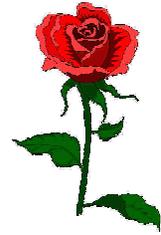




May 2018

# Pro-Life News

Maryland State Council  
Knights of Columbus



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## 40 Days for Life

The Spring 2018 campaign for 40 Days for Life is over, and it produced continued positive results. In the summer of 2004, four young people gathered in a small room to pray for guidance on how they should oppose a Planned Parenthood clinic that was operating in the university-town of College Station, Texas. The answer was fast and pray for 40 days outside of the clinic. And so, the now semi-annual prayer-filled events was begun. In these 14 years, 5,605 total campaigns have been conducted in 769 cities in 50 countries, with some 750,000 individuals participating. But success is more than activities. The movement has saved 14,643 children from abortion, closed 96 abortion facilities and convinced 177 abortion workers to quit the industry. God is truly at work. Will you help in the fall campaign?

## Witnessing in Bethesda

Praying outside of LeRoy Carhart's abortion facility in the Medical Building at the Wildwood Shopping Center in Bethesda is a year-round effort, regardless of the weather. A group assembles every Monday from 9:00 to 11:00 AM. There also is a group gathering for prayer on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM, and on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 AM. For more information, contact Jill Perry at 301-924-3838, x204 or 240-907-9653, or Missy Smith at 202-288-4984. For continuing updates, check [PrayforBethesda.com](http://PrayforBethesda.com).

## Learn to be a Sidewalk Counselor

You can save a baby's life and a pregnant mother from the horrors of abortion through effective counseling and prayers. Dick Retta, who has been a sidewalk counselor for 18 years at abortion facilities such as Planned Parenthood clinics, the Germantown and Bethesda locations of Leroy Carhart, and in Hagerstown, is offering a free training session on how to be an effective counselor. It will be held on Saturday, May 12, from 2:00 to 4:30 pm, at Capitol Hill Pregnancy Center (713 Maryland Ave NE, Washington DC). To attend, simply RSVP to either Missy Smith (202-288-4984) or Dick Retta (301-538-2500).

## The Abortion Battle Lines in Maryland

Last year, 34,290 abortions were conducted in Maryland, giving it the fifth highest abortion rate (per 1,000 women aged 15-44) in the nation. Further, the state laws are so permissive that they allow a child to be killed in the womb to the moment before birth. These deaths occur at 16 facilities operated by independent abortionists, five Planned Parenthood sites and at several hospitals. In addition, Planned Parenthood has four centers that refer women for abortions, most likely to other Planned Parenthood sites. Most of the abortionists are located along the Baltimore-Washington, DC axis.

The efforts to convince abortion-minded women to choose life primarily occur at pregnancy care centers, especially at those centers that provide ultrasounds (also called sonograms) to show the expectant woman her own child in the womb. At present, there are 42 of the care centers in the state, 29 of which offer ultrasounds. The other centers provide counseling and material aid. There is at least one care center located in Baltimore City and in 19 of the 23 counties in the state. Only Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Somerset counties do not have care centers; they have small populations and do not have abortionists operating within their jurisdictions. Of the 42 pregnancy care centers, 22 are known to operate according to Christian principles, 5 of which are Catholic.

## KofC Ultrasound Program

The Knights of Columbus is the largest donor of ultrasound machines in the nation. To date, the Knights of Columbus, under its ultrasound program, has donated 829 ultrasound machines to centers in all 50 states and Canada. In Maryland, the State Council has donated 20 machines to pregnancy care centers throughout the state and a few more applications are in process.

For each machine, the State Council contributes about \$25,000 that is matched by funds from the Knights of Columbus Supreme Headquarters. The program needs funds. Several councils and districts are planning to hold or have held fundraisers specifically for the Ultrasound Project. Can your council do the same? For more information or to make a donation, contact PSD Richard Siejack at [RVSiejack@aol.com](mailto:RVSiejack@aol.com).

## Results of Maryland Legislative Session

There were six bills dealing with pro-life issues that came before the Maryland General Assembly in the last session which ended on April 9. Only one was passed by both the Senate and House and signed into law by the Governor. That was the *Child Conceived Without Consent-Termination of Parental Rights Act* (also referred to as *Rape Survivor Family Protection Act*). The law removes paternity rights from any father whose child was conceived due to his act of rape.

The other five bills did not get through the legislative process. They are 1) *Pregnant Inmates-Medical Care Act*, which would have allowed abortion for prisoners; 2) *Abortions-Viability Act*, which would have defined viability to begin at 24-weeks of gestation; 3) *Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act*, which would have prohibited abortions 24 weeks after fertilizations; 4) *Unborn Child Protection From Dismemberment Abortion Act of 2018*, which would have prohibited dismemberment abortions; and 5) *Abortions Sought by Minors - Parental Consent Act*. For more information, check [www.mdrtl.org/legislation.html](http://www.mdrtl.org/legislation.html)

## Fun and Fellowship at Maryland Right to Life Banquet

Maryland Right to Life will hold its 8<sup>th</sup> annual Spring Banquet on Thursday, May 10, at Martin's West in Windsor Mill, MD. Join in an evening of fun and fellowship to support Maryland's only single-issue pro-life group working to create and support life-affirming legislation in the state capital. There will be cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, buffet dinner, silent auction, raffles, live music and surprise visits from special guests and Maryland lawmakers. The keynote speaker is Dr. Alveda King, niece of Martin Luther King, Jr., who is a pro-life activist, author, former state representative, and voice for the Silent No More Awareness Campaign. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to [www.mdrtlbanquet.org](http://www.mdrtlbanquet.org) or call 410-269-6397.

## Prayers Needed

Action without prayers will not be effective. Will your council or church host a pro-life Mass? The State Council is available to help with publicity, suggestions, and after-Mass speakers. Even if you do not need help, let us know of your activity. For more information, contact Mike Furst at [mfurst1@yahoo.com](mailto:mfurst1@yahoo.com).

## Cemeteries of the Innocents

As of May 1, there is no Cemetery of the Innocents standing. To schedule an installation, contact Jim McFillin at [jimmcfillin@cs.com](mailto:jimmcfillin@cs.com).

**Cemetery of the Innocents Scorecard: Number Installed in 2018 – 3 Since 2004 – 322**

*“Silence in the face of evil is itself evil”* – Dietrich Bonhoeffer