JUSTIN GANDIAAge 16, Grade 10

"What can I do now, and what would I like to do in the future, to promote a Culture of Life in our Country?"

My responsibility as a Catholic encompasses my duty to promote and to respect the culture of life. The culture of life is where every life is viewed as a child of God worthy of protection and care from the moment of conception until the time of natural death. We, as Catholics, recognize this duty and the sanctity of human life. God created everyone in his own image and likeness. God gives us the gift of life which makes it our duty to protect it. I can do the following now and in the future to promote the culture of life in our country: (1) become involved in pro-life activities; (2) pray; and (3) be a witness. A major pro-life activity occurs every year in Washington, DC. The March for Life promotes the importance of life and protests both the practice and legality of abortion. Last year, Vice President Michael Pence spoke at the March for Life. About a half a million people attend the march which makes an impactful statement that helps spread the pro-life message. Influencing pro-life legislation by running for office or communicating with my representatives on a local, state or federal level serves as a another means of promoting the culture of life. Through all these activities, prayer needs to be the focal point of all of them. Prayer can be used as a powerful tool to help promote and protect the culture of life. There are many ways you use prayer to promote the culture of life such as prayer groups, adoration, or the rosary where you can ask for Mary's intercession. Pray for change in the way that people think about life. In addition to this, pray for people to speak up and act in defense for the culture of life. Pray for the strength and courage to be an effective witness.

Being a witness and spreading God's word and His truth to people you encounter will help show them the merit and worth of life. We should be an example of God's truth by using the gospel to teach people about the sanctity of life, showing them why all lives matter, and teaching them that they themselves are children of God. Helping people understand the culture of life will show them why life should be viewed as sacred. We need to lead the people and show them the way of faith. Acting as shepherds, we will bring them to God and His word.

By participating and acting as shepherds, we, as Catholics, can preserve and protect the culture of life. We need to lead the way and guide others towards the light of God. The three previously listed ways can help fulfill our duties as Catholics to protect and to preserve the culture of life.