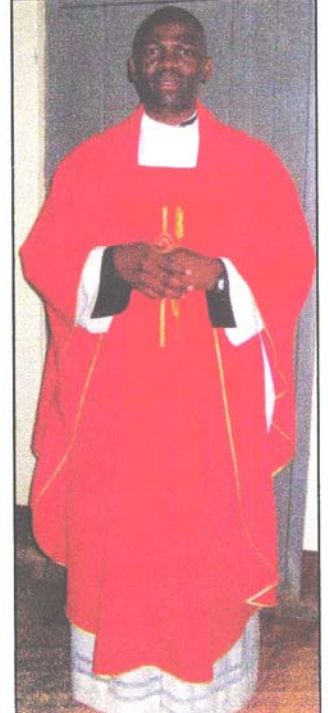
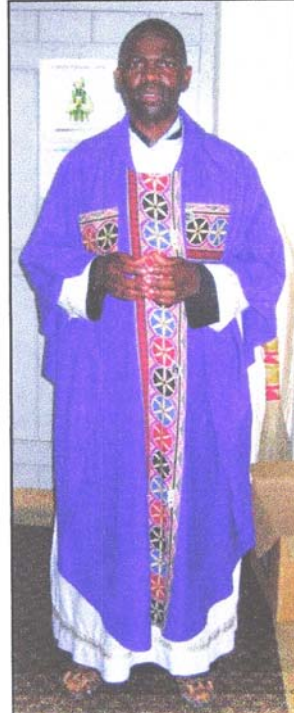
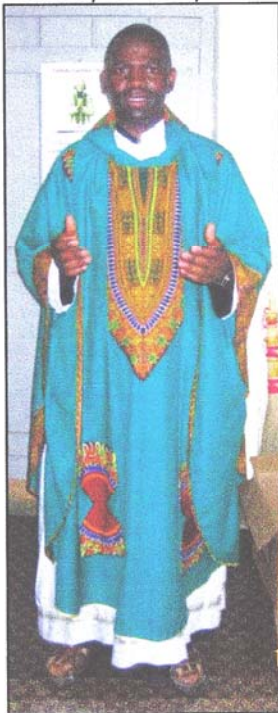
Gratefully, Yours in Christ.

Fr. Richard Kayizzi

richzzi@hotmail.com

Father Richard in his new suit and shoes,
courtesy of St. Raphael Parishioners.

Page designed by Thomas Schiferl



ED
101-110

Saint Patrick's Day Celebration

Social - Dinner - Music - Fun - Raffle

IRISH PUB STYLE

benefitting

Saint Vincent de Paul Society

St. Raphael Conference

Saturday, March 19, 2011

Social time: 6:30 pm

Dinner Buffet: 7:00 pm

St. Raphael's Parish Hall

Traditional Irish Menu-Pub Style

Corned Beef and Cabbage

Irish Soda Bread

Pre-sale only- \$15.00 by Mar.1; \$20.00 by Mar. 15

(under 18 yrs - \$10.00)

Tickets available in Parish office

Or Sam Alfano: 967-0595

Wear your GREEN



Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 5300



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
IN SERVICE TO ONE, IN SERVICE TO ALL

MEMBER INTEREST SURVEY

WHEN A KNIGHTS ACTS SELFLESSLY, HE ACTS ON BEHALF OF THE WORLD

As a member of this council, you are our greatest asset. We value your judgment, we appreciate your opinions, and we rely on your participation for continued success. Since joining the Knights of Columbus, you have undoubtedly become familiar with many of our varied programs of involvement — programs where you can personally apply your talents and fulfill your ambitions. In an effort to satisfy your desires and interests, we ask that you complete the following survey and return it to our program director for evaluation and action.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Date: _____

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State or Province: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

SERVICE PROGRAM INVOLVEMENT

Please list your preferences for possible committee assignments.
Mark those areas which you find exciting, challenging and promising.

PROGRAMS

- | CHURCH | COMMUNITY | COUNCIL | FAMILY | YOUTH |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vocations | <input type="checkbox"/> Pro-Life | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Survivor's Assistance | <input type="checkbox"/> Columbian Squires |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parochial Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Fraternalism | <input type="checkbox"/> Family of the Month/Year | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Groups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Religious Devotions | <input type="checkbox"/> Civic Involvement | <input type="checkbox"/> Blood Donors | <input type="checkbox"/> Memorials | <input type="checkbox"/> Educational Programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Apostolate | <input type="checkbox"/> Decency | <input type="checkbox"/> Social | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Athletics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parish Round Table | <input type="checkbox"/> Human Needs | <input type="checkbox"/> Athletics | <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious Activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christ in Christmas | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Safety | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Specify: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Specify: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Specify: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Specify: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Specify: _____ |

MEMBERSHIP

- ☐ Recruitment ☐ Retention ☐ Insurance Promotion ☐ Admission Committee ☐ Ceremonials

In your opinion, how can our council improve existing programs? Please be specific.

INSURANCE PARTICIPATION

- ☐ Non-Insurance Member If you are not currently enrolled as an insurance member, would you like a Supreme Council Insurance Representative to contact you to explain the many benefits available through the Order's insurance program? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- ☐ Insurance Member If you are an insurance member, would you like a Supreme Council Insurance Representative to contact you to explain new and additional benefits available through the Order's insurance program? ☐ Yes ☐ No

'We Dare Not Forget'

Kennedy's historic speech urged us to remember the divine source of our rights and civic responsibilities

by Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson (from the January edition of the Columbia magazine)

Fifty years ago this month, John F. Kennedy was sworn in as president of the United States. His inaugural address inspired a generation of Americans, and his words "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country" became the byword of a generation. Those words, coming toward the end of the address, were its rhetorical highpoint. But the speech's intellectual foundation came at the beginning, when Kennedy asserted that "the same revolutionary beliefs for which our forebears fought are still at issue around the globe — the belief that the rights of man come not from the generosity of the state, but from the hand of God."

He concluded [his speech](#) this way: "[L]et us go forth to lead the land we love, asking his blessing and his help, but knowing that here on earth, God's work must truly be our own."

Kennedy had just won one of the closest and most controversial elections in American history. Much of the opposition centered upon the prejudice that a Catholic could not serve as president. In this regard, some might have expected Kennedy to downplay the theme of religion in his speech. But he did not.

If it were to have taken place amid the political landscape of today, Kennedy's election would have been less controversial than his words. Given the ongoing debate over religion in American life, his inaugural address would have generated enormous disagreement.

Though some today might be shocked by the presence of religious ideals in a speech of this importance, such sentiments have been prominent throughout American history. Kennedy's predecessor, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, began [his first inaugural address](#) with a prayer he had composed. Eisenhower said, "At such a time in history, we who are free must proclaim anew our faith. This faith is the abiding creed of our fathers. It is our faith in the deathless dignity of man, governed by eternal moral and natural laws."

Both Kennedy and Eisenhower understood that the "abiding creed of our fathers," and those "revolutionary beliefs" for which they fought, had been summarized by Thomas Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence when he wrote that each of us has been endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights.

We might well say that the 20th century was defined by the struggle between those committed to the proposition that our rights "come not from the generosity of the state, but from the hand of God" and those who seek to replace those "eternal moral and natural laws" with the unlimited power of the state. Both Kennedy and Eisenhower understood this, and it was one of the reasons they supported the initiative in the 1950s to add the words "under God" to the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance — a cause that was championed by the Knights of Columbus.

In my recent book [Beyond a House Divided: The Moral Consensus Ignored by Washington, Wall Street and the Media](#), I have put forward statistical evidence showing that the American people by a large majority remain committed to the moral foundations of our country. These findings should give us confidence as we continue to promote the traditional moral values that offer the best hope for the future of our nation and the world.

Some may say that these "revolutionary beliefs" should be a thing of the past. But in his inaugural address, Kennedy himself made the best response to this contention: "We dare not forget today that we are the heirs of that first revolution" and that we are "unwilling to witness or permit the slow undoing of those human rights to which this nation has always been committed."

May the Knights of Columbus remain steadfast in the defense of those "revolutionary beliefs" about which our brother Knight and first Catholic president spoke so eloquently.

Vivat Jesus!

Editorial: Pro-life hope

The alleged atrocities may be unique in degree and duration, but new statistics make it undeniable that abortion strikes hardest at minorities.

By OSV Editorial Board - OSV Newsweekly, 2/6/2011

This year's commemoration of the 38-year-old Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion was accompanied by a couple of news reports that highlight the grip of a "culture of death" on our nation — and how it particularly victimizes minorities and the poor.

The first was the coming-to-light of Pennsylvania abortionist Dr. Kermit Gosnell, arrested on eight murder charges, including of seven healthy, viable babies he is accused of delivering and then killing.

The 261-page [grand jury report](#) is horrifying reading, and the jury's own outrage is palpable, not just at Gosnell, who they said for years practiced infanticide as a matter of procedure, but at the regulatory agencies that were warned repeatedly about him but did nothing to stop him.

They open the report this way: "This case is about a doctor who killed babies and endangered women. What we mean is that he regularly and illegally delivered live, viable babies in the third trimester of pregnancy — and then murdered these newborns by severing their spinal cords with scissors. The medical practice by which he carried out this business was a filthy fraud in which he overdosed his patients with dangerous drugs, spread venereal disease among them with infected instruments, perforated their wombs and bowels — and, on at least two occasions, caused their deaths. Over the years, many people came to know that something was going on here. But no one put a stop to it."

The callousness of those who could have done more to prevent the suffering and deaths is staggering. The report cites the head lawyer of Pennsylvania's Department of Health justifying her agency's "indifference" to serious and regular complaints about Gosnell's clinic this way: "People die."

The grand jury came to its own conclusion about the indifference: "We think the reason no one acted is because the women in question were poor and of color, because the victims were infants without identities, and because the subject was the political football of abortion."

Gosnell's alleged atrocities may have been unique in their degree and duration, but new statistics make it undeniable that abortion strikes hardest at minorities. The health department of New York City released [numbers](#) about a month ago showing that 39 percent of all pregnancies end in abortion there — about twice the national average. But, even more shockingly, 47 percent of all African-American pregnancies in the city end in abortion.

Pro-lifers can draw some hope from the nearly universal expression of revulsion at the Pennsylvania case and dismay at the New York numbers. Our national conscience has not been deadened entirely.

And, in fact, the polling agency Gallup noted last year a "real change in public opinion" on the abortion issue, as they found that, for the third consecutive time, more Americans identify themselves as pro-life than as pro-choice. "All age groups have become more attached to the pro-life label since 2005, with particularly large increases among young adults and those aged 50 to 64 years" in recent years, [Gallup](#) said.

A legislative end to abortion still seems far off, but we detect an optimism and confidence in the pro-life cause that has never been greater. It appears to have successfully shed past negative stereotypes. It has taken up the banner of civil rights, and in both rhetoric and action supported minorities and women, and defended their rights. It has captured the imagination and passion of a new generation of young pro-lifers.

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