



OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE, IN SERVICE TO ALL.

December, 2005

Open Letter to our Brother Knights and their Families,

Next January 23, Canadians will choose a new government. It has been said by many that this election could be the most important in our history. Now it is up to us to ensure that the results create the type of Canada we want for ourselves and for the generations that will follow.

As Canadians, we have what many around the world are fighting for: the right to vote. Not only is it our right, it is our civic duty. We take this responsibility seriously because our vote can make all the difference.

Political involvement is key for the future of our society, Too often, we undervalue politics and public service. We don't see how political decisions affect us. However, decisions we make are reflected in the decisions made by those we support.

Their policies will affect not only us, but also our descendents\_ For this reason. we must indicate our expectations and concerns to the candidates who aspire to be elected. We should question candidates on their political, social, ethical and economic positions. We should know where candidates stand on life and marriage.

Two years before becoming Pope Benedict XVI, Cardinal Ratzinger, with the approval of Pope John Paul II, wrote in a Doctrinal Note from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith: "[A] well-formed Christian conscience does not permit one to vote for a political program or an individual law which contradicts the fundamental contents of faith and morals." He went on to say: "[L]aws must defend the basic right to life from conception to natural death... Analogously, the family needs to be safeguarded and promoted based on monogamous marriage between a man and a woman."

These basic questions about life and marriage are central to the current issues. They must be part of the reflections and discussions of Canadian society. Political leaders, using all their personal convictions must truly serve the common good by crafting legislation respecting freedom of religion and conscience.

We can make this election one that future generations will look back upon as the election where collectively we stood strong on our principles and kept Canada on course as one of the greatest countries in the world.

Our children and grandchildren deserve no less!

Fraternally Yours,

Jean Migneault  
Deputy Supreme Knight

Dennis Savoie, President  
KofC Canadian Association