

# Annual Los Angeles March for Life draws hundreds of walkers in Encino

The parking lot of St. Cyril of Jerusalem Church provided a colorful staging area March 12 as hundreds of men, women and children celebrated the sanctity of life at the eighth annual Los Angeles March for Life along Ventura Boulevard in Encino organized by Knights of Columbus, Van Nuys Council 3148.

A 36-foot Mobile Ultrasound Clinic served as a backdrop for the rally held before the two-mile walk down the San Fernando Valley's main southern thoroughfare.

This year's March for Life was dedicated to Knights of Columbus member, Charlie Howe, 94, event co-founder who died Feb. 23. The program opened with joyful pro-life singing and dancing performed by the St. Genevieve High School Choir directed by Rose Corpuz.

Guest speakers included pro-life leaders Father Denis Wilde, Priests for Life, New York; Joe Langfeld, Human Life Alliance, Minnesota; Nancy Corbett, Pregnancy Counseling Center, Mission Hills; and Jennifer Ford, Louisville High School student.

Leading the walkers were Father Wilde and Knights Tom O'Malley, Nick Bryan, John Riordan and John Costello, March for Life co-founder. It was later announced at the end of the walk that thousands of dollars were raised during this year's MFL, which will go to fund the Pregnancy Counseling Center as well as other pro-life ministries.

Several Knights of Columbus Councils were represented at the event, including Immaculate Heart of Mary Council 13237 and Squire Members; St. Genevieve Council 14772; Canoga Park Council 3601; and 4th Degree Cardinal McIntyre Assembly, Canoga Park 65; in addition to Van Nuys Council 3148.

The purpose of the march, according to a statement released by the Knights, is to raise awareness. "First, we want to inform women struggling with this decision that there are real 'choices' that exist other than killing a precious, innocent child and there are local organizations who will help with these choices.

"Second, we want people to become aware of the sanctity of life. We see life from a Christian perspective that God creates it and that it is a gift from God. Third, we want the people in one of the most prodigious abortion states to know that there are those of us who do not agree with the killing of over 54 million innocent lives since 1973."

Organizers stressed that L.A.'s March for Life is a "celebration of life, not a protest. We are a peaceful group, marching in solidarity and speaking for the voiceless children who have already suffered and standing in support of those who might be saved in the future."

Dignitaries attending March for Life included Phil Wilmot Jr., Southern California Chapter president; Joe Galbraith, District Deputy 69; Tom O'Malley, Grand Knight Council 3148; Primo Sumagaysay, Grand Knight Council 14772; Ed Francisco, Grand Knight Council 13237; Paul Penita, Grand Knight Canoga Park Council; and Cesar Hernando, Faithful Navigator, Cardinal McIntyre Assembly.

Participants were urged to support the 40 Days for Life nationwide project during Lent and to attend the

ninth LA March for Life slated for March 13, 2012. For information on MFL activities, visit [www.lamarchforlife.org](http://www.lamarchforlife.org), e-mail [johncneb@aol.com](mailto:johncneb@aol.com), or call Nick Bryan, (818) 789-3237 or John Costello, (949) 285-8918.

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