

La Salette Shrine - Pro-Life Monument

<http://www.thesunchronicle.com/articles/2010/01/25/news/6830611.txt> (Story with Pictures of Statue and Blessing)

ATTLEBORO - A Knights of Columbus Pro-Life Monument was blessed, dedicated and unveiled at La Salette Shrine on Saturday afternoon.

"May this monument be a memorial to their memory," said Bishop Daniel Reilly, who blessed the monument. Reilly is the bishop emeritus of Worcester. Brother Robert Russell, the chairman of the shrine's Pro-Life Committee, said the Knights of Columbus bought the monument.

"We thought it would be nice to have a statue of the unborn," Russell said. "We hope that many more people will come here to pray for the unborn," Russell said. The monument is dedicated to Brother Bob Nichols, who died in 2008. He started the shrine's Pro-Life Committee, according to Russell. Steven James Taylor from Jamaica Plain created the fiberglass monument. The process started two years ago, but the first monument, which was made out of plaster, broke.

"We were pretty well devastated," said Donald Vandal of the Knights of Columbus. "He redid a completely new statue," Vandal added. Nichols and Vandal had been trying to get a pro-life statue at the shrine for years, but when Russell came to the shrine, the process started coming together, Vandal said. After the monument was unveiled, the large audience moved inside to watch a film before a Mass for the unborn was held.

There are pro-life statues all over the state, at churches and on Knights of Columbus property, according to State Deputy for the Knights of Columbus William Donovan. "I think this is beautiful," Donovan said. "It's a reminder to us that life is not replaceable," Donovan said.

Saturday's event at the shrine was held one day after the 37th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on Jan. 22, 1973, that a woman has a constitutional right to an abortion.



State Chaplain Bishop Reilly after Blessing Statue with State Deputy, State Board Members and wives, and assembled guests.



Pro-Life Monument was blessed, dedicated and unveiled at La Salette Shrine