



A True Witness to the Sanctity of Life

In late August I celebrated Mass to open the school year at Thomas Aquinas College in Santa Paula, California. For forty years now students at Aquinas (now numbering about 370) have received a classical-curriculum education based on the reading of the great books of the Western tradition. At the heart of their small campus stands a strikingly beautiful new church with a bell tower that can be seen for miles. The layout and design of the surrounding buildings seem to encourage the search for truth and impart confidence that truth can be found.



One student's search was related in a letter I just received from Dr. Michael McLean, President of Thomas Aquinas College. Andrew Moore, a rising junior from Concord, California, decided to spend this summer giving witness to the sanctity of life. He signed up for a 3,000-mile trek from San Francisco to Washington, D.C., sponsored by Crossroads Walk Across America. From all around the country young people follow five different routes to converge upon the capital. It is likely that Andrew's group had the farthest walk of all.

Andrew had been active in pro-life causes - praying at abortion

clinics, participating in pro-life rallies, counseling women considering abortion. The Crossroads walk "sounded like a good way to serve God and help His children," but he saw that it could serve another purpose as well. "I have been considering a vocation to the priesthood for some time, and Crossroads is a great way to work on my discernment: prayer, sacrifice, and separation from the distractions of the world."

As the San Francisco group walked along the highway in Indiana, Andrew was struck and killed by a passing car. At the moment of his death he was praying the rosary for the unborn. And he was wearing a vest to reflect light in the darkness.

Hours after learning of their son's death in Indiana, Andrew's father and mother stood at a hospital delivery room in California to witness the birth of a baby whom Andrew had been instrumental in saving from abortion. He had persuaded his parents to allow the baby's young mother to stay at their home while he was away for the summer. In the words of Dr. McLean, "One can only marvel at God's providence."

A new school year has begun, and students take up the search for truth again. September now passes into October, the month of Respect for Life. "Seek and ye shall find," Jesus promised. Andrew Moore took Him at His word.