



March 2019

Pro-Life News

Maryland State Council
Knights of Columbus



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Physician Assisted Suicide Approved by Committees

On March 1, the End of Life Option Act (Richard E. Israel and Roger “Pip” Moyer Act) was passed after extensive debate, at a joint session of the Health and Government Operations and the Judiciary Committees of the House of Delegates. It is expected to go to the full House for a vote very soon. The Senate must then vote on the bill, and a conference committee would settle any differences that may arise between the two chambers. The unified bill would then go to the governor for signature. If he vetoes it, a three-fifths vote of each chamber is necessary to override the veto. Your voice is needed to defeat this measure. Keep abreast of what is happening and what you can do through the Catholic Advocacy Network at www.mdccatholic.org/joincan and Maryland Right to Life at www.mdrtl.org.

A Temporary Victory

On February 8, Maryland House of Delegates Speaker Michael Busch introduced legislation that would put to the voters in 2020 a proposed amendment to Maryland's constitution that would enshrine a woman's "right" to an abortion. There was strong and immediate opposition, and on February 23, he withdrew the bill. Busch, however, said he would reintroduce the bill next year.

Maryland March for Life

The Maryland March for Life will take place on March 4 in Annapolis. It begins at St. Mary's parish at 109 Duke of Gloucester St. A Youth Rally will be held at 4:30 pm, followed by a simultaneous Catholic Mass and Protestant Prayer Service at 5:15 pm. The March to Lawyer's Mall will start at 6:30 pm, with the Rally at 7:00 pm. A complimentary Chick-fil-A dinner will then be available at St. Mary's parish school. For more information, go to www.marylandmarchforlife.com.

Maryland My Maryland

Maryland is one of only three states that does not require that abortion providers report any information about the abortions they provide to the federal Center for Disease Control or to the state health department. The last time that Maryland voluntarily reported, more than a decade ago, it had the *third highest abortion rate in the country*. The only organization that currently gathers abortion statistics for Maryland is the Guttmacher Institute, formerly the research arm of Planned Parenthood, which surveys abortion providers. According to their estimated data, 28,410 children were aborted in Maryland in 2014 – that is, 78 every single day year-round. Maryland is attractive for abortionists because the only restriction on abortion is that the parent of a minor must be notified before an abortion is performed, although this can be waived by the abortionist. For more information, go to <https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/state-facts-about-abortion-maryland>.

40 Days for Life Spring Campaign

The spring campaign of 40 Days for Life will run from March 6 (Ash Wednesday) to April 14 (Palm Sunday), from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm daily. There will be five locations where vigils will be held in Maryland:

Annapolis – Vigil is held on the public sidewalk in front of (West St.) and behind (Smithville Rd.) the Planned Parenthood building (929 West Street, Annapolis). Local coordinator: Maureen Freeman, mfj3473@aol.com, 954-257-7530.

Bethesda -- Carhart's AbortionClinics.org, 10401 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. Local Coordinator: Jill Gadwood, 40DaysBethesda@gmail.com

Catonsville -- Hillcrest abortion facility, 5602 Baltimore National Pike, Catonsville. Local Coordinator: Kim Frazer, vigilbaltimore@gmail.com, 410-456-9544. Upcoming events: March 9, 9-10:30 am, Meet and Greet on sidewalk outside Hillcrest, children welcome, refreshments served;

College Park -- Metropolitan Family Planning Clinic, 5915 Greenbelt Road, College Park – 6:00 am to 10:00 pm daily. March 2 at 10 am-12:30 pm, Kickoff Rally at Sacred Heart Church (16501 Annapolis Rd., Bowie), Jennifer Brinker of Bowie-Crofton Pregnancy Clinic is keynote speaker. Local coordinator: Thomas Trunk, 40DaysforLifeMD@gmail.com, 240-593-6982.

Fullerton – Vigil on sidewalk along 7600-7700 Belair Road in front of the Belair Beltway Plaza, outside of Whole Women's Health 7648 Belair Road, Baltimore. Local coordinator: Tina B., 40DaysforLifeFullerton@gmail.com, 443-695-0103

Maryland Abortion Facilities and Pregnancy Care Centers

As of December 31, 2018, there were 697 surgical and/or chemical abortion facilities in the United States. Of these, 22 are located in Maryland, and an additional 4 in Washington, DC. All Maryland facilities provide surgical abortions, and most are located on the Baltimore-Washington DC axis. Of the 22 clinics in Maryland, 17 are independent facilities and 5 are operated by Planned Parenthood. In contrast, there are 44 pregnancy care centers in the state, 32 of which have ultrasound capabilities. More pregnancy care centers are in process of being opened and will be provided with ultrasound machines.

Upcoming Events

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

March 16, 9 am-3 pm, Respect Life Day of Recollection, St.Paul Catholic Church, Baltimore, Msgr. James Farmer is Mass celebrant and homilist, Fr. Alban Baker is main speaker; registraion of \$15 includes breakfast and lunch; for more information contact Kim Frazer at 410-456-9544 or email vigilbaltimore@gmail.com.

March 28 -- Free showing of *Unplanned* (see www.unplannedfilm.com) at a movie theater in or near Columbia, about 7 pm; call Kim Frazer at 410-456-9544 or email vigilbaltimore@gmail.com with your name, phone, and ticket count, and obtain location.

May 10 – Maryland Right to Life Foundation Banquet and Silent Auction, Hotel Annapolis (126 West Street, Annapolis), auction 6-7 pm, dinner at 7 pm, guest speaker is Scott Klusendorf, tickets \$75 per person, for more information and reservations, contact Julie at julie@mdrtl.org.

KofC Ultrasound Program

Currently, there are 32 pregnancy care centers in Maryland that have ultrasound machines. Of these, 21 units were donated by the KofC, and two more machines are expected to be donated later this month. In addition, several councils are working with other PCCs to raise funds and prepare applications to receive ultrasound units. The State Council will respond. The program, however, needs additional funds to meet all requests. Can your council help? For more information or to make a donation, contact Lawrence Grayson at LPGrayson@verizon.net.

“The greatest sin is to lose the sense of sin” – Pope Pius XI

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