

Public Policy Report

presented at the 2010 New Hampshire Knights of Columbus State Convention

As with any moment in history, our world is being challenged to do the right thing. These things do not always happen easily or neatly and sometimes we stumble. We just need to remember to keep our intentions pure and to do what is right. Jesus modeled how to do this perfectly, regardless of the hardships that may be involved.

America is making an attempt to provide health care to those who are most in need either due to poverty, citizenship, severe medical issues or other hardships. As we all know this is a basic right that we learned as a truth in our Sunday school classes. While it should be as easy as doing the right thing, politics are involved, like it or not. The truth is that this is a step that needs to be taken to take care of those most vulnerable in our society. Now, we must make our voices heard to make this a truth based in Catholic morals. We cannot accept any type of government funding for abortion or contraception. We cannot accept that people may be "forced" to make an end-of-life decision. We cannot allow government to require that Catholic pharmacists, nurses, doctors and other healthcare workers and hospitals provide any type of life-ending assistance. As Catholics and citizens, we have the responsibility to stay informed about the decisions our government is making. We elect officials to represent us and we are Catholics. We need to make sure that what we end up with is what we set out to do... provide healthcare to our most vulnerable.

In the past few years our global family has suffered many tragic disasters from earthquakes to floods to tsunamis. No one wants to see these events happen to anyone, anywhere. These tragic events have given Catholics the opportunity to show their love for others in a public way. Through collections of monies and donations we have assisted people in difficult situations. However, Catholics are always helping....praying...behind closed doors. Mother Theresa provided love and care to those dying in the streets of Calcutta, Catholic Relief Services is sending aide workers to Darfur to help set up classrooms while promoting peace in Sudan, Sisters Clothes Closet outside of the US Capital helps to cloth those in need and Care Net Pregnancy Centers are assisting young women through pregnancies "showing them that God's love is enduring and that He has not abandoned them. Which is a message that they may not be receiving anywhere else."

Yes, we stumble. There is still sex education in the public school system, teen pregnancy still exists and promotion of homosexuality in our society and school systems is on the rise. In our free society not every American who can vote does. In our global community, there are still people being killed for their faith in Jesus on a daily basis. But I believe if we as Catholic individuals see where Jesus wants us to be rather than stay on the ground when we stumble, we will get to where we are going.

In summation we all need to stay focused on these issues...the Environment, education, public health, arts & culture, food & organic living, bringing prayer back in our schools, encourage abstinence among our young people, and encourage a healthy life-style for all our citizens.

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