

Knights Sponsoring Conference on Men and Abortion

10/25/2007

The Knights of Columbus together with the Archdiocese of San Francisco and Project Rachel is sponsoring the first national conference to focus on the effects of abortion on men.

The “Reclaiming Fatherhood” conference will be held Nov. 28-29 at St. Mary’s Cathedral in San Francisco. It is being co-sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and the Archdiocese of San Francisco.



“As an organization of lay men that has a strong history and commitment to life, we think it is very important to highlight the issues faced by those fathers whose children are aborted,” said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. “It is our hope that this conference will be the beginning of a ministry within the Church to these fathers, who grieve the death of their unborn child in isolation and silence”

The Milwaukee-based Office of Post-Abortion Reconciliation, headed by Vicki Thorn, is organizing the conference, which seeks to bring to light what Thorn describes as an “invisible” issue in our society and even in the Church and the pro-life community.

Speakers from a variety of backgrounds will cover topics including men’s spirituality and the healing process after abortion; fatherhood and abortion; and why men who have been involved in abortion come for help.

Anderson and Thorn believe the “Reclaiming Fatherhood” conference could help men deal with the psychological trauma of post-abortion reality the way Project Rachel — the Catholic post-abortion healing ministry Thorn founded — has helped women who have undergone abortions deal with their emotional and spiritual scars.

The Knights are also sponsoring an international conference on the effects of abortion on parents, and the effects of divorce on children. That conference will be held in Rome in April 2008 – co-sponsored by the Knights and the Rome session of the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and the Family.

For more information on the “Reclaiming Fatherhood” conference, visit www.menandabortion.info or call the National Office of Post-Abortion Reconciliation and Healing at 414-483-4141.