



President Reagan addresses the knights.

Knights Cheer President On Tuition Tax Credits, Nukes and Abortion Issues

By Jim Lackey

Hartford, Conn. (NC) — To the rousing cheers of the Knights of Columbus, President Reagan last week extolled the work of the Catholic fraternal organization and called on Congress to approve tuition tax credits and legislation restricting abortion.

Interrupted by applause about 30 times, Reagan told the knight's centennial convention here he shared their religious and family values.

He also called for an amendment to the Constitution on school prayer, thanked the organization for a recent editorial supporting his position on nuclear weapons reduction, and called for a "worldwide crusade for freedom and global campaign for democracy."

The loudest applause came when Reagan told the crowd of 12,000 in Hartford Civic Center that "if it is true we do not know when the unborn

becomes a human life, then we have to opt in favor that it is a human life until someone proves it isn't."

He also drew loud applause when his speech turned to the tuition tax credit issue. Just that morning, he told his audience, Sen. Robert Dole (R-Kan.), chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, told the president the committee would begin work on the bill Aug. 9.

"This administration wants this bill passed, the Knights of Columbus want this bill passed and I believe the voters next November will demonstrate that they want this bill passed," he said.

Reagan noted that his father was a member of the K of C, this year celebrating the 100th anniversary of founding. He said the Catholic order is "unrivaled in its dedication to family, community, country and church."

He also cited the knights' efforts to end racial and ethnic discrimination in America.

Sharing the podium with about 150 cardinals and bishops, including the papal secretary of state, Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, Reagan decried the length to which courts have gone to prohibit prayer services in public schools.

"I think you will agree with me — we need a prayer amendment, and we need it badly," said Reagan to another round of applause.

He also said he shared the knights' concern for stricter enforcement of obscenity standards.

On nuclear arms, Reagan thanked the organization for an editorial in the knights' official magazine, *Columbia*, on the morality of maintaining nuclear deterrent forces.

He said a nuclear freeze resolution which was pending before the House of Representatives "would leave in place dangerous inequalities in the nuclear balance."

Pope's Statements Cheer Divorced Ministry Priest

From Courier-Journal Services

South Bend, Ind. — The Catholic Church's new emphasis on compassion for and ministry to the divorced is "an event unimagined in such a short time as 11 years," said Paulist Father James Young, a national leader in ministry to divorced Catholics.

Father Young, rector of the Paulist Seminary in Washington and national chaplain of the North American Conference of Separated and Divorced Catholics, spoke at the organization's 11th annual conference July 15-18 at Notre Dame University here.

According to Kathleen Kircher, executive director of

the conference which has its headquarters in Rochester, there are more than 1,000 groups in Canada and the United States belonging to NACSDC. About 450 diocesan and support group leaders in divorce ministry attended the conference.

A pioneer in the specialized ministry, Father Young focused on the recent papal exhortation, "Familiaris Consortio," in which Pope John Paul II said, "Let the church pray for the divorced, encourage them and show herself a merciful mother and thus sustain them in faith and hope."

The Paulist priest said that when he and others founded the national organization 11 years ago, such a positive

statement of church attitudes toward the divorced was "unheard of."

The statement, he said "stands as the culmination of so much of our prayer and work together in recent years."

"Just as the Lord called his followers to lifelong commitments in marriages while reaching out tenderly to those whose marriages had broken down, so Pope John Paul II has again and again called Christians to permanence in marriage, but more and more he has begun to balance his statements with a special appeal to the church community to minister to those whose marriages have ended," he said.

Archdiocese Places Ads Vs. Planned Parenthood

Baltimore (NC) — The Archdiocese of Baltimore is answering Planned Parenthood newspaper advertisements backing legalized abortion with its own series of pro-life ads, parodies of those by Planned Parenthood.

The Planned Parenthood ad, which has run in several cities, depicts a glum couple in bed with a man representing a U.S. senator between them. The ad reads, "The decision to have a baby could soon be between you, your husband and your senator," and adds, "Abortion is something personal, not political." It urges opposition to the Hatch amendment, which would allow states to pass laws

against abortion and declares that nothing in the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right to an abortion.

A similar-looking ad in Baltimore-area newspapers, placed by the archdiocese, shows a smiling couple in bed with a baby. This ad reads, "The decision to have a baby is not made in the senate but in the house. Your house." It says that "Having a baby is something personal; protect a person's right to life," and states that no pending legislation would take away a couple's right to decide on having a baby.

"Politicians may make strange bedfellows, but not in

this case. The decision to have a baby is yours. It always was," the archdiocese's ad says. "No pending legislation would take that away from you."

"The question that is really being raised here is not conception, it's abortion," the ad states. "Now, what does abortion have to do with having a baby? Nothing. What it does deal with is a baby's right to life."

"Pending legislation seeks to return the protection of that right from a small group of judges to the states, the people, so that each community can set its own guidelines."

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