



# DEFEND LIFE

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## CRS rep helped MEDiCAM write pro-abortion paper

### CRS's work with pro-abortion agencies questioned by online media

A Catholic Relief Services employee representing CRS as a member of MEDiCAM, an umbrella group for health-related charitable agencies working in Cambodia, helped write and edit MEDiCAM's 2011 Position Paper, which unequivocally supports abortion.

Dr. Sok Pun, a program manager for CRS, is listed in the Position Paper as one of eight people by whom the document was "written, consolidated and edited."

The Position Paper also gives "special thanks" to Dr. Pun and six others "who were all actively involved in the debate and comments to make the position paper a final document."

Under "Recommendations on Reproductive Maternal Newborn and Child Health," the document calls for:

- Expansion of awareness-raising on the abortion law, making people understand that abortion is not illegal, so they can access safer places for induced abortion.
- Expansion and improvement of training on abortion skills to health care providers.
- Recognition that unsafe abortion is clearly the area that requires more studies, more interventions and more support.



**Page 1 of MEDiCAM Position Paper 2011 lists Catholic Relief Services' Dr. Sok Pun as one of eight members by whom the paper was "written, consolidated and edited."**

- Health NGOs [nongovernmental organizations] would also like to jointly appeal to both development partners and the government for continued support for family planning commodities. Several studies have proved that IUD, implants, and other long-term birth spacing methods are cost-effective.

The Position Paper declares that its statements "represent the voice and perspective of the Health NGOs that are under the MEDiCAM umbrella."

When asked by *Defend Life* to comment on Dr. Sok Pun's involvement in writing the document, CRS Communications Director John Rivera referred *Defend Life* to CRS's August 16 press release, "CRS Re-

sponds to Allegations About MEDiCAM.”

The release states, in part, “CRS is one of several Catholic organizations that are members of MEDiCAM, including local Church agencies and religious institutes. Almost anyone active in the health field in Cambodia belongs. Our critical work there would be hampered if we did not belong....

“CRS staff who participate in these associations acknowledge our differences, air our disagreements on these issues, and contribute our Catholic voice to the conversation. As a member of such associations, we are able to represent the Catholic positions on health care as well as highlight our work and demonstrate the efficacy of such approaches....

“MEDiCAM Group offers us an opportunity to improve the quality of our programming so families in Cambodia can live and thrive.”

The press release did not address Dr. Pun’s involvement in the writing of the Position Paper.

### **CRS under fire**

Catholic Relief Services, the international relief and development agency of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has come under criticism after recent reports by online news media that it has given funding and other support for overseas charities that provide contraceptives and support abortion.

CRS first came under fire with a July 17 report by Life Site News that the agency gave a \$5.3 million grant in 2010 to CARE, an international relief and development organization that promotes and provides contraception for women in developing countries.

Although CARE claims that it does not fund, support or perform abortions, it acknowledges that it “partners” with Marie Stopes International, a major abortion provider.

CARE also advocates for “safe” abortion legislation and funding.

In “A Request for President Obama,” posted on its website on January 22, 2009, CARE’s Christy Burns called on Obama to rescind the Mexico City Policy, which denied funding to agencies providing abortion.

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## **CRS said it acted only as a “pass-through” for federal funding when it gave \$5.3 million to pro-abortion CARE.**

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Responding on July 20 to questions by Life Site News, CRS Communications Director John Rivera said that CRS doesn’t so much give the money to the organization as act as a “pass-through” for federal funding to such groups.

“We do not fund, support, or participate in any programming or advocacy that is not in line with Church teaching, including artificial birth control,” said Rivera.

He noted that CRS reviewed concerns over the CARE funding last year, along with Dr. John Haas of the National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC).

Their review concluded that none of the funding from CRS was fungible: “That is, there is little to no risk of the grant funds being used either (i) for purposes outside those listed in the grant request or (ii) for freeing up money in the receiving

organization for immoral purposes by virtue of their having received the grant from CRS.”

The \$5.3 million grant was used by CARE for water and sanitation programs in four Central American countries, for food and nutrition programs, as well as water and sanitation in Madagascar, and for food and nutrition programs in Zimbabwe, said Rivera.

NCBC’s Dr. Haas, however, had warned CRS: “In my opinion because CARE is so well-known and so high profile and because the advocacy of abortion has been so strong and public and in such opposition to the position of the bishops, scandal would be unavoidable.”

### **Member of CORE Group**

Life Site News followed up with an August 1 editorial reporting that CRS is a dues-paying member of the CORE Group, an agency that claims “to foster collaborative action” among its member agencies to improve public health for the world’s poor.

The CORE Group is a major advocate for contraceptive birth control.

The agency spent \$83,499 on “family planning” and \$567,734 on Maternal and Child Health (MCH), according to its 2011 annual report.

The MCH program calls for increasing the use of various contraceptives among women of childbearing age by 25 percent in two years.

CRS apparently pays \$3,000 in annual membership fees, according to CORE’s dues scale.

CRS is represented on CORE Group’s Board of Directors by employee Mary Hennigan.

**See CRS, page 8**

# Va. Del. Marshall blasts O'Malley's same-sex 'marriage' law

By Ellen Staniszewski

*With Maryland voters set to vote in referendum on the state's new law legitimizing same-sex "marriage," Virginia State Delegate Bob Marshall, the author of Virginia's Marriage Amendment upholding traditional marriage, has challenged Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley to a debate on same-sex "marriage."*

*The following is an interview of Delegate Marshall by Defend Life.*

**Defend Life:** Governor O'Malley supports "gay marriage." What's your take on that?

**Marshall:** Governor O'Malley supported the introduction in the 2012 General Assembly of HB 438 which he says provides for "equality of marital rights under law."

His bill, which Marylanders will have a chance to vote on this November, states, "Only a marriage between two individuals who are not otherwise prohibited from marrying is valid in this State." His bill removes between "a man and a woman" from Maryland's law books.

Maryland law now assumes and always assumed that marriage is a union between one man and one woman. The burden of proof on changing the definition and understanding of marriage rests with the Governor.

**Defend Life:** What assumptions has the law traditionally made about marriage?

**Marshall:** Marriage existed and exists in both Christian and non-Christian countries. Twenty centuries ago Roman civil law defined marriage as "The natural law is that which nature has taught...to mankind.... From this comes the union



**Governor Martin O'Malley won't defend his same-sex 'marriage' law in public forums where people can ask him 'hard questions,' says Bob Marshall.**

of a man and a woman that we call matrimony, and the procreation and rearing of children...an association for the whole of life in which the two share the same civil and religious rights." (P. Reynolds, *Marriage in the Western Church*, p. 8)

Religious groups and legislatures have added requirements such as age and who may marry, or how such consent is manifested, but none of these alters the underlying definition of marriage. But Governor O'Malley wants to change this millennia-old definition for the rest of us.

Catholics hold that marriage is a sacrament which originated from the design of the Creator and is recorded in Genesis, and that the definition of marriage, because it is from nature, cannot change.

Moreover, same-sex "marriage" was clearly rejected by Christ, who defined marriage as follows: "But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' For this

reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one flesh." (Mark 10:6-8)

**Defend Life:** Governor O'Malley says "gay marriage" is good for children.

**Marshall:** At the March 2012 same-sex "marriage" bill signing he said, "all of us... want...our children to live in a loving, stable, committed home protected equally under the law." He assumes that same-sex "married" couples provide the same background and social outcome for children.

But the most recent and authoritative social science research disputes O'Malley's assumption that children of same-sex couples display equal outcomes or even have advantages over children of married, heterosexual couples.

Marriage is a special kind of love between men and women so children can have both mothers and fathers. Everyone knows by experience that a mom and a dad are necessary for the existence and optimum raising and nurturing of children. Saying that either mothers or fathers are not necessary for children defies natural reason and human experience.

**Defend Life:** So how do same-sex couples have children?

**Marshall:** First, some individuals with same-sex attractions were previously married to persons of the complementary sex and had children from the marriage. Homosexual couples also adopt children (in some jurisdictions). Lastly, children of homosexual couples may originate from in-vitro fertilization.

Because never-married homosexual couples will largely have to

rely on IVF for children, Marylanders who support Governor O'Malley's proposal will place such children at higher risk for birth problems.

Infants conceived through IVF are at increased risk for short- and long-term disabilities and death.

**Defend Life:** What claims do same-sex parent advocates make?

**Marshall:** Supporters of same-sex "marriage" claim no harm, or even benefits, for children raised by same-sex couples. But research that supports these conclusions is based on sample sizes that are too small to generalize, or are simply self-selected anecdotal responses.

**Defend Life:** What does social science research say about the effects of same-sex parenting?

**Marshall:** Professor Mark Regnerus of the University of Texas conducted surveys of young adults aged 18-39 for social outcomes of children raised in families in three different settings—lesbian, homosexual, or heterosexual married parents—which produced large enough sample sizes to dispute Governor O'Malley's assumption.

The New Family Structures Study project collected data from 15,000 children of lesbian mothers, homosexual fathers and heterosexual married couples who were screened for participation, allowing for statistically relevant measurements.

He found that children of lesbian mothers or homosexual fathers, contrasted to children raised by their heterosexual married biological parents, receive welfare more often, have less education, believe themselves to be less safe or secure in their family, have more negative impacts, suffer from depression, were arrested more often, and if female, had more male and female sexual partners.

With such evidence, Governor O'Malley would have a hard time

proving that same-sex "marriage" will produce "a loving, stable, committed home protected equally under the law."

**Defend Life:** Governor O'Malley says his same-sex "marriage" law protects religious freedom. Is that so?

**Marshall:** No. His law undermines religious freedom. O'Malley has said that other states have found ways to protect religious freedom and marriage equality and Maryland can do the same. Let's look at the facts.

Illinois passed same-sex civil unions in 2011, Massachusetts approved same-sex "marriage" by court

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### **'The burden of proof on changing the definition of marriage rests with the Governor.'**

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action in 2003, and the Washington, D.C., City Council approved same-sex "marriage" in 2010.

Facing equal rights and treatment claims from homosexual rights proponents, Catholic bishops in Massachusetts, Illinois and Washington, D.C., have closed their Catholic Charities adoption agencies because they declined to place children with same-sex couples as required by equal treatment laws. Forcing religious adoption agencies to reject their faith or close is not practicing religious freedom.

**Defend Life:** Then is the Governor's proposed law a threat to religious freedom?

**Marshall:** Yes. He said it "would not be right to force religious institutions to conduct marriages that conflict with their own religious beliefs and teachings."

But Governor O'Malley cannot prevent his statute from being used

as a springboard for further legal efforts to penalize churches for denying same-sex "marriage." In some states photographers and bakeries opposed to furnishing services for same-sex "marriages" have been sued and penalized for refusal to enter such a contract.

**Defend Life:** O'Malley calls this a civil rights issue. Why is he doing that?

**Marshall:** Yes, O'Malley speaks in terms of "civil rights" groups supporting "marriage equality." Such descriptions give same-sex "marriage" a kind of immunity to criticism. It subtly paints defenders of real marriage as "bigots" or intolerant.

O'Malley uses civil rights rhetoric. But the behaviors sought to be legitimated by same-sex "marriage" are not rights which the Founders of America fought for or ever recognized.

In fact, such behavior was criminal for most of American history until the *Lawrence v. Texas* 2003 Supreme Court decision, and still produces significant increases in medical expenditures (including tax-paid), and a higher than average number of incurable diseases and early deaths.

**Defend Life:** You are the author of the 2006 voter-approved Marriage Amendment to Virginia's Constitution. What did you do to get that passed?

**Marshall:** Well, I debated opponents to my Marriage Amendment either singly or on panels all around Virginia at colleges, law schools, on radio talk shows and other public venues starting right after the Assembly put the measure on the ballot in the spring of 2006.

I don't think Governor O'Malley is prepared to debate the issue in public. Yes, he has attended private fund

# Pro-life activist recalls his days as an abortionist

Haywood Robinson was a bright young man on his way up.

Born and raised in inner city Los Angeles, California, Haywood had wanted to be a doctor since he was 4 or 5 years old.

After high school graduation, he received his B.S. degree at California Institute of Technology, his medical degree at University of California at Irvine.

Finally came family practice residency.

"I trained at Martin Luther King hospital in South Central Los Angeles, the same community in which I grew up," Dr. Robinson told his audience at a Defend Life-sponsored talk in Ellicott City September 14.

It was there that he learned how to do first trimester abortions as part of his training.

"It's the same procedure that is done for miscarriages, but in MLK hospital they *were* doing abortions," he explained.

His embryology textbook told him that life begins at conception.

"How is it that that simple truth can be ignored by doctors? I can't give you an answer," said Robinson.

But there was absolutely no discussion about the ethics and morality of abortion in medical school or residency.

There was also the go-along-to-get-along, don't rock the boat mentality experienced by the young residents.

"When you're an intern in an educational program and you're low man on the totem pole and your supervisors are doing it, it seems okay," he recalled.

"You tend to think, 'I can get over this. I don't want to mess up my evaluation. I want to be popular, I want to be included in the group.'"

Robinson was aware that on "abortion day" he could opt out and go to work in another clinic, he admitted.

"There were two ob/gyn residents



**Dr. Haywood Robinson went from 'moonlighting' to make extra money doing abortions to going to jail for blocking abortion clinics.**

who did. One of them said, 'I'm not going to go down there and kill those babies!' And I kind of said to myself, 'Well, that's a pretty harsh thing to say!'"

On his first day of abortion training, he said, "You've got your esteemed attending physician there, who's your mentor, you've got your chief resident, and zip, zip, zip, it's done. And the next day, it's going to be your turn."

On his training team doing abortions, a young ob/gyn resident named Noreen Johnson, who was more advanced in the procedure, "basically taught me how to do them," he recalled.

Noreen would eventually become his wife.

In the meantime, Robinson con-

tinued his training. In one room, he would assist in delivering babies.

"There is no more joyous event, even for the physician, than to deliver that baby, show the parents that baby!" he exclaimed.

"It's a supernatural event—40 weeks after a sperm and ovum meet, a new human being is born!"

"Walk down the hall on the same floor, same hospital—that's where we would do abortions—same doctors, same hands."

When you have that kind of capability in your hands, you become like a god, said Robinson: you can give life, you can take life. That type of schizophrenia leads to a desensitization, a dehumanization.

"You think, I'm a nice person, I dress nice, I give to the United Way. People like me!"

Now, Haywood and Noreen had a very marketable skill.

To earn extra money, like many of the doctors at the hospital, they began "moonlighting," doing abortions at clinics on Saturdays and some weekday evenings.

It was "easy" money—all cash, no insurance, no Medicaid.

"We'd scuttle down to the clinic—we'd call ahead first—'How many you got set up?' 'Oh, six.' Six times—our cut at that time was about \$300—and we'd go 6 times \$300—ka-ching, ka-ching!"

"I hate to say it, but that's all we were thinking. We didn't give a darn about those women."

Robinson would enter by a side door.

"You want to enter and leave as fast as possible. It's not a happy place."

The only time that he would interact with a patient was when he came

into the exam room and the woman was lying on the table, staring at the ceiling.

"You walk in, you say 'Hello,' you don't make any eye contact—you don't want to connect with the patient.

"You know why you don't give eye contact? Because you know so many of those women are hoping at the last minute, someone is going to say, 'Do you really want to do this?' A lot of women are being coerced or pressured and they're hoping, will somebody in this place, the receptionist or the nurse, be my ally?"

"You get the lady in the stirrups, you give anesthesia, you dilate the cervix, you turn on the suction. In about seven minutes, you've done your job; you turn your back on that patient and walk out of the exam room.

"It's a dirty, rotten way to do medicine," he concluded.

Haywood and Noreen were married in 1981, and moved to College Station, Texas, deep in the heart of the Bible Belt. That spring or summer was the last time he ever did an abortion.

When they arrived in College Station—they were the first black

doctors ever in that town—"This doctor in the town sat us down and drawled, 'Now, you all don't plan to do any abortions, do you? Because we don't *tolerate* abortions heah.'"

Robinson had gone to church all his life, but the church he went to was more of a social group, with little Gospel or moral teaching.

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### **At the blockade, the spiritual presence of the enemy is 'so palpable, you can almost cut it with a knife.'**

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His real "road to Damascus" experience came on March 2, 1986, when he went to a contemporary Christian music concert featuring singer Leon Patillo.

"During the intermission, Leon said, 'I'm not going to give an altar call, but I want everyone who wants things to be one hundred percent right with God to stand up.'"

"Literally, the Holy Spirit snatched me up, and I'm standing!" said Robinson.

Patillo prayed a "sinner's prayer."

When Robinson got home, he knew something was different, but he didn't know what it was.

A friend from medical school, a dedicated Christian, had been praying for him. The friend helped him to become a true Christian.

Noreen's conversion soon followed. They have been deeply involved in pro-life work for the last 26 years.

Dr. Robinson calls College Station "Ground Zero" in the pro-life movement: "Planned Parenthood says we're the most anti-choice place in the nation," he noted proudly.

He has been active in:

- Brazos Valley Coalition for Life, begun in response to Planned Parenthood opening a clinic in College Station.
- LEARN—the Life, Education and Resource Network, a pro-life group for African-Americans, who are disproportionately affected by abortion.
- 40 Days for Life. Robinson is on the Board of Directors.
- The Society of Centurions, founded by psychiatrist Dr. Philip Ney to help ex-abortion workers to heal and support one another.

Dr. Robinson also went through the "humbling experience" of going to jail for blocking an abortion clinic with Operation Rescue.

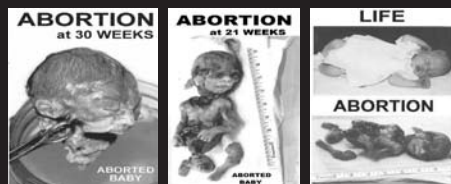
At the blockade, he said, "You sense the spiritual presence of the enemy; you're standing between Satan and his blood sacrifice. It's so palpable, you can almost cut it with a knife."

Our battle is not against flesh and blood; it is a spiritual battle, said Robinson; so we should never give up hope on converting abortionists.

"Never underestimate the power of a kind word," he advised.

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## Central committees offer key to pro-life presidential candidates

Let's assume you are a reasonably intelligent, conscientious pro-life Marylander who votes regularly and tries to stay informed on issues of importance.

Okay, what is a party central committee, what does it do, and what power does it wield?

You have no idea, right?

Welcome to the club. But pro-lifers *should* know about central committees, says Collins Bailey, because, he explains, "They have a huge leadership role in the things that are important to you and me."

Bailey, a committed pro-lifer and self-employed businessman from Charles County, Md., served 16 years on the Charles County Board of Education.

In 2008 and 2010 he ran as a Republican candidate against Fifth District Democrat Congressman Steny Hoyer.

In the process he learned a lot about the operations and importance of central committees.

For starters, Maryland's Republican and Democrat parties each have 24 local central committees, one for each of the 23 counties and one for Baltimore City.

The state's Republican Party has a total of 304 central committee positions and the Democrat Party, 292 such positions.

As most citizens are aware, Americans do not vote directly for the president; they choose the slate of electors that have been chosen for each candidate.

The candidate who gets the most votes has their electors' slate cast their votes in the Electoral College.

These central committee members, at their party's state convention, elect the 10 electors for Maryland.

If there were about 600 committed pro-life persons in the state who would offer themselves to serve on the central committees, Maryland could, in each presidential election, choose electors who would only support a presidential candidate who was 100 percent pro-life, says Bailey.

"The reason we have presidents that do not support life is because people of conviction are not on the central committees," he declares.



**Pro-lifers who join their party's local central committee can influence the selection of a pro-life presidential candidate, says Collins Bailey.**

Central committees also have a say in their party's delegates to their presidential convention.

"In Maryland, Republican voters pick 24 delegates on the ballot at large. The other 10 are picked by the central committee members," explains Bailey.

The executive committee of the party's State Central Committee (which is comprised of all central committee members) adopts the

rules as to how the delegates are to be chosen and what rules they are to follow as delegates.

The central committees also approve their respective party's platform for the state.

"It would be awesome to have a platform in both parties that would be pro-life," says Bailey. "And there's no reason for us to not have solidly committed sanctity of life people making that decision."

Central committee members serve four-year terms, and are up for election every four years at the state gubernatorial election year primary. The next election for central committee members is June 18, 2014.

When it comes to committee members influencing this year's election, "2012 is over; it's all in the Lord's hands," says Bailey; we have to set our sights on getting pro-life central committee members in place for the 2016 presidential election, and we have to start working on it now.

"It's part of human nature that we get focused too late," he observes. "This is just the right time for 2014."

One reason for starting now is that, historically, many central committee members do not finish their terms, so there are quite a few vacancies at any given time.

When such vacancies occur, the remaining committee members appoint someone to fill the vacancy.

Those who get appointed now have a better chance of getting elected in the 2014 primary, says Bailey.

Pro-lifers need to start attending the central committee meetings for their respective party in their county, and apply to fill any vacancies.

The meetings are open to the public. Most central committees

post the time and location of their meetings on the internet.

"Find out where and when it meets and just show up!" Bailey advises.

Even if there are no vacancies at the moment in your county's committee, you can learn how the committee operates, and be there and aware if any vacancies occur, he notes.

"Plus, you can get to know each member. Find out which ones are uncompromisingly pro-life – and learn the ropes for the 2014 election so you can run successfully."

Many county central committees allow the public to speak up at their meetings.

Bailey is aware of over 30 current committee vacancies.

Vacancies for Republican central committees include:

- Anne Arundel County – 1
- Baltimore City – 7
- Charles County – 1
- Dorchester County – 2
- Garrett County – 1
- Harford County – 1
- Montgomery County – 2
- Prince George's County – 5

Vacancies for Democrat central committees include:

- Cecil County – 4
- Charles County – 1
- Garrett County – 2
- Queen Anne's County – 3
- Wicomico County – 3
- Worcester County – 4

This is just a partial list, cautions Bailey; he doesn't have the current status on over two-thirds of the central committees.

"I think we've allowed the dark side to take control of the central committees because we just don't know or are not interested.

"If we want to make a difference,

we need to fill the vacancies now, and get elected in 2014."

*Collins Bailey can be contacted at collinsbailey@aol.com or phone 301-274-4116.*

## CRS, from page 2

### The MEDiCAM connection

On August 14 Shaun Kenny of RedState.com, a politically conservative website, reported that CRS is also a member of MEDiCAM, which describes itself on its website, medicam-cambodia.org, as "The membership organization for NGOs active in Cambodia's Health Sector."

As a member of MEDiCAM, CRS apparently pays \$3,000 in annual dues.

MEDiCAM lists Dr. Sok Pun of CRS as a member of its six-member steering committee.

As a steering committee member, Dr. Pun participated in a discussion on MEDiCAM's Position Paper for 2011, Kenny reported

An early draft of the paper listed "safe abortion" among its high-priority areas, stating, "Unsafe abortion continues to be a silent killer of many young women here in Cambodia."

"Folks, keep in mind that CRS is paying this organization with money YOU donate," commented Kenny.

### Government grants dominate

Catholic Relief Services, founded by the Catholic bishops as a war relief agency in 1943, is headquartered in Baltimore, Md.

Bishop Gerald Kicanas of Tucson, Arizona, is chairman of CRS, replacing Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York, in 2010.

"We are an organization of 5,000

[employees], working in nearly 100 countries and reaching more than 100 million of the world's poorest people each year with innovative solutions to tough problems like poverty, hunger, drought, disease and emergencies," CRS states on its website.

According to its annual report for fiscal year 2011, CRS received \$224 million in private support: \$10.8 million from the Catholic Relief Services collection, \$5.7 million from Operation Rice Bowl, \$55.7 million in foundation and other private grants, and \$133.5 million in private contributions.

But this private funding comprised only 28 percent of the agency's \$820.1 million budget: it was dwarfed by funding from the U.S. and other governments.

A whopping 72 percent--\$592.8 million—came from various government sources, including \$351.6 million, or 44 percent, in U.S. government grants and agreements and \$164 million in donated commodities and freight.

Other sources of public funding include the European Union, the United Nations, and 17 other governments.

CRS states on its website that "Catholic institutions are our partners of preference in our work."

But, they add, "To reach all those who need our help we also participate in a wide range of groups, such as governments, other faith communities and secular institutions.

"Although some positions and practices of these institutions are not always consistent with the full range of Catholic teaching, CRS' association with them is always and only focused on activities that are fully consistent with Catholic teaching.

"Furthermore, CRS neither facilitates, endorses nor enables any violation of those teachings."

## In My Humble Opinion

# Pro-lifers picket NARAL's chocolate gala/blood-feast

By Janet Baker

On September 15, Maryland NARAL held its annual fundraiser, an "Evening of Chocolate" gala. It was held in the Oak Room, a rental hall associated with the Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Department in Sandy Spring, Md.

As we've been doing for the past ten years or so, we went there to speak truth about the horrors that they were celebrating.

At least fourteen pro-lifers were there to greet them. Our picket line stretched from the entrance driveway to the Brooke Road/Route 108 intersection. There is a stoplight at that fairly well-traveled intersection, so all those passing by got an education as to what was going on in their neighborhood.



Quite a few of those driving by gave us "thumbs-up." Some of those going into the blood-feast raised other fingers at us—but what can be expected of those minds and sensibilities dulled by the support of baby-murder?

Since NARAL had scheduled



their debacle to begin at 8 p.m., we arrived at 7 p.m. to greet and educate/rebuke the attendees as they arrived.

Time and again we saw attendees hesitate at the driveway. It seemed that they weren't certain they arrived at the proper place. After all, they were expecting to have a good ole' time celebrating abortion, and here they were, being confronted with all those horrible pictures to poop their party!

As you can see from our sign below, we did do our best to assure the poor deluded dears that they had indeed arrived at their celebration of mortal sin.

It was quite evident that these pro-aborts simply rejected the truth of what they were doing. We re-



ceived quite a few "large fingers" and profanities. We even saw some "road-rage." One of the attendees was so upset, he zoomed at break-neck speed into the parking lot, nearly ramming another pro-abortion's vehicle (several times) during his rampage.

Apparently the NARAL staff heard enough whining and sniveling from their guests that they had to "come to the rescue."

First they told us that we were on private property. One of us pointed out the surveyor's line in the driveway that clearly delineated that we were on public right-of-way.

A few of them came out and snapped some pictures of us. I specifically requested that they include the text of our signs in their pictures to help educate them. I suppose they photographed us because we were the most interesting part of an otherwise drab and dreary evening.

Many of the guests were "fashionably late." We thought we'd be gone by 8:15, but we stayed until the last orgy-attendee arrived at 8:45.

See NARAL, page 19



DefendLife.Org

# DEFEND LIFE

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95th Anniversary of the Great Miracle of the Sun



**Dear Friend of Defend Life,**

The **PRO-LIFE** movement lost one of its great heroes the weekend of August 18-19. **Nellie Gray**, the founder of the **March for Life**, died suddenly. Nellie was so looking forward to the 40th annual March which will be held **January 25, 2013** just days after the inauguration of our next President.

***Pray that he will be a Godly man who can begin restoring America to those principles enumerated in our founding documents. These are truly perilous times for America!***

St. Mary's in Chinatown was Nellie's parish and she loved it. Her funeral Mass was a **Solemn High Latin Tridentine Mass** with black vestments rarely seen since the 1970's. Nellie Gray loved the solemnity of the Latin Tridentine Mass.



She was born in Big Spring, Texas in 1924 and served in the Women's Army Corps during WWII. After serving the America she loved, she received her bachelor's degree in business and her master's degree in economics. Moving to Washington, she worked for more than 20 years at the Department of Labor and the State Department. During this period, she attended Georgetown Law School and studied for her law degree at night.

**Then came the worst day in America's history, January 22, 1973**, when the Supreme Court issued its monumental **Roe v. Wade** decision. This decision received very little media attention because this was the same day that former **President Lyndon Johnson** died at his LBJ ranch in Texas. **LBJ** stole the headlines in death just as he had stolen so many other things including elections in life!



Shortly thereafter, Nellie was asked if her Capitol Hill home could be used as a meeting place for persons who were appalled by the **Roe v. Wade** decision and wanted to reverse it. Among others at that first meeting were the late **Archbishop of Washington, Patrick J. O'Boyle**, and the late **Monsignor William O'Donnell**, editor of the **Washington Catholic Standard**. O'Boyle called for a volunteer to lead the fight. When nobody jumped out of their chair to volunteer, the leadership acceded to Nellie who was hosting the meeting.

Not long after that, a **National Right to Life** board meeting was held. A motion was introduced by Nellie to memorialize January 22 by having an appropriate ceremony in Washington on January 22, 1974. Incredibly, **only 7 out of 51 representatives voted in favor of that motion**. Nellie then joined forces with such activists as **Dee Becker**, the Founder of the **PRO-LIFE** movement in Delaware and activists from New York such as **John Mawn**, **Bill Devlin**, and **John Short** to organize that very first March.



Beginning in 1973 until her death in 2012, Nellie spent virtually every moment organizing those annual Marches, obtaining the permits, raising the substantial funds, printing the programs, arranging for delivery of roses to each member of Congress, organizing the March for Life Convention, arranging for the Rose Banquet held immediately afterwards, and a myriad of other details. In all those years, **Nellie was a full-time volunteer and never took a cent in salary. She lived entirely from her meager pension and savings!**

The last time I spoke with Nellie was at our **June 8 Stand Up for Religious Freedom Rally** on Capitol Hill organized by **DEFEND LIFE**. Nellie commended me afterwards and said that the March for Life should have been staging similar events over the years.

My fondest memory of Nellie is this one. Way back in 1976 on a Sunday afternoon right before the Democratic National Convention that nominated the **hapless Jimmy Carter**, Nellie organized a special one-time-only March for Life in New York City. It began in **Central Park** and we marched down one of the main Avenues to **Madison Square Garden** where the DNC was about to begin. Carter had been blabbering that he was a **born again Christian**. But it was unclear where he stood on abortion. The day before I decided to make a huge **40-foot long banner** that said **Jimmy Carter – to be born again, one must first be born!** When Nellie saw that banner, she was ecstatic and insisted that our group from Northern Virginia lead the march holding that huge banner.

Pray for the immortal soul of this selfless **PRO-LIFE** warrior!



## VOTE NO — QUESTION 6 — NOVEMBER 6



**MARYLAND**  
MARRIAGE ALLIANCE

*One Man One Woman*

On November 6, Maryland voters will vote on **QUESTION 6** deciding whether to reject or accept so-called **Same-Sex Marriage**. Do not be dissuaded when you read the flowery cleverly written language that will appear on the ballot. This ballot wording makes same-sex marriage sound like apple pie and motherhood. **It's not that at all.** Simply **Vote No!** God forbid if this becomes the law in Maryland. I fear it will be like the times of **Sodom and Gomorrah** in the Old Testament with **men introducing their male partners as their wives**. Pray that good persons in **Maine, Minnesota** and **Washington State** will also reject similar referendums.

See the interview on **page 3** to become more informed on the issues. See the ad on **page 20** to see what else you can do **to defeat same-sex marriage in Maryland!**

## PRAY FOR MICHAEL SCHWARTZ



**Mike Schwartz**, one of the greatest heroes in the entire **PRO-LIFE** movement, is suffering from **ALS**, known also as **Lou Gehrig's Disease**. Please remember Mike in your prayers.

Liz Dever Walz, who has gone on to become a legend in our movement and is now the home schooling mother of seven, first heard Mike speak when she was a high school student at Sacred Heart Academy on Long Island. It was Mike Schwartz who first inspired her!

Mike has spoken for **DEFEND LIFE** on at least four occasions over the years. His talk on **Planned Parenthood** was always one of his very best.

In 1986, Mike moved to Washington working for **Paul Weyrich** at the **Committee for the Free Congress**. It was shortly after that he spoke for **DEFEND LIFE** for the very first time. Mike even co-hosted a TV program with Weyrich on National Empowerment TV. Nobody in our entire movement has a more encyclopedic knowledge, a better memory, a better understanding of networking, or is a better strategist than Mike!

Later he worked on Capitol Hill where he presently works as the **Chief of Staff** for **Doctor/Senator Tom Coburn** from Oklahoma. His job on Capitol Hill has been to come up with passable **PRO-LIFE** legislation and then orchestrate its passage.

Nobody is more self-effacing than Mike Schwartz. When first diagnosed with ALS, an MRI of his brain was taken. The radiologist had written on the film, **Nothing significant here. Nothing could have been further from the truth!**

Please pray to **Blessed John Paul the Great** for a miracle for Mike!

Long Live Christ Our King,

*Jack Ames*

Jack Ames

Director, Defend Life

Enclosure

## Pro-lifer fought for freedom in Holland, unborn babies in U.S.

By Ellen Staniszewski

During her recent visit with pro-life friends in Washington, D.C., Gerta Leland, a survivor of Nazi Germany's occupation of Holland, reflected on the loss of freedom, fear, and murder she witnessed when Germany invaded her small town.

Her story reveals how freedom can be lost almost overnight, changing lives forever.

Gerta recalled that when she was 11 years old, "I heard a terrible noise and the sky was filled with airplanes, and I saw planes exploding in the sky. Holland was supposed to be a neutral nation, but the Nazis just came in.

"Holland resisted for one week, until I heard Rotterdam being bombed in the distance. The Nazis declared that Amsterdam would be bombed next, so the Dutch surrendered.

"We were told if we would just comply and obey the Nazis, everything would continue and you could go on living. The Nazi Party already had leaders in Holland, and no one knew which neighbors were for or against our patriotic Dutch families. The patriots went underground, hiding in greenhouses. No one knew whom to trust.

"Some families caved to the Nazis to protect their families, while oth-



**After surviving the Nazi occupation of Holland in World War II, Gerta Leland joined the battle against abortion in the United States.**

ers hid Jewish families and patriots. By 1942, all the Jews were rounded up to be killed. If you were caught hiding a Jew, you would be killed.

"Almost all the young men were taken to German munitions factories to make bombs and ammunition. Our family hid up to six young men in our greenhouses, who did not want to be shipped to the munitions factories.

"The Germans would come to town yelling, 'Razzia,' German for police raid. We hid radios, people, precious metals, and anything of value from the Germans. I had to ring a bell to tell everyone to hide.

"One day I left home and rode my bike to go to where my father was hiding. While I peddled as quickly as I could, I approached the woods which had a narrow road I needed to get to (where I knew I would be less visible).

"A man suddenly came out of a house and rode his bicycle ahead of me. Bullets came suddenly as the Nazis started shooting at him, and I saw him shot to death before my eyes. I was scared, but continued to ride my bike and enter the narrow road in the woods to get to my father. I arrived there safely," she said.

After the war, Gerta's parents went to the United States. She came in 1949, to help in the family business.

Gerta, now 83, and her son, Father Thomas Leland, from St. Paul, Kansas, are both long-time fighters in the pro-life movement.

While involved in Operation Rescue and Lambs of Christ, in 1992, Gerta, her husband, and many other pro-lifers chained themselves to fences, vehicles, and even tractors to try to stop abortions.

While spending 10 days in jail for their protests, she recalled, "We united ourselves with children in the womb, to be able to face the scariness of being arrested. We made rosaries out of toilet paper, holding all-night vigils. We were anonymous, taking the names of saints."

When the pro-lifers were set free, Father Leland, a young teenager at the time, made a huge pot of soup and pies using food from their farm to welcome them home.

Gerta's pro-life friends found her tales of courage in World War II and in the abortion mill blockades in the U.S. to be an inspiration to keep up the fight to end abortion.



### CUMBERLAND HISTORIC CEMETERY ORGANIZATION

Invites you to visit our **MONUMENT TO THE UNBORN** unveiled **October 2, 2004**. *This monument was erected to honor all babies killed by abortion in America since 1973.*

#### CONTACT US AT

534 A Street, LaVale, MD 21502

301-722-4624

[www.chco-online.org](http://www.chco-online.org)

Edward W. Taylor, Jr., President

#### MONUMENT LOCATION

Davis Memorial Park

14300 Uhl Highway, S.E.

Cumberland, MD 21502



# Harford County RTL helps fair goers ‘face the truth’

**By Bob Brown, President  
Harford County Right to Life**

Did you know that Harford County Right to Life (HCRTL) has its own “face the truth” tour—complete with lifelike renditions of pre-born babies—every July?

But instead of driving hundreds of miles to 15 stops in different states—as the faithful Defend Life “Truth Tour-ists” do every summer—HCRTL parks at an open-air table under a tent at the county fairgrounds in Bel Air, welcoming the foot traffic that comes to us.

From 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday during July’s final weekend, HCRTL gathers signatures for petitions (which are eventually handed over to Maryland’s state legislators); distributes brochures on Maryland’s abortion laws, and tracts with titles like “Black Genocide” and “Conceived in Rape”; and shows off our life-size and true-weight preborn baby models.

We also give away thousands of goodies (which were paid for by monetary donations to HCRTL, *hint hint*): balloons, bumper stickers, bracelets, rings, 12-week baby models, Precious Feet pins, and more—all emblazoned with various right to life slogans.

It doesn’t take a picture of an aborted baby to raise the ire of a passer-by. At the Maryland Right to Life booth, which has a set-up similar to HCRTL’s, at the state fairgrounds in Timonium, on a number of occasions someone has walked up to the petition clipboard and written “F--- You” on it. (To which I always reply, “Thanks, Mr. You. But you’ll *also* need to provide your home ad-

dress if your signature is going to count.”)

Such an uncivil greeting has not occurred in my ten years at the Harford County Fair, but the in-your-face rejections take on other forms.

More times than I can recall, a parent (almost always a mother) plants herself with her back to us, directly in front of our table in a defensive position to shield her children from our—balloons, I guess.

She might even call out to her kids, loudly enough to (try to) embarrass us in front of other visitors and

manner as the mothers mentioned before. Other counselors don’t care what the kids do, and a few counselors bring kids right up to the table and do my job for me.

This year, one of the counselors went through the bags of all of her kids, removed every pro-life goody that they had accumulated, and dumped them all back on our table in a big, public spectacle.

I smiled and politely said, “Thank you,” working very hard not to add, “So, I guess this means that you’re not interested in signing the petition?”

The biggest draw at our table is and always has been the set of life-size and true-weight preborn baby models of eight different ages, from 7 weeks to 30 weeks, that we display.

Literally, thousands of people pick up the babies at our table at every fair. Young children don’t need an invitation, yelling “Babies!” with glee and running over to our table.

Teenage girls always stop in their tracks and stare curiously but hesitantly, pondering whether or not it would be a good idea to pick up the babies. Most do.

Even many boys like to pick up the babies, sometimes handling them like footballs, but also, to my surprise and delight, often cradling them gently.

For the record, I don’t give the sex talk to toddlers walking by. If a child asks why we have “baby dolls” at our table, I simply explain, “We are here to teach people that babies who are inside their mother’s tummies are people too and in need of love and protection.”

You would think that most adults

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## It doesn’t take a picture of an aborted baby to raise the ire of a passer-by.

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vendors, “Ew, don’t look at this!”

Whether she’s post-abortive, or maintains a different political or worldview, or believes that I’m going to snatch her children out of the stroller and give them the sex talk, I don’t try to speculate. I simply offer a silent prayer that God would extend mercy to her and her family and that her kids would learn the truth about abortion before it’s too late.

This year, there was a reaction that I had not experienced before. As happens every summer, Thursdays and Fridays are filled with hundreds of elementary- and middle school-aged kids, dressed in highly identifiable, brightly colored shirts, who are attending area summer camps.

Some of the high school- and college-aged camp counselors position themselves between the HCRTL table and their charges in the same

# Organ donation: refusal may save your life

By Julie Grimstad

The impulse to “give the gift of life” is noble, but it is unwise to make this vitally important decision without the accurate and complete information necessary for **informed consent**, the ethical cornerstone of medical decision making.

## Did you know...?

The hearts of “brain dead” people are beating; their lungs, aided by ventilators, continue to carry out respiration; their digestive systems continue to digest food and excrete waste; their wounds heal.

They have a normal color and their temperature is controlled by the thermostat in the brain. They are very different from a corpse in appearance and in fact.

The main problem with organ donation from “brain dead” people is that if such donors are alive—there is good reason to believe they are—removing unpaired vital organs (heart, liver) or both paired vital organs (both lungs or both kidneys) kills the patient.

Numerous reports about people recovering consciousness after firm diagnoses of “brain death” are evidence that a declaration of “brain death” does not mean the person is *certainly* dead.

Ponder Zack Dunlap’s case. In November of 2007, this 21-year-old Oklahoman flipped over on his 4-wheeler and sustained catastrophic brain injuries. Thirty-six hours later, doctors declared him “brain dead.”

Preparations to harvest his organs were halted when Zack’s cousin, a nurse, scraped his foot with a pocket knife and Zack jerked his foot away. Zack recalls hearing the doctor pronounce him dead and being “mad inside” but unable to move. He is now talking and walking.

## Some organ donors are not declared “brain dead.”

The high demand for healthy organs has led to new rules permitting “donation after cardiac death” (DCD). DCD donors are patients on ventilators who are termed “hopeless” in terms of life-expectancy or “quality of life.”

DCD protocols allow patients who have not been declared “brain dead” and perhaps are not even brain-injured, such as patients with spinal cord injuries, to be organ donors. Merely possessing healthy organs, being ventilator-dependent, and exercising one’s legal “right to die” may suffice.

The patient, family or proxy agrees to a “do not resuscitate” (DNR) order and shutting off the ventilator and then

consents to organ donation. After shutting off the ventilator, doctors hover over the patient, checking for the moment of no discernable pulse or breathing in order to declare “cardiac death.”

Within 75 seconds to 5 minutes, the first incision is made to remove organs. This is a premature declaration of death since resuscitation, if tried, may have been successful. Therefore, organ excision may be the actual cause of death.

Both “brain death” and “cardiac death” are hastily declared because removal of vital organs must be done before they deteriorate due to loss of blood circulation. One thing is certain. The rush to declare patients “dead” in order to take their organs will deprive at least some of the chance to survive or recover.

## “I haven’t signed a donor card, so I’m safe, right?” Wrong!

The Anatomical Gift Act (AGA) has been revised in 44 states since 2006. These revised laws allow people who have never signed a donor card or otherwise consented to be organ donors to be considered “prospective” donors.

The scenario below may not be the way organ procurement works out in actual practice in many hospitals currently, but everything described is now legal and on track to work its way into the system.

If you are “dead or near death” (still alive), the hospital must notify the organ procurement organization (OPO). The OPO team, by law, can examine your medical records and conduct tests to assess the suitability of your vital organs—heart, lungs, liv-

## RETRACTION

*Defend Life* regrets that quotations attributed to Julie Grimstad, executive director of Life is Worth Living, Inc., included in two articles in its July-August 2012 issue, “Stealth euthanasia is ‘killing us softly,’ warn speakers,” and “Nurse describes lucrative, deadly business of organ donation,” were extremely erroneous. We retract all of Ms. Grimstad’s statements in those articles, and sincerely apologize for those errors.

Ms. Grimstad graciously offered to write the above article, giving accurate information on the subject of organ donation.

See **DONATION**, page 19

## Commentary

# We, the vox unpopuli, *must* stay on point

By Bob Brown

We are the *vox unpopuli*, the **voice of the unpeople**—the unborn American girls and boys who are too young to articulate their right to have the legal personhood that is politically withheld from them.

We are the **voice of the unpopular**—an opinion that (supposedly) a slim majority of Americans claims but which a vast majority does not consider important enough to do anything about.

“This is obscene!” I heard this gripe—as I’ve heard it often in the past—several times while I was helping CBR-Maryland with their “Abortion as Art” demonstration at Artscape in Baltimore this summer.

“I agree with you,” is my soft, standard reply. “The murder of a baby girl is indeed obscene.” And I leave it at that, unless my challenger wants to add something more, which occasionally he or she does.

“Actually, I’m on your side,” he or she would inform me, “but you don’t help your cause by showing these pictures.”

“Hey, I’m really glad that you’re on my side,” I respond. “So, what do you do *instead* to help the cause? Volunteer at a CPC, pray outside an abortion clinic, write to your representatives in Congress, talk with your friends or neighbors about the alternatives to abortion?”

And he walks away. It’s increasingly popular to say that you’re pro-life but still outright unpopular to do anything about it.

We need to have a stronger **vox unpolitical**, because my sense is

that the political landscape will not change *until* our culture has changed. We the Christian people need to be the voice of truth to and in our communities because our government aims no higher than compromise.

Consider the battle to keep traditional marriage as the only legally recognized form of marriage.

The 1996 Defense of Marriage Act says in part that states are not required to recognize same-sex unions from other states, but some federally

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**We risk stalemate by turning the argument away from the preborn’s God-given rights to our own rights of conscience.**

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focused aspects of DOMA have already been ruled unconstitutional. However, the legal precedents for “privacy” have dominated the last half century of our nation’s jurisprudence and continue to erode the sanctity of traditional marriage.

I am in no way suggesting that we concede the political fight, but returning America to a culture of traditional marriage will take something much more radical (and difficult) than signing online petitions and calling legislative hotlines: Christians will have to live out long marriages of fidelity and invite our unbelieving neighbors into our homes and churches to witness this Christian love and commitment firsthand.

I am more hopeful, though, about a political end to abortion.

Marriage—of any ilk—is between consenting adults, and our politics are pretty much laissez-faire in that circumstance.

Abortion, on the other hand, kills innocent children, a fact that is simple and obvious and becoming harder to ignore, thanks to the commitment of Defend Life, CBR Maryland, MDRTL, and others.

Still, while acknowledging the pockets of progress around the country, a political solution is yet a very steep upward climb.

Here in Maryland, we have new abortion clinic regulations that were not designed to protect babies. On the national level, in addition to the four liberal justices, the Supreme Court has two supposedly conservative justices who have fumbled the ball on very important plays recently and throughout the past twenty years.

I believe that we pro-lifers are risking an endless stalemate by turning the argument away from the God-given rights that preborn children innately possess to our own rights of conscience.

I realize that there is some strategy involved in going this direction—a sort of “beat them at their own game” tactic. They say, “Keep your laws off my body,” and we reply, “Keep your laws off my conscience.”

Sure, we do have the right to insist that our government not impose laws on us that are contrary to our beliefs, but our protest must *go beyond* this zero-sum game with the

See VOICE, page 16



## Truth Tour hits Western Maryland

Samantha Linneman holds her son Luke while displaying a “Choice” sign at the Western Maryland Face the Truth Tour on September 1. During the two-stop tour, at LaVale and Deep Creek Lake, 14 pro-lifers from Baltimore, Northern Virginia, Pittsburgh and Ohio held signs along the roadway showing what abortion does to an unborn baby.

## FAIR, from page 13

wouldn’t show much interest in the preborn baby models, being jaded or seemingly already knowing everything. But I would say that a third or a half of adult visitors—again, almost always women—react with genuine surprise and curiosity, like, “Whoa, what are these?”

I try to put a tract with an explanation of Maryland’s abortion laws into every visitor’s hands, but one of our most sought-after giveaways is our bumper stickers.

Hundreds of people took a bumper sticker from us this summer, choosing from among more than 40 slogans. Some people grabbed a handful — a behavior that I witness year after year. By this time, one

would think that a noticeable subset of Harford County vehicles would be displaying pro-life bumper stickers, but I still hardly see any.

I’m sure that, for many people, the impulsive pro-life zeal dissipates at the moment of decision whether to take the public step of attaching “I’m a Child, Not a Choice” to their car—and yet another pro-life bumper sticker winds up in a drawer.

Twelve volunteers helped cover two-thirds of the hours at the fair this summer. Back for a second year were a 10-year-old girl and her mom. A mother of nine from Delaware joined us this year, as did an 85-year-old lady who spent a couple of hours on two different days in the near-100 degree heat softening my hyper-geometrical display scheme. And after

## VOICE, from page 15

pro-aborts. Our opposition to abortion must remain selfless, must point to the innocent: “Keep your claws off *their* bodies!”

I would like to encourage my dear pro-life friends to avoid the trap of self-centered rhetoric. *Our opposition to abortion must primarily be on the grounds that innocent children are murdered.*

Of course, Catholic hospitals should not be forced to perform abortions or distribute contraceptives, and we should continue to oppose any law that would require religious institutions to violate articles of their faith *because we oppose the consequence of such a law: more murdered babies.*

We must continue our work to pass just laws, but our grassroots efforts need a great awakening—an infusion of vox power from dormant churches and distracted Christian families.

Following the example of Jesus, we must change our culture by walking and talking house to house, street to street, neighborhood to neighborhood, festival to festival, and town to town. The pro-aborts rarely show their face in public, because they know deep down that what they’re selling is offensive and distasteful. In stark contrast, we bring a message of life and hope.

she left, I re-rectangularized the arrangement—so, ha! Miss Ruth.

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then a balloon is probably worth only a couple of syllables. But whatever your pro-life style, Defend Life, HCRTL, and Maryland’s other pro-life groups have a place for you to take the message of life to the people.

# Amazing fetal surgeries confirm humanity of preborn

By John Naughton

Fetal surgery has evolved to a medical specialty over the past three decades along with advances in fetal imaging (sonogram), fetal diagnosis, and maternal tocolysis (inhibition of uterine contractions) to prevent pre-term labor.

Fetal intervention has become an important option for unborn babies who would otherwise not survive gestation or would endure significant morbidity and mortality after birth.

These are some of the advances in fetal surgery, described in chronological order.

## Urinary tract blockage

The first fetal surgery was done in April 1981 at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) to place a shunt around a urinary blockage in a male twin, Michael Skinner, at 28 weeks' gestation by a team led by Dr. Michael Harrison.

Surgeons used a specially constructed shunt and tiny needles and scopes to insert the shunt. Michael's bladder had become so distended that it threatened his life and that of his twin sister.

Michael and his sister were born in May 1981 and now lead active lives. The shunt and blockage were removed during postnatal surgery. This surgery opened the door to many other life-saving fetal surgeries.

## Diaphragmatic hernia

Organs below can push up into the chest through a hole in the diaphragm and impede lung development. This condition afflicts 2,000



**Dr. Michael Harrison checks Michael Skinner in 2005 to assess the long-term effects of fetal surgery.**

infants annually with 75 percent fatalities.

In the summer of 1989, Dr. Michael Harrison and colleagues (UCSF) performed intricate surgery on Blake, at 24 weeks' gestation, to repair his diaphragmatic hernia. The surgery saved his life.

This surgery required saving the amniotic fluid, partially removing the baby from the womb, operating on the baby to correct the hernia and then retracing those actions.

The surgery is now performed at much less risk by using balloons inserted into the baby orally.

## Lung shunt

In 1992, Paul's lungs filled with fluid, which pressured his heart. At 22 weeks' gestation, a needle was inserted into his mother's abdomen, into her womb, and into Paul's lungs.

A shunt was threaded through the needle into Paul's chest cavity with the other end remaining in the amniotic fluid. The shunt drained

the fluid and saved Paul's life.

## Spina bifida

Spina bifida is a condition in which the spinal cord is exposed to the amniotic fluid. It affects 1,500 babies born each year in the United States.

Those affected frequently suffer lifelong disabilities, including paralysis, bladder and bowel problems, hydrocephalus (excessive fluid pressure in the brain), and cognitive impairments.

The longer the spinal cord is exposed, the more severe the effects.

Fetal surgery was first performed in 1995 at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. An estimated 200 spina bifida surgeries were performed before doctors conducted a seven-year clinical trial ending in December 2010 to determine if spina bifida surgery done on the fetus was more efficacious than postnatal spina bifida surgery.

Postnatal surgery was performed

**In 2007,  
at 26 weeks'  
gestation,  
Addison Kelly  
had fetal  
surgery to  
remove a fatal  
tumor between  
her heart and  
lungs.**



after delivery by caesarean section at 37 weeks' gestation. Prenatal surgery was done between 19 and 26 weeks' gestation; the surgical team repaired the spina bifida opening while the fetus was in the womb.

The trial was ended early because it was so obvious that fetal surgery produced better results; it showed that fetal surgery for spina bifida greatly reduces the need to divert fluid from the brain, improves mobility and improves the chances that a child will be able to walk independently.

Damage to the spinal cord and nerves is progressive during pregnancy, so there's a rationale for performing the repair by the twenty-sixth week of gestation, rather than after birth.

Fetal surgery is now the standard of care for spina bifida.

### **Fetal tumor**

In 1996 a baby in Britain was diagnosed at 25 weeks' gestation with a tumor nearly as large as her body. Doctors anesthetized mother and baby, opened the mother's abdomen and womb, removed the tumor

from the baby's body and replaced the baby in the womb.

The amniotic fluid was replaced, and the womb and abdomen were closed. The mother recovered and the baby, born at 29 weeks' gestation, was completely normal 7 months after birth.

### **Blocked heart valve**

In 2000 surgeons opened a blocked heart valve of a 27-week-old preborn baby by inserting a needle through the mother's abdomen into the baby's heart. A catheter was inserted into the tiny heart valve, and a balloon was inserted to clear the blockage and save the baby's life.

### **Chest tumor**

In 2007, at 26 weeks' gestation, it was discovered that Addison Kelly of Philadelphia had a fatal tumor between her heart and lungs.

Surgeons removed her from her mother's womb, removed the tumor and returned her to her mother's womb hoping she would deliver normally, but Addison arrived ten days later and had to spend almost a year

in the hospital. She is now a normal kindergartener.

Addison's life-saving surgery was one of an average of 150 fetal surgeries performed annually at Children's Hospital in Philadelphia. There are many more life-saving fetal surgeries annually in the U.S. and around the world.

### **Oral tumor**

In 2010 a baby girl at 17 weeks' gestation had a large tumor growing from her mouth. Pediatric surgeons removed the potentially fatal tumor in utero using a laser after anesthetizing her.

Leyna Gonzalez of Miami was born normally and is fine.

### **Future possible fetal treatments**

Further research and experience will continue to refine surgical techniques and improve methods to reduce the risks to mothers and babies.

Diagnosticians now offer early fetal cardiovascular imaging, which allows diagnosis of heart defects as early as 12 weeks' gestation, when the baby is only about 2.1 inches long and weighs 0.5 ounces.

Most of her critical systems are fully formed and she will now enter the growth and maturation stage in which her organs and tissues will grow and develop rapidly.

Ways of using stem cells from adult bone marrow to treat the blood disorder sickle cell anemia that could be administered 12 to 14 weeks into pregnancy are under development.

These remarkable fetal surgeries, which future generations will take for granted, are yet another overwhelming proof of the humanity of the preborn that so many still deny, claiming the "right" to kill the preborn at any time during pregnancy.

**DONATION, from page 14**

er, kidneys, pancreas and intestines—for transplantation.

Also, you can be subjected to measures designed to ensure that your organs remain healthy—measures that have no benefit for you. Such things can be done to you without your family's knowledge or permission. Only afterward will they be asked to donate your organs.

The revised AGA violates your right to privacy, your right to give informed consent and your right to security of person.

Remember, everything described herein is already legal in your state if it has adopted the revised AGA.

How can you protect yourself from being treated as a “prospective donor”? By adding a formal refusal to be an organ donor to your advance directive for health care and carrying a signed and witnessed organ donor refusal card in your wallet. These cards are available from Human Life Alliance, [feedback@humanlife.org](mailto:feedback@humanlife.org), or phone 651-484-1040.

*Julie Grimstad is executive director of Life is Worth Living, Inc., and chair of the Pro-life Healthcare Alliance, a Program of Human Life Alliance.*

**MARRIAGE, from page 4**

raisers for same-sex “marriage.” He has issued press releases. He has spoken at controlled legislative hearings.

In August 2011 he publicly criticized the Catholic Archbishop of Baltimore in a letter claiming the archbishop had no business to even question O'Malley's support for same-sex “marriage.” But he has not addressed the general public in forums where they can ask him some

hard questions. Why?

Yet the Governor wants voters to approve his bill this November 6, to restructure the most fundamental institution of all mankind.

When politicians duck openly and fully discussing issues like this in public forums, it is usually a sign they lack confidence in their position.

**Defend Life:** What can Marylanders do who want to protect their families?

**Marshall:** Democrat State Senate President Mike Miller gave Maryland voters some excellent advice. He urged Evangelicals, Catholics, and African-Americans to come together to stop same-sex “marriage” in Maryland: “I’m a historian and I look at civilizations, I study civilizations, I read history every night. And I see it’s an attack on the family, I think it’s an attack on traditional families.”

Governor O'Malley graduated from the Catholic Gonzaga High School and received a B.A. from Catholic University. He must know that good representative government rests on the morals of the people, and that moral truths about Man do not change.

Defending moral truths is not bigotry, it is a social obligation.

**Defend Life:** What are some other problems if Governor O'Malley's law takes effect?

**Marshall:** The Governor's bill will give a green light to recognizing the “marriage equality” claims of bi-sexuals to marry the persons they love, facilitating polygamy, ending the tax-exempt status of churches opposed to same-sex “marriage,” requiring affirmative action in hiring or government contracts, teaching homosexual and heterosexual equivalence in schools, penalizing parents or mental health professionals who help their minor children out of same sex-orientation or behavior, stigmatizing

**NARAL, from page 9**

Knowing the state of Maryland politics, we knew we'd be seeing some of these:



This Toyota appears to belong to one of District 45's three delegates. So who could it be?

Well, look them up on [votesmart.org](http://votesmart.org). Del. Talmadge Branch has a 100 percent rating by Maryland NARAL. So does Del. Cheryl Glenn.

NARAL gives Del. Hattie Harrison a 100 percent rating as well. (Incidentally, scroll down that page and see that all three District 45 delegates get a 63 percent rating from the *Maryland Catholic Conference*. See why the MCC voting guides are an abysmal travesty? But I digress.) So the car could belong to any one of the three delegates.

Two of the Spiritual Works of Mercy are “rebuke the sinner” and “instruct the ignorant.” We accomplished that, whether or not the attendees appreciated it.

parents who pull their children out of sex-ed classes or public schools advocating homosexuality.

These and other adverse effects will come to pass unless citizens of good will from all social backgrounds, political parties, religious denominations, ethnic and racial groups come together to preserve real marriage and reject Governor O'Malley's same-sex “marriage” law.

# DEFEND LIFE

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Affiliate, Mater Dei Chapter, Catholic United For Faith



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- Put a yard sign in front of your home!  
Call 410-858-4030 to arrange.
- Read interview on pages 3 & 4 to better  
comprehend what is at stake! To down-  
load the 2-page version of this interview,  
visit [DefendLife.Org](http://DefendLife.Org) and click on *Other  
Pro-Life Events*.
- Leaflet church parking lots both Sundays  
prior to November 6 election. For tips on  
leafleting and a downloadable leaflet,  
visit [DefendLife.Org](http://DefendLife.Org).
- Pray incessantly that God in  
His infinite mercy will spare  
Maryland this abomination!
- \$ Give sacrificially!  
Visit [MarylandMarriageAlliance.Com](http://MarylandMarriageAlliance.Com)



## DEFEND LIFE LECTURE TOUR



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**Thursday, November 15 • 7:30pm**

**Christ the King Church**

1102 Hart Road • Towson, MD 21286

**Friday, November 16**

**10am – St. Peter the Apostle Church Library**

9190 Church Street • Libertytown, MD 21762

**1pm – Our Lady's Center**

3301 Rogers Avenue • Ellicott City, MD 21043

**7:30pm – Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church**

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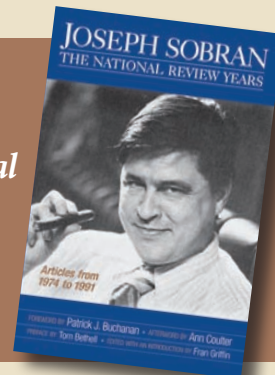
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