



# *The Kansas Coalition for Life*

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2004-Feb-13



## **News Release**

For immediate Release

# **Governor Sebelius & The University of Saint Mary Use Police and Military Army ROTC Cadets to Remove ProLife Demonstrators from Campus**

by Mark S. Gietzen

In an illegal act that trampled on the First Amendment rights of would-be ProLife demonstrators, Governor Sebelius and the University of Saint Mary used overwhelming numbers of uniformed police and military personnel to aggressively remove all ProLife demonstrators, and "would-be-demonstrators" from the University of Saint Mary campus in Leavenworth on Thursday evening.

Leavenworth Police Chief, Lee Doehring, reported that University President Sister Diane Steele, Ph.D., had requested him to immediately remove "all ProLife demonstrators from University property during the Lincoln Lecture", when Kansas Governor Sebelius would be on campus. However, he was not aware that the University of Saint Mary accepts federal tax dollars, and as such, that her request was an illegal request.

In actions reminiscent of Nazi Germany or of the Former Soviet Union, Leavenworth police, military, and security personnel, made it completely impossible for ProLife demonstrators to display signs or to hand out material.

Using a no-exceptions-no-questions-asked method, all potential demonstrators who wanted to express their disagreement with the Governor, including some who had driven 200 miles to peacefully do so, were referred to as "trouble-makers" and were immediately removed from the campus.

In her speech, the Governor chastised those who disagree with her as being "politically divisive". There was no opportunity given for oral questions from the audience.

In the weeks and days leading up to the February 12<sup>th</sup> event, The Kansas Coalition for Life, KCFL, had opposed the invitation of a ProAbortion-Choice Governor to a Catholic University Campus, based on respect for human life reasons. KCFL had announced their planned peaceful protest to the university via letter and News Release.

Observers of the event, including some law enforcement personnel themselves, expressed surprise that a Catholic Institution would take such a strong position so radically different from what normally would be expected of a Catholic institution. ###