

2007 Pro-Life Essay Contest

Sponsored by St. John Council, Knights of Columbus



Daniel Kennedy received a \$250 award for his essay at the Knights of Columbus Founder's Day dinner. From left, Parish Pro-Life Coordinator Kurt Maggio, Daniel Kennedy, Fr. Selin, and Grand Knight Mike Mancino

***Winning Entry by Daniel Kennedy,
8th Grade***

“God’s Gift of Life: From Conception Until Natural Death”

As the Vatican Congregation of the Faith has said, “Nothing and no one can in any way permit the killing of an innocent human being, whether a fetus or an embryo, an infant or an adult, or an old person, or one suffering from an incurable disease, or a person who is dying.” When one takes the life of a person, born or unborn, man or woman, child or adult, helpless or strong, it is murder and one will have to answer to God for it.

Our country holds the value of freedom in high esteem, but this has led to a society with people who believe that they are masters of their lives, free to do as they wish. They feel that they should be in control of how they live, and also how they die.

The culture we live in today embraces a comfortable lifestyle, and desires to live without tribulations. This is especially true when one is faced with death or terminal illness. People are quick to choose the easy and painless route, thinking not of the morality of their actions, but instead only trying to escape pain and suffering. However, people should instead follow in the way of our Lord who could have easily sent a legion of his angels to slay his captors. Instead, He chose suffering for the salvation of all mankind.

This leads to an important question: is suffering really a bad thing, something that humans should always try to avoid? It is true that no one really enjoys suffering, whether it is the loss of a loved one or a painful or terminal disease. But, suffering, though sometimes very difficult, can bring us closer to Christ. As the Bible tells us: “And a woman who had had a flow of blood for twelve years and had spent all her living on physicians and could not be healed by anyone, came up behind him, and touched the fringe of his garment, and immediately her flow of blood ceased.” Luke 8:43-45.

This is a very literal example of how suffering brings us closer to Christ, for if that woman had decided to take her own life instead of her suffering for all those years, she would have never been in the presence of Christ. Her suffering was an opportunity for her to appreciate the saving power of God.

Almighty God has given us the gift of life, so who are we to take it away. We can try to fool ourselves into thinking we are not committing murder by claiming that the life we are taking is not truly human, but we are mistaken. Those in comas are commonly referred to as vegetables, because they are helpless and totally unable to communicate. Many consider it acceptable to kill these “vegetables” after a certain period of time, because it seems that they will never wake from their unconscious state. But with God anything is possible, and that person could awake from their vegetative state at any given time.

We as mankind all have a right to life whatever state of life we are in, whether we are in our mother's womb, or reaching the end of our days. And we must be strong in the defense of the defenseless, those who cannot help themselves.