



November 2018

Pro-Life News

Maryland State Council
Knights of Columbus



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40 Days for Life Ending on November 4

When the 40 Days for Life campaign ends on Sunday, November 4, many of the sites will have special closing events, including:

Annapolis -- Planned Parenthood, 929 West Street, Annapolis; an All-Night-Prayer-Vigil beginning with a candlelight vigil 7:00-8:00 pm, November 3, followed by all night prayers until 7:00 am, November 4; for details contact Carolyn Schumaker (410-757-8840, carolynschumaker@verizon.net).

Baltimore -- Planned Parenthood, 330 North Howard Street, Baltimore; local coordinator: Natasha P. Wilson (410-547-5537, cell: 443-490-9715, Natasha.Wilson@archbalt.org).

Bethesda -- AbortionClinics.org, 10401 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda; prayer vigil 1:00-2:00 pm, followed by a reception at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish; contact Jill Gadwood (40DaysBethesda@gmail.com).

Catonsville -- Hillcrest abortion facility, 5602 Baltimore National Pike, Catonsville; local coordinator: Kim Frazer (410-456-9544, vigilbaltimore@gmail.com).

College Park -- Metropolitan Family Planning Clinic, 5915 Greenbelt Road, College Park; Fr. Mel Ayala (pastor, St. Nicholas Catholic Church) will lead the closing prayer service, November 4, 3:00-4:00 pm; for details contact Tom Trunk (301-513-9738, 40daysforlifemd@gmail.com).

Frederick -- Planned Parenthood, 170 Thomas Johnson Drive, Suite 100, Frederick; local coordinator: Dolores Gebus (301-695-3408, unbornlivesmatter@gmail.com).

Fullerton -- Whole Women's Health, 7648 Belair Road, Baltimore; local coordinator: Tina Baumann (443-695-0103, 40daysforlifefullerton@gmail.com).

Although the 40 Days for Life fall campaign is ending, prayer and public witness will continue at a number of locations. In particular, a prayer vigil will continue every Monday from 9:00-11:00 am near LeRoy Carhart's clinic in Bethesda. For further information, contact Dick Retta at dickretta61@verizon.net.

Legislative Alerts: 1. Abortion

In the next session of the Maryland General Assembly, there likely will be a heavily-funded media campaign against both the beginning and end of life. House Speaker Michael Busch plans to introduce a referendum to amend the Maryland Constitution providing abortion on demand at any stage of pregnancy. If passed, it would go to the voters on the 2020 ballot. (In 1991, there was a state referendum vote on abortion on the ballot and it passed by 61%, making Maryland as one of the most liberal states regarding the regulation of abortion.) If the Constitution is amended, then even if the Supreme Court overturns *Roe v. Wade*, abortion would be legal in Maryland and no state legislation could prohibit it.

2. Physician Assisted Suicide

In the 2019 legislative session, a bill to legalize Physician Assisted Suicide (PAS) will likely be introduced. This will be the fourth year that such legislation will have been considered, being defeated the first three times. An organization, called *The Dignity Mandate*, has recently been formed in Maryland to educate the public about the dangers of legalizing this practice. A 30-minute video, "Shining the Light on Physician

Assisted Suicide,” which includes interviews with medical professionals, disability rights advocates, and chronically-ill patients, has been created. It can be viewed at thedignitymandate.org/documentary.

The video has been shown in several Catholic parishes, and is scheduled to be shown at Our Lady of the Fields Catholic Church (1070 Cecil Avenue, Millersville) on November 28; a Q&A will follow the presentation. It also will be discussed on a forthcoming segment of EWTN’s weekly pro-life show. Councils may wish to consider sponsoring the video as a parish event. For more information, contact Laura Jones at 410-224-4807 or tomhj@prodigy.net.

3. Fetal Homicide

Laura Wallen, a Howard County teacher, was murdered in September 2017. She was 14 weeks pregnant with her son, Reid. Since Maryland law requires that a fetus be viable -- about 23 weeks gestation -- in order for the killing to be considered homicide, no charge was made in the infant’s death. A bill titled “Laura and Reid’s Law” that would do away with the viability requirement in murder or manslaughter cases was introduced into the last session of the General Assembly, but did not pass. It is expected to be reintroduced in January.

The General Assembly will convene for its annual session of 90 days beginning on January 9, 2019. To keep abreast of the legislation, sign up for the Maryland Catholic Conference’s Catholic Advocacy Network at <http://www.mdccathcon.org/joincan> and follow Maryland Right to Life at www.mdrtl.org.

Clarification: Baltimore Pregnancy Care Center Award

As reported in the October issue, Baltimore’s Board of Estimates voted to pay \$1.1 million to the Greater Baltimore Center for Pregnancy Concerns for the city’s violation of the Center’s First Amendment rights. The entire sum, however, simply covers the legal bills of two firms representing the Center. The Center itself will not profit from the award.

Upcoming Events

January 18, 2019 – March for Life, Washington, DC. For more information, go to <http://marchforlife.org/mfl-2019>

March 4, 2019 – Maryland March for Life, Annapolis, 4:30 pm to 9:30 pm.. For more information, go to www.mdmmarchforlife.com.

KofC Ultrasound Program

The Knights of Columbus have donated 21 ultrasound machines to pregnancy care centers in Maryland. The program needs funds to meet requests from several additional pregnancy care centers. Can your council help? For more information or to make a donation, contact Lawrence Grayson at LPGrayson@verizon.net.

Cemeteries of the Innocent

As of November 1, there are five Cemeteries of the Innocent standing in Maryland – Immaculate Heart of Mary in Lexington (St. Mary’s County), Jesus the Divine Word in Huntingtown (Calvert County), Holy Ghost Parish in Newburg (Charles County), St. John Francis Regis Parish in Hollywood (St. Mary’s County), and Immanuel Lutheran Church in Easton (Talbot County). To date, there have been nine cemeteries erected this year and 328 since the program began in 2004. For more information or schedule an installation, contact Jim McFillin at jimmcfillin@cs.com.

“Don’t lose heart. Today’s defeat is training for the final victory.” – St. Josemaria Escriva

Lawrence P. Grayson
Editor, Pro-Life News
LPGrayson@verizon.net

Roger Donnelly
State Director, Life Activities
rd5472@verizon.net