

# DEFEND LIFE

*Promoting the Culture of Life and Fighting the Culture of Death since 1987*

CATHOLIC • PRO-LIFE • PRO-FAMILY Jan. - Feb. 2013, Vol. 24 No. 1, Circ. 4599

[www.DefendLife.org](http://www.DefendLife.org) • [mail@DefendLife.org](mailto:mail@DefendLife.org)

Voice Mail: (410) 296-LIVE • Pro-Life Action News: (410) 296-BORN

## Voris to Catholics: stop 'being nice,' speak the truth

By Janet Baker

No one ever says to Michael Voris, "Mike, tell us what you *really* think!"

At least, no one said that to him at his Defend Life-sponsored talk on what it means to be a Catholic, at Rock Creek Knights of Columbus Council in Bethesda January 11.

"I don't mean being a fake Catholic, like those on Capitol Hill," the outspoken senior executive producer of ChurchMilitant.TV told a crowd of approximately 150.

Voris defined a good, faithful Catholic as "somebody who loves our Lord and by extension, loves His Church. Anything else is a sort of cheap knock-off of being a Catholic."

Three out of four of self-identified Catholics don't go to Mass, he pointed out. The Archdiocese of Detroit is shutting down 60 parishes; the Boston Archdiocese is closing 135.

"This is not the hallmark of a thriving Church," declared Voris. "This is the hallmark of a Church in absolute retreat. It's in retreat because it has wedded itself to the spirit of the age."

When we Catholics look out on this culture, we need to understand how we, as a Church, have been conditioned and have allowed ourselves to be conditioned, he said.

It was illegal to be Catholic in 11



**American Catholics, wanting to fit in, have compromised with the truth of Christ and His Church, says Michael Voris.**

of the first 13 American colonies, he reminded his listeners.

Catholic immigrants, like his Irish-born mother, were "dumped on." After World War II, when Catholics were able to move into the upper-middle class, they made compromises with their faith "to get a seat at the table.

"We wanted to fit in. So we compromised here, we compromised there, and before we knew it, we weren't practicing the faith anymore."

When Pope Paul VI issued *Humanae Vitae* in 1968, "within a couple of years, the entire Catholic structure just fell apart," said Voris.

"Why? Because it had already been eaten at by thousands of termites

all along."

Catholics refused to say what needs to be said, when it needs to be said, he asserted.

"We Catholics do not get to sit back and say nothing. We have been given the truth and we need to say it. Yet we have this hesitation, don't we?"

Pontius Pilate asked Christ, "What is truth?" Christ is Truth, said Voris, and we as Catholics must proclaim the entire truth, no matter what.

The point of the "new evangelization" effort begun by the Vatican is to save souls from hell. Christ warned us about hell many times.

"If you never bring up someone's eternal destiny, then you're lying to them by concealment," he cautioned.

"How do we say this to Aunt Mary? We say, 'Aunt Mary, you need to start living by the Truth and stop living in sin, or you're going to hell.'"

The Catholic Church is about the truth, and we do not get to determine if someone can take the truth or not.

Voris told his pro-life audience that they have no problem speaking the truth about abortion, "but what about contraception or cohabitation?"

Do we sit quietly during those types of family and/or social conversations?

We're too concerned with "being judgmental," he charged. But "we all make judgments; our rational minds

are what separate us from the animal kingdom, which is why, when you shut that off, you behave like animals.”

We’re also too concerned with “being nice,” said Voris. But many Nazis were “nice” people, he pointed out. Heinrich Himmler was reputed to be a personally charming individual; yet he orchestrated much of the death camp apparatus.

Voris also made a pointed allusion about “nice” people who promise to make the oceans recede, yet most likely have evil in their heart.

We in the Church need to distinguish between “nice” and “holy,” he asserted.

“Our duty is to love our Lord and the Church so much that we are willing to live for it and, if need be, to die for it.”

Voris recalled “walking the walk” when a long-time buddy of his, a married Catholic and a lector, casually mentioned that he used condoms.

Voris reminded his friend that that was against the teaching of the Catholic Church.

“We went to Father ‘Bob’ and he said it was okay,” the friend protested.

“Well, Father Bob was wrong!” retorted Voris.

The friend, after a diatribe reminding Voris of all *his* former sins, stormed out.

A few years later, his friend’s marriage collapsed.

“I can’t tell you how much I wanted to go to that priest and punch his lights out!” exclaimed Voris.

The priest had an obligation to tell the truth, he said. But we all have a duty by virtue of baptism to speak the truth no matter where we are.

What has happened in this country is a result of Catholics having given up the faith, said Voris.

## Voris uses media expertise to defend Faith

Since 2006, Michael Voris has put to work his extensive experience in the secular media to advocate for fidelity to the true Catholic faith.

Graduating from the University of Notre Dame in 1983 with a degree in Communications, he became a television anchor, producer and reporter for various CBS affiliates.

After two years of seminary training at St. Joseph’s Seminary in New York, he became a news reporter and producer for a Fox affiliate in Detroit, where he won four Emmys for production between 1992 and 1996.

In 2000, he left TV news and began his own video production company, producing TV commercials for large corporations like General Motors.

Following a return to his Catholic faith after years of being a “lukewarm Catholic in mortal sin,” as he put it, he invested all his savings to begin St. Michael’s Media, to evangelize for the Church through TV programs.

In 2008 he partnered with RealCatholicTV.com (later named ChurchMilitant.TV), owned by Marc Brammer, to expand the reach of St. Michael’s Media programming via the internet.

Voris received an STB (Sacred Theology Baccalaureate) in 2009, graduating Magna cum laude.

Voris has spoken at conferences and forums throughout the world in his efforts to promote and defend true Catholic doctrine.

The reason Protestant America, up until about the 1950s, was able to maintain a moral fiber was because it accepted Catholic morality, he postulated: “It didn’t say that’s what it was, but that’s what it was.

“It was lessening as time went on, but it was Catholic: no divorce or remarriage, no cohabitation. What religion today teaches that? The Catholic Church—even though most of its followers reject it.”

The United States’ days are numbered, owing to the rampant immorality that is being tolerated and even embraced by too many, said Voris.

“When a huge tilt happens in a culture, that the vast number of individuals in that culture give themselves over to evil, that culture is finished.”

How long that might take to hap-

pen depends on the culture.

“Every one of these things that destroys the essence of the family (divorce, contraception, abortion) is obviously diabolical, but once a culture seizes onto that, there’s no way to reverse it, humanly speaking,” said Voris.

He ended his talk with this advice: “You say the truth. You do everything in accord with the truth. You say what He would say; and whatever the consequences are, you live with them.

“ ‘Blessed are you when men insult you, curse you and speak every kind of calumny against you for my name’s sake. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.’ ”

*Michael Voris’ entire talk is posted at [DefendLife.org](http://DefendLife.org).*

# ‘Surrender the Secret’ is reality show on abortion

Vanessa, an attractive young woman and mother of three children, is driving to Jill’s house for a Bible study.

But it’s not your ordinary Bible study.

She will be meeting with four other women about whom she knows nothing, except that, like herself, they have all had abortions and are looking for emotional healing.

“I feel very vulnerable,” Vanessa admits as she stands on Jill’s front porch. “I don’t want to be judged. I want to get in my car and drive back home, because I’m okay and don’t need this.”

But she rings the doorbell.

Jill invites her in and introduces her to Jane, Courtney and Kelly. There’s the usual polite small talk when strangers first meet, but the unease is palpable.

Added to the fact that all five ladies know they are there because they all had abortions, a video camera is recording their every word for a first-of-a-kind Christian reality TV series. It will be broadcast on KnockTV, a new Internet television network.

Their Bible study experience will make up a 10-episode series, “Sur-

render the Secret,” which will be available on demand on computers as well as mobile and handheld devices.

In the first episode, which premiered on KnockTV on January 22, the camera alternates between scenes of the women sitting in Jill’s living room with Bibles and notebooks on their laps, and shots of individual women speaking directly to the camera.

Kelly, an articulate and positive woman with dark hair and an infectious grin, confides, “When you first walk into the Bible study, you can cut the tension with a knife! We all know why we’re here, and it’s uncomfortable, because there’s an automatic labeling.

“But then you get to know the other women as individuals and you get to hear their stories. And you take that labeling away and we become the Godly women that we are.

“We made a bad decision and are now learning and growing from it. And each week we become closer and closer.”

Forty-three percent of women of childbearing age in America have had an abortion and are suffering in silence, Kelly explains: “I want to

reach out to them.”

“God wants to heal us and through our healing, we can reach out to other women,” agrees Jane.

“We all come from different backgrounds and experiences, but we have one thing in common,” says Jill, who leads the study group.

“People say it’s not a big deal, but it *is* a big deal! So we’re going to talk about healing, rather than band-aids.”

She quotes Jeremiah 6:14: “They dress the wounds of my people as though they are not serious: peace, peace, they say, when they know there is no peace.”

“It hurts to remember,” Vanessa tells the group. “But when I do remember, I remember like it just happened. I remember the smell, the color of the floor. And it was 20 years ago.”

“There are so many women who have kept the secret to themselves,” comments Courtney. “But eventually, it just takes over and consumes you.”

As the study group meeting progresses, the women’s tension and self-consciousness lessen perceptibly.

See REALITY, page 18

## *The women of Season 1 of ‘Surrender the Secret’*



*Jill*



*Vanessa*



*Kelly*



*Jane*



*Courtney*



# Local priest ties abortion to Newtown shootings

*On Friday, December 14, Father Ed Meeks, pastor of Christ the King Catholic Church in Towson, Md., had just finished writing the homily that he was going to give on Sunday, when he heard the gut-wrenching news about the school shootings in Newtown, Connecticut.*

*Father Meeks scrapped the homily, wrote a new one, and delivered it at Mass that Sunday. The following are excerpts from it.*

We were all stunned and incredulous to hear of yet another heart-breaking, mind-numbing slaughter of innocents in one of America's schools—this time, snuffing out the lives of 26 people, including 20 elementary schoolchildren, all of them first-graders, 6- and 7-year-olds....

There will be countless people, mostly government officials and media types, weighing in on how to prevent these kinds of senseless mass murders in the future.

But the bigger question is not *why* this happened, but *why this continues* to happen.

Most, if not all of those public discussions will center on peripheral issues—on symptoms, but not on the cause.

The greatest irony is that many of those same government officials and media types have over the years unwittingly, but nonetheless, contributed to the very culture that now experiences senseless killings as something commonplace.

Forty years of legalized abortion on demand has produced something very dark and very diabolical in the soul of America.

It has created what Blessed Pope John Paul II called a Culture of Death. The signs are all around us.

The cause-and-effect relationship between legalized abortion and the mass murder of small children may not be evident to most. But for those who have eyes to see, to discern with spiritual vision and the eyes of faith, it should be patently obvious.

In the year that the 20-year-old school shooter in Connecticut was born, 1.5 million babies, fully one-third of the babies conceived in America that year, were killed in the womb.

On the day that he committed the deed, an estimated 3,000 babies died in America at the hands of abortionists.

---

## **Forty years of legalized abortion has produced something very dark and very diabolical in America's soul.**

---

Not that he was consciously aware of the state of abortion in America—I doubt seriously that he was—but here's the point: for the last 40 years, a clear, steady and inexorable debasement and desensitization of our society has been produced under the guise and the pretense of so-called "reproductive rights."

That debasement and desensitization have unavoidably impacted on a deep spiritual level the psyches of many individuals—especially many individuals born during those 40 years.

In a very real sense, a nation that refuses to ensure that a baby is safe in his or her mother's own womb cannot ensure the safety of small children in their schools—or anywhere else in

society, for that matter.

Blessed Mother Teresa, speaking at the National Prayer Breakfast in 1994, said, "If we accept that a mother can kill her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another? Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching love, but to use violence to get what they want."

I would add that many of the same people who are publicly decrying, and rightfully so, the slaughter in Connecticut, would aggressively promote and support the slaughter of those same 20 children if it had taken place six or seven years ago, when they were still in their mothers' wombs.

Many of our public officials constantly tell us that they are taking action on behalf of the children, all the while unabashedly supporting and advocating and funding groups like Planned Parenthood, which has been responsible for the brutal deaths of exponentially more children than all of the school shootings combined.

I apologize for being so blunt this morning, but there is a reality here that we need to understand.

And I'm more than a little bit angry at the low moral position to which this nation we love has descended, and at the fact that the most innocent and helpless among us, both born and preborn children, are the tragic victims of this terrible moral state that we find ourselves in.

Whatever supposed cover that the pro-abortion lobby has touted has been utterly exposed by the light of medical science. No one, for example, who looks at an ultrasound image of a baby in the womb, even in the early weeks of gestation, can honestly

**See SHOOTINGS, page 17**

# How 'bout a pregnancy center next to Planned Parenthood?

## A veteran sidewalk counselor has scoped it out and says the time is ripe

By George P. Koukoulas

Planned Parenthood's Maryland headquarters at 330 North Howard Street in Baltimore is a dark, dank blight on the neighborhood on the sunniest of mornings.

It's a mind-shaker and heart freezer—a tough-talk stealer and go-home teaser.

It's rough for a pro-lifer to even consider spending time in front of Planned Parenthood. North Howard can be a hard street mentally.

Is it dangerous? I wouldn't say so, but I've never been bothered by gritty city scenes. But, the incessant clanging of the light rail going by. Perceived risk from Planned Parenthood jangling in the pro-lifer's consciousness. January cold. August heat. Walkin' cell phones.

Gaggles of giggly mid-teen girls somehow thinking a Saturday morning abortion is a headliner day in the fame game.

Mothers hard-flanking their crying, pregnant daughters, and the straggling boyfriend who apparently wouldn't accept the finest gift of a belt to keep his pants up, like, ever.

There's the occasional squad car that parks nearby to securitize this happy scene. Sometimes an officer walks up to ask questions he already knows the answers to:

"What are you doin' here?"

"I'm offering assistance to the ladies if they might consider parenting."

"What's in the bag?"

"Some literature and a turkey on rye."

"I want to look inside, and I need your ID."



**A pregnancy center on the same block as Baltimore's Planned Parenthood is both desirable and feasible, argues George Koukoulas.**

"Here."

"Is this really you?"

"I guess. I just seem to believe these girls are worth making the extra effort for."

"Don't get too close to the building."

"I never cared at all for this building."

"Are you trying to get smart with me?"

"Honestly, I don't know what smart is. I mean, I don't even read as much as I used to."

"All right. Okay. Stay out of trouble."

Some of those conviction-driven pro-lifers toiling there wonder if they have really done great things.

They have.

Pro-lifers pray there and take part in diocesan vigils; sidewalk counselors counsel there; others demonstrate the graphic truth about abortion.

There has been a spontaneous growth in pro-life resistance over the past three years to the unchecked profiteering by Planned Parenthood's

central headquarters upon unsuspecting, mostly minority women.

These women, unfortunately, are thoroughly pre-disposed to abortion. They must survive every day in a culture of selfishness, violence, substance abuse, and physical and mental dissipation.

But the steady pro-life developments at the Howard Street facility over three years have already paid dividends.

Not only have babies been saved, which matters greatly, but there has been a growing sense by some that this horrific juggernaut of abortion can be directly challenged by providing a comprehensive alternative: a pregnancy help center on the same block.

So what about the idea of a pro-life building on the same block as Planned Parenthood?

Anne Lotierzo is founder of the Pregnancy Care Center in St. Pierce, Florida, across the street from the only operating abortion clinic in the surrounding five counties.

"The golden rule of business has always been 'location, location, location,'" says Lotierzo.

"The same principle applies to pregnancy help centers—go to the front lines of this battle and set up your ministry. If we are going to set up a real alternative to abortion, we must be available where they are looking for it.

"During the past 14 years, we have witnessed untold numbers of women experience a 'last minute' conversion of heart and walk through our doors asking for help. And thank God we were there for them."

Carol Maglov, director of Birth-

right Pregnancy Aid Center in Harford County, has seen plenty of hard cases in over 20 years of crisis pregnancy center management.

"If a woman believes her only option is to abort, then she will do exactly that," says Maglov.

"But if she is offered kindness, without judgment, and support, resources and good information, then she is going to choose life."

The majority of buildings close to the Howard Street Planned Parenthood are, well, out of commission. They were once storefronts and residences, and grand old banks where adding machines would have ten-keyed the savings passbook math of a walk-in from Stewarts.

With more cash than she thought she had, off that customer would go with her newly bought hat, box and all, walking up to the bustle of a Lexington market confectionary. And then off by trolley to the hair salon and a leisurely stroll down North Avenue.

Anyway, that came to an end. But if you look across the street from Planned Parenthood, you can still see, though cracked and paint-peeled, the intricate gothic-style cornices of the old buildings.

The benefits of revitalization of this architectural treasure a la Federal Hill, Canton, and Fells Point were not lost on the City Council when it came to Howard Street.

As the rush in real estate speculation juiced the early 2000s' economy, the city proposed a revitalization project, just north of Lexington Market, which came to be known as the proposed "superblock."

The idea was to replicate the trendsetting success stories like Belvedere Square, which had attracted residents and commercial interests to the Govans area.

Eateries, shops, and New Agey

bookstores: that was the plan. Tax credits were approved for buyers of Howard Street properties who would recondition the upper story of their acquisitions into residential apartments/condos.

The hope was that the street level portions of these buildings would become commercial and offer complementary shopping to the superblock. The city proposed \$152 million in "super seed money."

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation had owned a few clusters of Howard Street properties near Planned Parenthood for upwards of 20 years.

When the Foundation saw the prospect of city renewal, they

---

### **The opportunity is very real; properties close to Planned Parenthood are currently available.**

---

agreed, as did other property owners, to liquidate these properties through Coopers Auction house, with the hope that opportunities would present for a commercial investor to snap up contiguous properties.

The auction in the summer of 2005 essentially failed. The real estate market was more than just hiccupping a bit, it was headed for sustained devaluation.

Potential investors got nervous, and rightly so, because the city got cold feet and stalled the allocation for the superblock. If the financial crisis had not been so virulent, is it possible that abortion-mindeds would be sipping a mocha frappuccino at Starbucks across the street before or after an abortion? Who knows.

Is developing a pregnancy help center at ground zero for abortion in

Maryland a possibility?

It is not only possible, but likely that a center could be launched and remain perpetually self-funded; it depends on whether people would commit to donating enough time and/or money.

A few donors are already willing to commit dollars and time. A local, long-term faithful prayer warrior has offered to commit considerable thousands of dollars to such a cause. I myself have offered to make large commitments

But a steering committee must be formed in order to establish a proper timeline. That requires people with some analytical background.

Able volunteers are also needed to make decisions on pricing of materials and boiling down the ocean of potential volunteerism and paid work for rehab of the street level floor.

The vast majority of pregnancy centers, even those under umbrella organizations like Birthright and Care Net, do not own their locations but instead lease or rent them.

The average asking price for these properties remains a stale \$290,000, and no need is present at least now for the second floor anyway.

The only possible hazard of leasing would be if the superblock were at some point re-tracked, and the pregnancy center would face being evicted when the lease expires in favor of the landlord selling outright to a speculator.

The title holders and the properties available are undergoing evaluation for suitability.

There is a good Baltimore real estate attorney who can assist, but other legal support will be necessary.

A mission charter has to be drafted and board members and spiritual

**See CENTER, page 14**



## Viet vet's 5 years as POW was God's 'greatest blessing'

On December 20, 1967, Air Force pilot Guy Gruters' F-100 fighter aircraft was shot down for the second time during a mission over Vietnam.

Six weeks earlier, he had been shot down and rescued by "the guys on the rescue choppers," he told his audience at a Defend Life-sponsored talk in Ellicott City November 16.

This time, there was no rescue. He and co-pilot Robert Craner had to eject from the plane.

"I could hear 'gong, gong, gong, gong'—these were the signals for the villagers to come out and get us," he recalled.

As they parachuted down, North Vietnamese soldiers, some just 100 yards away, were emptying their AK-47s at them.

"The bullets are whizzing by me, but they're missing me. I thought, 'This is ridiculous, get it over with! How can you miss, in a kneeling position at 100 yards with an automatic AK-47? You're a disgrace to manhood!'"

The two Americans were marched to a holding camp, where they were confined alongside a prisoner, Lance Sijan, who had been starved down to 80 pounds.

"They beat and tortured him to death," said Gruters. "I was just 6 feet from him and couldn't do anything to help him."

So began Gruters' 5 years and 3 months of imprisonment at Hoa Lo (the "Hanoi Hilton") and other prison camps—"a terrible experience—but the greatest spiritual blessing God ever gave me," he declared.

Gruters was 24 years old, an Air Force Academy graduate with a master's degree from Perdue University and two years of pilot training and fighter gunnery school, when he vol-

unteered for the war in Vietnam.

"I wanted with all my heart to fight in this war and stop the Communists," said Gruters.

"Communism had spread like a cancer throughout the world. The Soviet Empire had twenty-some oth-



**Guy Gruters' strong faith helped him survive five years of starvation, cruelty and torture in North Vietnamese prison camps.**

er nations with them. They planned to take all the little countries in the world and finally, when they had all the world's resources, Europe and the U.S. would fall like apples in their hands."

The Vietnam War was a "proxy war" between the United States and the Soviet Empire, he explained.

Gruters was convinced that Communism was "pure atheism, truly bad, straight from Satan."

When he got to the main prison camp, he got to meet Satan up close and personal.

His prison had concrete walls and floors and no windows.

"You never got out—no recreation. In the summer you have bleeding heat rash. You spend June, July and August all day on the concrete floor, sucking 100-degree air, like a guppy, coming from under the door."

In the winter, each prisoner had a blanket, two pairs of pajamas, no socks, no way to get warm in 30- to 40-degree weather.

"Two little loaves of bread, two liters of water a day was your food—it's what we lived on for three years."

Gruters, who weighed 200 pounds and was in excellent shape when he went in, went down to 120 pounds. His hunger pains lasted for a full year, until his body adjusted to its smaller size.

In the summer, he said, "The thirst was unbearable."

"In the bread there were hundreds of rat droppings, weevils and worms. You bite in the bread, it bites you back; you eat the stinking worms because that's the only nutrition you're going to get."

The prisoners, who suffered from diarrhea for the first couple months, got one piece of toilet paper for two people a month, said Gruters.

"So you wipe yourself with your fingers, then wipe your fingers on the wall. The bucket [used as a toilet] overflows, so you've got raw sewage all over the floor—but you're not allowed to clean the floor."

Eating their bread with the same unwashed hands with which they wiped themselves, the men developed terrible problems with intestinal parasites.

After three years, Gruters recalled, "I'm talking to my commanding officer, he coughs, and 4 inches of a big worm comes out of his mouth. I said, 'Cough, Al, cough!'"

Gruters pulled a thick 12-inch intestinal worm from his mouth. More coughing, and in 15 minutes, Gruters held a dozen of these worms, alive and wriggling in his hands.

"I said, 'Good, Al, we got rid of these suckers!' I tried to be positive, because if you didn't, people would lose hope, stop eating and die."

About two months later, a friend of his named Tom, who had terrible kidney pains from being kicked hard in his kidneys, stopped eating.

Gruters encouraged him to eat, but to no avail.

"He said, 'I just don't feel hungry. I feel full.'"

On a hunch, Gruters had Tom induce vomiting into a bucket.

"He threw up, and thousands of little half-inch white intestinal worms came out.

"We had all kinds of intestinal worms—22 feet, 25 feet—I bragged because in my cell we set the record with a 32-foot tapeworm!"

During their imprisonment, the Americans were still bombing military targets in North Vietnam, but inevitably, civilians would also accidentally be killed.

As a result, said Gruters, "We were the epitome of evil in all their propaganda posters," and were treated as such.

All in all, about 3,500 airmen were shot down in North Vietnam, he said: "Only 472 of us came back."

What got Gruters through five years in prison?

"At first you don't believe you're there," he said. "It's like a bad dream; your mind just rejects it."

Gruters, a lifelong Catholic, wondered if God could be there, but decided He couldn't: "It was too filthy, too vicious, too cruel. I believed He just took care of the big things—He wouldn't get involved in our everyday lives."

Gruters developed a tremendous hatred for his captors—"That's the worst sin you can have.

"Because of my pride, I rebelled against this humiliation. I wanted to get even with those guys. I had 22 different torture lists for 22 different torturer-interrogators. I thought, if I ever get out, I will come back, kidnap them, and never let them die—keep them in agony."

Then he thought about suicide—just go in a corner and never eat.

But the nuns in school had taught him that suicide was cowardice.

Later, he learned that his mother and aunt had said the rosary for him every day after he got shot down.

"They vowed to say the rosary for me every day until they died—which

---

### **He thought about suicide—but the nuns had taught him that suicide was cowardice.**

---

they did.

"So God let me see that hatred and suicide thoughts were wrong. I prayed to Jesus, 'I can't stop this hatred—please help me if you can'—over and over again."

After six months of intense struggle and prayer, he was finally able to pray, "Lord, I forgive them; they're your children as much as I am. I understand they're under orders. I hope they get to heaven.

"I've never been as peaceful or happy as I was then, praying for my enemies."

After that, he said, "God saved me from torture. He did all kinds of things to reveal Himself and help me."

The North Vietnamese were methodically using unspeakable tortures to get prisoners to meet with

liberal delegations from Europe and the United States and repudiate their country on TV.

When it was Gruters' turn, he refused.

"They put me in the torture room with the ropes and irons for eight hours, then brought me back. I still refused. They said, 'Why?' Out of nowhere, without thinking, I said, 'Because it would disgrace my family.'"

They put him back in his cell. "I never had to go on national TV and be a traitor to my country.

"That was all God!" he exclaimed. "I'm convinced those were God's words. They respect the family over there, and that's the one thing I could have said that would get me out of it."

Gruters still retains his hatred of Communism.

"To a Communist, the government is God. They want to rule, to control. No matter what they say—'We're going to help the poor'—they really want to strip the wealth of the country from the people who made it and take it for themselves and their friends."

Gruters sees a similarity between what the Communists were doing in Vietnam and what is happening with the Socialist-minded liberals in the U.S.

"They want lots of government jobs, like Obamacare, so they can control you. And they hate religious freedom, because religion gives people the power to resist. The biggest trouble they've always had is with the Catholic Church."

The Catholic Church is now at war with our government, which allows and encourages abortion, declared Gruters.

"The bishops are our generals in



## Pro-lifers take ultrasound on the road in Northern Va.

Angela Clark had been a counselor at Triple A Women for Choice pregnancy resource center in Manassas, Va., for 11 years when she heard some upsetting news: an abortion clinic would be opening close to George Mason University, her alma mater.

"I knew what goes on at these universities as far as the drinking and the partying and the promiscuity," said Angela. "But you rarely see a student who is pregnant."

Angela and her friend, Lisa Gregory, decided they needed to do something "to get to these girls before the abortionists do."

At first they thought about opening a crisis pregnancy center close by.

As they contacted activists in the pro-life movement for ideas and help, however, Sarah LaPierre, of the Archdiocese of Arlington's Respect Life Office, asked Angela if she had ever thought about a mobile crisis pregnancy center equipped with an ultrasound machine.

LaPierre emailed Clark information on such mobile centers, which operate across the country.

"I thought, this is a wonderful idea!" said Clark. In Northern Virginia, she noted, "We have 15 colleges and universities within a 50-mile radius and eight abortion clinics."

Only one in 10 women in crisis pregnancies is walking into crisis pregnancy centers, she added; "So we need to go where they are"—not just college campuses, but outside abortion facilities, high schools, homeless shelters, parks and malls, as well as pregnancy centers that don't have ultrasound.

Eight out of 10 abortion-minded women choose life after seeing their baby on ultrasound, Clark pointed



**Angela Clark (left) and Dr. Kirsten Ball bring their ultrasound-equipped RV for its first visit to George Mason University on December 12.**

out.

Through the pro-life network, Angela eventually contacted the New River Valley Pregnancy Resource Center in Blacksburg, Va.

"They had an RV and an ultrasound available, but no one to operate it," said Clark. "So they voted to donate the RV and ultrasound to us."

Kirsten Ball of Anglicans for Life, a medical doctor, agreed to be the medical director for the fledgling group, which took the name, A Best Choice.

Three nurses who stepped up to volunteer are undergoing training in counseling and ultrasound operation. In the meantime, Dr. Ball is performing the ultrasounds.

A Best Choice launched its operations on Labor Day weekend, when a group of pro-lifers holding Choose Life signs at a metro station in Alex-

andria talked with a woman who was 11 weeks pregnant.

"They referred her to us," said Clark. "I drove her to St. Mary of Sorrows Church in Fairfax Station, where we had the RV parked."

The woman saw her unborn baby on ultrasound and decided to keep her child—"Our first saved baby!" exclaimed Angela.

Since then, A Best Choice has taken their 35-foot recreational vehicle which, in addition to the ultrasound machine, is outfitted with a private examination room and counseling area, to numerous sites.

In Fairfax they parked the RV in a lot adjacent to an abortion mill and held up signs offering free pregnancy tests and free ultrasounds.

A security guard came out, told

**See ULTRASOUND, page 19**



# DEFEND LIFE

*Proclaiming the Culture of Life and  
Fighting the Culture of Death since 1987*

DefendLife.Org

P.O. Box 5427  
Baltimore, Maryland 21285  
[www.DefendLife.Org](http://www.DefendLife.Org)  
Jack Ames, Director  
410-337-3721  
[Jack@DefendLife.Org](mailto:Jack@DefendLife.Org)



*February 14, 2013 Anno Domini  
Saint Valentine's Day*

## Dear Friend of DEFEND LIFE,

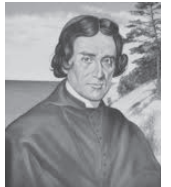
On Thursday night, January 24, it took **45 minutes** for the **13,000** persons attending the Vigil Mass just to exit the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, North America's largest Cathedral. This was my first clue that this year's March for Life on January 25 would be the largest ever! **Without a doubt, it was!**



I spoke to persons from at least eight mid-western and western states as far west as **Oklahoma**. I met several visibly excited **mid-shipmen** from the Naval Academy in nearby Annapolis. There was a contingent of 50. I told them we had to network as I handed them my cards.



I spoke to Hank, a retired road construction worker from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The U.P., as they call it, is that portion of Michigan west of Lake Michigan, south of Lake Superior and north of Wisconsin. This area is about 50% Catholic. Hank, who has a son who is a priest, explained that persons **still talk to each other on the U.P.** He also explained that the founding Bishop of Marquette, Michigan, who has been made Venerable, could easily be canonized during our lives. One of the reasons this area is so heavily Catholic is that founding **Bishop Frederic Baraga** learned numerous Indian languages and was able to convert thousands of Indians in the 1850s as he traipsed the snowy terrain of this remote area wearing snowshoes.



Friday morning, I sensed imminent gridlock while driving into DC on New York Avenue. Just beyond Bladensburg Road there was a huge back-up about 9:30 AM. I made a quick "U" turn and came in via Maryland Avenue instead.



A small group of us passed out postcards on the Mall and at the Smithsonian Metro Station as throngs of marchers were arriving. These were pre-printed postcards to the Prime Minister of the Irish Republic urging him to up his full influence to keep abortion **totally banned** in his country. You can help by visiting [KeepIrelandAbortionFree.org](http://KeepIrelandAbortionFree.org) and requesting a pack of such postcards to distribute to friends. Each postcard takes **\$1.05** postage. What a tragedy it would be if legalizing child killing were to be sanctioned in the land of Saint Patrick! Find out when your local **St. Patrick's Day Parade** is and use that occasion to pass out these cards. Call me at **410-337-3721** if you can march and distribute these cards with me in the Baltimore parade on Sunday, March 10. We'll have a special green and white **PRO-LIFE** T-shirt for you **first come, first served, but you must call!**



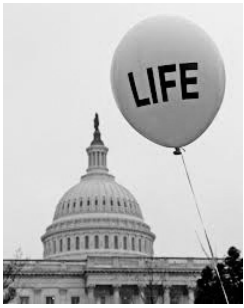
Afterwards, I **Marched for Life for the 40th time!** Without a doubt, this March was a quantum leap larger than any previous March. Here are some indications:



- Some early marchers had completed their march to Capitol Hill and were headed back to the south side of the Mall to catch their buses while thousands of would-be marchers on the north side of the Mall were still waiting to join the March.
- A friend at Union Station observed buses still arriving from places like Philadelphia after the March was over.
- After the March, it took me an hour to drive from where I had parked near the Smithsonian Metro Station to the Hyatt Regency. This normally would have taken 10 minutes.

It was total gridlock with buses floating around in a 10- to 12-block radius north and west of Capitol Hill because **there was literally no place for these many hundreds of buses to park.**





- At about 3:30 PM, I spoke to government employees from Loudon County awaiting their commuter buses to take them home. They agreed that in all the years they had worked on Capitol Hill, they had never seen gridlock like this.
- One person I spoke to at the Cardinal O'Connor Conference on Saturday, the day after the March, told me it took several hours for their group to find and board their bus.
- All hotels in the area were jammed, much more so than for the January 21 **Obami-nation!**



I ran into many long-time friends at the March. One of them was **Christine Wilson** from Council Bluffs, Iowa. Christine had lost her job at U.S. West Communications because she insisted on wearing a huge **PRO-LIFE** button. She later founded **Gabriel's Corner**, a very successful pregnancy center in Council Bluffs across from the abortion mill. The pregnancy center has its own chapel where the Blessed Sacrament is present 24/7. Her other claim to fame is this. When she spoke for **DEFEND LIFE** in the early 1990s, she spoke about 15 additional times at schools and churches in our area telling her story of **PRO-LIFE** heroism. I had called Franciscan University, left word that she was coming east from Iowa, and could easily stop there to speak. None other than **Father Michael Scanlon**, legendary president of that great school, called Christine inviting her to speak at Franciscan.



A priest I met Saturday was **Father Jerry Logan** of St. Pius X Parish in Rock Island, Illinois.



That's the parish where my dear late friend, **Dr. Frank Forlini**, and his nurse wife **Joanne**, were members. I knew Frank from our days at Villanova where Frank headed the Rocket Society which launched small rockets from the other side of the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks on the Villanova campus (**I yearn for those days of political incorrectness!**). Frank went on to practice cardiology, choosing Rock Island to set up his practice in the heart of America. He and Joanne knew that would be a great place to raise their family of four. Frank was a tenacious **PRO-LIFER** who had the **Heart of a Lion** and could never do enough to fight the evil of abortion. I gave Father Logan one of our great T-shirts to wear proudly around the rectory and told him to say hello to Joanne.



Speaking of the **Cardinal O'Connor Conference**, there were **650** students registered to attend, many of whom were high school students. We gave away about **140** of our stupendous T-shirts with the proviso that they would wear them at least one time a week on campus. They loved our T-shirts. Comments ranged from **Cool** to **Awesome** to **How can I get more of these to turn my campus around?** Congratulations to the great Georgetown students who organized this annual conference and the wonderful parents who raised them so well!

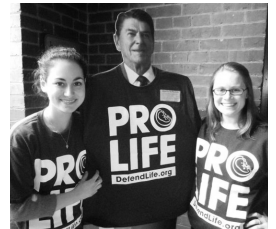
Students who gobbled up our T-shirts were from schools such as:

**Holy Cross**  
**Northeastern**  
**Fordham**

**Georgetown**  
**Creighton Prep (Omaha)**  
**St. Ignatius Prep (Chicago)**

**Dartmouth**  
**Merrimac**  
**Colgate**

**Harvard**  
**University of Colorado**  
**University of Tennessee**



One of the highlights of the **March for Life** and the **Rose Banquet** which followed was a glowing tribute to **Nellie Gray**, founder of the March. Nellie departed this world in August. This tribute was shown on two huge megatron screens on the Mall and on a huge screen at the Rose Banquet.

And thanks to you for saving **innocent pre-born babies from death by abortion!**

**Long Live Christ Our King,**

*Jack Ames*

**Jack Ames**

**Director, DEFEND LIFE**



# *Rosary and other prayers save unborn babies' lives*

By Jim Fritz

Recently, doing sidewalk counseling at the abortion clinic in Hagerstown, our “crew” was about to wrap things up. We had been there for several hours and the abortionist was in there doing his dirty work. We had talked to six women and tried to give them information to help them with alternatives and other help if they decided to keep their baby. None of them accepted.

A friend of one of the women waiting for an abortion had come out and was sitting on the stoop in front of the abortion clinic, smoking a cigarette.

Angela Carroll, Gail Hoffman and I decided we would pray the rosary for the women in the clinic. Angela led the prayers. We were right on the sidewalk about six feet from the woman, so Gail gave her a rosary.

She didn't say anything but took the rosary and later went back into the clinic to see how her friend was doing.

After we finished the Sorrowful Mysteries, we thought we should get ready to go. Not much else to do except try to give women coming out a booklet on healing from an abortion. Sometimes we just put the booklet on the cars if we knew which cars belonged to the women that were still in the clinic.

I had put most of the signs away when the woman who had been sitting on the stoop smoking came over to me. She had the pink and blue rosary that Gail had given her around her neck.

She said her friend changed her mind about the abortion and would like a rosary. I told her, “God bless you for changing her mind.”

I could then see her friend sitting down on the stairs to the lawyer's office next door and talking to Angela.

I reached in the back of the car and got out my little bag of rosaries. I only had black rosaries, but gave her one. She said that she would really prefer one like hers—the pink and blue one. I murmured, “Saint Anthony, please help me find one.” (Gail, who had all of the pink and blue rosaries, was across the street talking to someone.)

Well, down on the floor, under the Windex, paper towels, breakfast

---

## **She saw this man praying the rosary and could not go through with the abortion.**

---

bars and other stuff, I found one just like she wanted, still packaged in a plastic bag. She was very happy and headed down to give it to her friend.

I found out later, after talking to Angela, that the woman who had gone in for an abortion was a fallen-away Catholic, but changed her mind after seeing her friend's rosary.

Angela was the right one for her to talk to, as she told her all about St. Mary's Church and all of the help available.

The next day, I told Dick Retta about this and he was impressed. A wonderful friend of ours, Kathy Tesi, makes these rosaries and gives them to both of us.

I use the pink and blue ones for the clinic and the others for our “Rosary Box” at my church. They are great, as they are memory rosaries with metal crucifixes. Dick taught Kathy how to make them years ago.

By a strange coincidence, Kathy, who lives in Maryland but works in Washington, D.C., came up to Dick on the sidewalk the next morning and gave him some more rosaries. Dick was at the Planned Parenthood clinic in D.C., doing sidewalk counseling and about to leave, but he decided to pray the rosary first.

As he got out the rosary, a man came up to him and asked if he could have one. Dick asked him if he was Catholic and he replied, “No, but I do say some of the Catholic prayers.”

Dick gave him one and the man went inside Planned Parenthood. Later, he emerged with his girlfriend. She had changed her mind about having an abortion.

Another incident, which I related to Dick, happened several years ago. A young woman came up the sidewalk, walking past the prayer warriors, and refused to take any literature or even talk to us.

About 30 minutes later she came out and one of the counselors asked her if she changed her mind. She said yes, because on the way into the clinic she saw this man praying the rosary and after she got inside, she could not get it out of her mind. She could not go through with the abortion.

Three years ago, after our National Night of Prayers for Life from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at our church, Charlie Heise and I went down that morning to the abortuary in Hagerstown. It was hard getting up after those late hours, but we did.

We had four saves that day. We had never experienced that many saves on one day before or since. We average about one save a week.

The rosary and your prayers help.

## Book Review

# Virginian recalls life of healing, deliverance, evangelizing

By Diane Levero

*Emily was in her early twenties. A very attractive girl, she had admitted to sleeping with four “boyfriends” at one time.*

*Stella had discovered that one of these men had placed a curse on her womb. During her deliverance, Emily experienced pains similar to those of childbirth, falling on the floor, foaming at the mouth and screaming, as well as the reversal of her head—that is, her face turned toward her back.*

*At one point, Satan himself, using her vocal chords, yelled, “Leave me alone, I am not coming out.”*

*Stella whispered to a deliverance team member to call several other women for prayer support. Despite the impossibility of Stella being heard, Satan screamed at her, “No! Do not call them!”*

*In addition, Stella’s husband stood in the hall and prayed the rosary. Emily made gruesome faces at him while facing backward.*

*After four hours of deliverance prayers, Emily was finally set free.*

*Spiritual Warfare*, by Stella Davis

Christians believe that Christ performed miraculous healings and cast out demons. They also believe that his Apostles and disciples did the same, in His name.

After that—well, the beliefs of various Christian denominations about miracles and casting out evil spirits diverge.

Many Protestant Christians (though not all) believe that the miracles of healing and deliverance stopped after the Apostles passed from the scene.

Not so the Catholics, who can rattle off dozens of saints through the ages who have performed countless miracles through prayer (my favorite is Padre Pio). Most of them were priests or religious.

But now here comes a mere lay woman in our own lifetime—from Alexandria, Virginia, no less!—who has written a book, *Spiritual Warfare*, about her 35-plus years of healing and deliverance ministry.

Clare McGrath-Merkle, a mem-

typical elderly, devout Catholic lady: married to the same man for over 50 years, mother of four, grandmother of 12. Tries to attend Mass daily, and frequents Confession and Eucharistic Adoration. Active in charitable and church work and Bible study.

But Stella has gone further. She has taken Jesus at His word personally.

“I believe that the power to heal given by Christ to His Apostles is available to mankind today,” she writes. “This power to heal can and should be an ordinary common activity of Christian life.”

“Deliverance” from evil spirits is another matter.

First, says Davis, there is a distinction between the ministry of deliverance and that of exorcism.

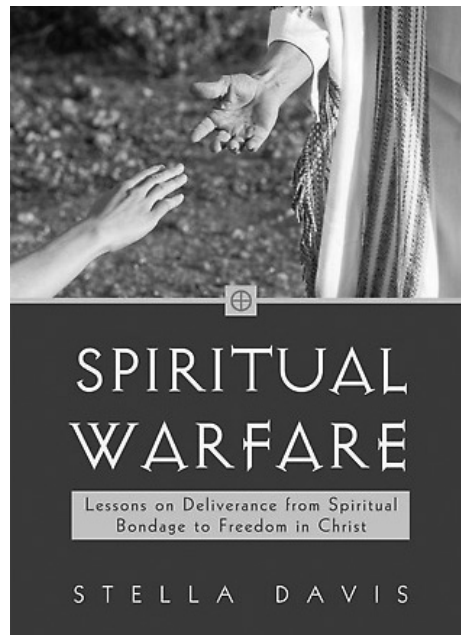
Exorcism is done by a priest authorized by the local bishop, using the prayers of the Church to free someone who is totally possessed by Satan.

Deliverance from evil spirits is done by a lay person whom the Holy Spirit calls and empowers with the gift. (Priests can also perform deliverances.)

“This is not a ministry in which one says, ‘I would like to do this ministry,’” cautions Davis. “One is called by God, and equipped by God with the gifts needed for the work. God calls people who have been walking with Him for a long time . . .”

In other words, don’t try this at home, boys and girls.

In 1980 Davis attended The Bible Institute of the University of Steubenville (now Franciscan University). At that time, Fr. Michael Scanlan, T.O.R., commissioned her as an evangelist to teach from the word of God.



ber of the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites whom I have met at pro-life events, met author Stella Davis in 1994. Since then, she has worked with her and witnessed many of her healings and deliverances.

Clare helped edit Stella’s book, much of which is written in question-and-answer form. She spent a week at Stella’s home in Alexandria, filling up a stack of 90-minute tapes with her questions and Stella’s answers.

In many ways, Stella is your

Since then, she has traveled the world teaching, healing, and doing deliverances.

Her healing and deliverance ministry actually began in the 1970s, but was not at first welcomed by the Catholic Church.

When her husband was stationed at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, she had become active in charitable works with Protestant, Catholic and Jewish women on the post. Protestants of many denominations recognized her healing gifts and invited her to their churches to teach and heal.

After 12 years, while Davis was speaking at a Protestant church in France, a Catholic woman was healed of her illness.

The woman asked her priest to invite Davis to speak at his church. He did, and from then on, the doors were opened at Catholic churches.

Basic to Davis's ministry is the

understanding that we live in a world in which two kingdoms are constantly at war: Christ's kingdom of light and Satan's kingdom of darkness.

This concept presupposes that there is a being called Satan, or the devil. Davis points out that many people don't believe in the existence of Satan today, and that's just fine with him; it makes his job easier.

But Jesus knew that Satan existed and spoke of him frequently. Saints like Padre Pio and St. John Vianney battled physically with him.

And it's hard to spend any time praying in front of an abortion mill and not feel the very palpable presence of evil.

With these thoughts in mind, as Clare McGrath-Merkle advised in her foreword, I suggest that you exercise "a healthy suspension of disbelief" as you read *Spiritual Warfare*.

You will read of amazing happen-

ings: astounding healings, frightening accounts of deliverance, a near-death experience, levitation, return to life from death, bilocation.

You will learn of unfamiliar, often seemingly strange, concepts and practices: the gift of discernment of evil spirits, "speaking in tongues," "the Jericho walk," witchcraft, New Age practices, and spiritual attacks through curses.

Keep an open mind. Victor Tamayo Betancourt, Auxiliary Bishop of Barranquilla, Columbia, has given *Spiritual Warfare* his Imprimatur, calling it "an excellent book, to be a guide for the personal spiritual growth and as a tool to help others in their faith."

*Stella Davis, now in her eighties, is president of Christian Women in Action, a group of Catholic women dedicated to winning souls for Christ. Their website is [cwiaholyspirit.org](http://cwiaholyspirit.org).*



### **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.*

#### **LOCATION**

Davis Memorial Park  
14300 Uhl Highway, S.E.  
Cumberland, MD 21502

### **CUMBERLAND HISTORIC CEMETERY ORGANIZATION**

534 A Street, LaVale, MD 21502

**301-722-4624**

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

Edward W. Taylor, Jr., President

### **CENTER, from page 6**

counsel recruited.

And tax exempt status which proscribes any fungible conflicts of interests with other apostolates and which is singularly controlled by the center, and only the center, must be arranged so donors may have no doubt about where their dollars are going.

Baby clothes, diapers, and other material donations tend to be consistently available to a pregnancy center from parish groups and others.

Finally, protocols, documentation devices, training materials, website development, office supply, and all such systems that facilitate the business of a pregnancy center have to be debated and created. All pregnancy centers must go through these stages of development.

The opportunity is very real. It

should be a serious consideration, mainly because these properties immediate to Planned Parenthood are currently available—but also because the idea of Planned Parenthood continually looming large over the pro-life community in Baltimore is intolerable.

A pregnancy center there would eventually, after some hard fought battles, end the darkness of Planned Parenthood in the heart of Baltimore.

As for the necessary dollars to achieve viability until a self-perpetuation donor base is established, that will come if and when people are interested in volunteering.

*George Koukoulas, a member of St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church in Overlea, sidewalk counseled at Planned Parenthood on Howard Street for two years. His email is [georgecall@comcast.net](mailto:georgecall@comcast.net).*

**Pray and Act to  
Take America Back!**



# Enemies of conscience have powerful ally in Obama, says prof

By Tom Sheahan

A Princeton University professor and a Roman Catholic whom the *New York Times* has called “this country’s most influential conservative Christian thinker” warned pro-lifers that hard times are ahead for those who believe in religious and conscience rights.

“The picture is gloomy, but we must face reality,” said Professor Robert P. George, who holds Princeton’s prestigious Chair in Jurisprudence and lectures on constitutional interpretation, civil liberties, and philosophy of law.

Speaking at the annual Rose Dinner held by West Virginians for Life November 15, Professor George, a native West Virginian from Morgantown, said that “enemies of conscience” in the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) have a powerful ally in President Obama.

In his second term, Obama will allow open discrimination against pro-life medical practitioners, said George.

“Obama’s support for abortion is 100 percent,” he noted. “He opposed all restrictions on abortion, even protecting a child that survives an abortion.”

“He wants to repeal the Hyde Amendment, and have abortions paid for. He also supports the Freedom of Choice Act, which would overturn many state laws that restrict abortion in any way.”

George recalled that in 2008, when he was a member of the President’s Council on Bioethics (which was abolished by Obama in 2009), the council heard testimony from Dr. Anne Lyerly, chair of ACOG’s Com-



**Pro-abortionists want to force doctors who refuse to do abortions out of medical practice, warns Professor Robert P. George.**

mittee on Ethics.

Dr. Lyerly presented the ACOG committee’s 2007 report, “The Limits of Conscientious Refusal in Reproductive Medicine,” which asserts that physicians should be required to refer patients for abortion, or to perform abortions in some cases.

Professor George refuted Lyerly’s testimony, telling the hearing that the ACOG report was not medical at all, but a document of philosophy and ethical opinion.

The report was *only* the opinion of those who got control of the ACOG ethics committee, George told the pro-lifers: “It was an affront to all religious people, and would trample on their rights.”

“All the parameters of the report are philosophical, neither medical nor scientific. The judgment underlying the report is flawed. Those who wrote it claimed medical expertise, but they didn’t have expertise on these issues.”

The ACOG report used medical

language to twist the meaning and policy, he asserted.

“The basic philosophy driving the opinion is *not* health care. The report acknowledges that there is disagreement on the ethics of abortion, so they ought to allow for people who object to the abortion procedure.”

The ACOG report was a sheer power-play by those who had gained power, George charged; it was not morally neutral, but only *pretended* to be. The writers of the report simply wanted to drive out the pro-life physicians.

“We must not fall for this report,” he said; “their assumptions are all wrong. The physician who refuses to perform an abortion does not impose his position on anyone.”

“Physicians who dissent are told to either get in line or get out of medical practice. They would like to kick out Catholics, Christians, Orthodox Jews and other objectors. So who is it that’s imposing their values?”

The pro-aborts are imposing the opinion that abortion is good medicine—“reproductive health care”—but you can’t call that health care, said George.

Usually, a woman decides on abortion because she does not want to have a baby, he said

“The pro-abortion position is *not* based on medical necessity. Pregnancy is *not* a disease. A pregnant woman is *not* sick, nor does the pregnancy threaten her health.”

This type of imposition is directly opposed to the fundamental principles of the American Constitution, he pointed out.

Little change took place after 2008, because conscience-protection

**See CONSCIENCE, page 18**

# 40 Days for Life offers chance to help save lives for Lent

By Ellen Staniszewski

This Lenten season is a splendid time to join a 40 Days for Life group in your area. As you prepare for Lent, why not include fasting and praying for the end of abortion, from Ash Wednesday until Easter?

To date, this peaceful, prayerful and powerful pro-life campaign has resulted in 6,749 babies being saved, 75 abortion workers no longer performing abortions, and 25 abortion facilities closed, according to their website, 40daysforlife.com.

40 Days for Life has grown to more than half a million people led to pray and fast to end abortion, with amazing results in local communities.

God has blessed this peaceful worldwide effort to fight victoriously against the horrific abortion industry. As a light shining in the darkness in front of abortion mills, many hearts have been changed, and thousands of unborn babies saved.

Your help is needed to pray, fast and take an active role in this 40 Days for Life Campaign, from February 13 to March 24. You can choose to pray the rosary with others in front of a local abortion mill, or you may learn how to be a sidewalk counselor to help a woman choose life, rather than an abortion.

Perhaps you could donate time or money to help the local group, or lead a group in your church to participate. You might encourage your church pastor to support the effort in the parish newsletter. Your church youth group may also want to get involved.

The Knights of Columbus often take an active role. Join a Living Rosary, or pray from your home.



**Pro-lifers pray at a memorial service at Metropolitan Family Planning Clinic, an abortion mill in College Park, on November 4, the closing day of last fall's 40 Days for Life campaign.**

Daily devotionals are available on the website.

Prayer and fasting are greatly needed to soften the hearts of the women seeking abortions to con-

sider choosing life for their babies. Go to: 40daysforlife.com to sign up to pray or find out more about this life-saving campaign.

## Letter to the Editor

# Brown and Baker hit the mark on Nov. 6 election

Greetings from another foxhole in the spiritual battle brewing in our land.

My congratulations to Bob Brown and Janet Baker in their right-on, fight-on articles in *Defend Life*, Nov.-Dec. 2012.

“Post-Christian America voted for reflection of their own morality” by Bob Brown and “Weak Catholic leadership cost the Catholic vote—and election” by Janet Baker were excellent.

Combined, they are even more on the mark, as the connection of non-voters for Romney and voters for Obama found amidst the weak or misled moral environment from the pulpit and chancery in at least two large dioceses, these being at the historic foundation of our country, points out the *lack of pride*, I

would even say *disdain* that many Catholics have for the Church they refuse to leave.

Would that those examples Janet offers are unique. They are, of course, not.

The pulpit needs to resonate with the reality of sin and conversion once again and remind all that this fleeting second of our earthly lives in its mode of entertainment and applause (bread and circuses) is but a micro moment against the reality of everyone’s eternal bliss or eternal damnation.

Statistically, the largest “religious entity” in the U.S. is an amalgam of ignorant and non-practicing Catholics, or decidedly anti-Catholic “Catholics.”

We have our work cut out for us, and not just for defending the

babies and healing the mothers and fathers. The two articles, though not the first time their observations made their way into good Catholic (and otherwise) reading, take a position from which we need to launch future pro-life enterprises.

I would also draw your attention to Fr. Frank Pavone’s “How to Keep the Fire Burning” e-brochure at [priestsforlife.org/store/p-316-how-to-keep-the-fire-burning.aspx](http://priestsforlife.org/store/p-316-how-to-keep-the-fire-burning.aspx). It’s a needed “re-positioning” for all who are still bludgeoned and numbed by the electoral explosion on November 6.

**Fr. Denis Wilde, OSA**  
**Priests for Life**

## SHOOTINGS, from page 4

deny that he or she is a human being.

And for us, as people of faith, God’s word confirms that—when it tells us, for example, in Psalm 139, “For thou didst form my inward parts. Thou didst knit me together in my mother’s womb....

Every baby, whether planned or unplanned by his or her parents, is planned by God for His purpose, created in His image and likeness, and destined to spend eternity with Him in heaven.

Only God creates that life, and only God has the right to take it away.

We read these words in the catechism: “Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the

moment of conception.

“From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person, among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life.”

That, brothers and sisters, is the conversation that America needs to be having in the aftermath of the horrific act that took place last Friday....

What I’m saying here this morning is not meant to bring condemnation on anyone who has directly or indirectly participated in an abortion in the past, particularly if it has been repented of and brought to the Lord for forgiveness.

All of us are sinners—and often our sin is committed in a context of immaturity, or lack of knowledge, or

overwhelming emotional pressure.

But if you have in any way participated in an abortion in the past and have not brought it to the Lord in the sacrament of Confession, I urge you to do so as soon as possible. The Lord wants to forgive you....

I want to close with these words, spoken by Almighty God to his people over 3,500 years ago and recorded in the Book of Deuteronomy: “I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse.

“Therefore, choose life, that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying His voice, and cleaving to Him, for that means life to you and length of days.”



**REALITY, from page 3**

They take an abortion trauma survey.

"If you answer yes to nine or more of the questions, then post-abortion trauma has probably affected your life," explains Jill. "I have 13 yeses out of 30."

"I win because I have 18!" jokes Kelly.

In the future episodes, says KnockTV's president and CEO, Geoffrey Rogers, the five women "form a tight bond and embrace each other as they go on this journey together."

"They share their abortion stories, work through anger, receive forgiveness, and allow God's love to set them free from the bondages of their past decisions."

"These women are so courageous, so bold, to talk about this in such a public way," Jill reflects.

"Surrender the Secret" producer/director Cecil Stokes is an Emmy Award winner whose latest project was the feature film, "October Baby."

The series can be viewed on KnockTV.com/Surrender the Secret. Plans are to release subsequent episodes weekly.

KnockTV takes its name from Revelations 3:20, when Jesus says to the church in Laodicea, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock."

"He calls them the lukewarm church, neither hot nor cold," explains CEO Rogers.

"They have all the riches of the world, but no room or need for Him. The Lord showed us that this is representative of much of the Church in America today."

KnockTV aims to show the power of God being released by everyday Christians as they fulfill the Great Commission through their daily lives, says Rogers.

**CONSCIENCE, from page 15**

provisions were in place. But Obama has since then abrogated all sorts of conscience-protecting laws that we struggled to pass for decades, including conscience protection for those who refuse to be involved in abortion, said George.

"Those conscience protections are gone now. Medical schools want to force students to participate in abortion in order to become a doctor."

Professor George concluded his talk with a clear message: under these difficult circumstances, it falls to us to resist.

"We must protect the sacred right of conscience," he declared. "Obama's troops have made themselves the enemies of conscience, as well as the enemies of life."

"To stand up for conscience, we must defend our religious principles, as well as the principles of our nation."

**PRINTING FOR LIFE**

You can't beat our prices for high quality full-color printing:

1,000	Business Cards	\$ 45
1,000	Bookmarks	\$ 39
1,000	Postcards	\$ 95
1,000	Flyers	\$149

All printing on high quality glossy stock and book paper.

888-245-9008 • [PrintingForLife.Com](http://PrintingForLife.Com)

**Maryland March for Life**

Monday, March 11  
Annapolis, Maryland

5pm • St. Mary's Catholic Church  
103 Duke of Gloucester St.

6pm • Assemble for March  
to State House in St. Mary's  
Parking Lot

7pm • Rally at Lawyers' Mall  
in front of State House



**GET THIS GREAT T-SHIRT FREE**

If you **PROMISE** —

- To wear it **ONCE A WEEK** in **PUBLIC**
- To send us a picture of yourself wearing it.

Send requests including shirt size (M, L, XL, 2XL), address and picture to: [T-shirts@DefendLife.Org](mailto:T-shirts@DefendLife.Org) or **DEFEND LIFE**

PO Box 5427 • Baltimore, MD 21285

**Catholic Men's Conference**

Calvert Hall HS Auditorium • Towson, MD 21286  
Saturday, March 16, 8:30am – 4pm

To register, call 410-252-5737 or 410-337-5348  
or visit [www.CatholicMensFellowship.Com](http://www.CatholicMensFellowship.Com)



STEVE RAY

*Living for Christ  
in a Pagan Culture*



RALPH MARTIN

*Soldiers in the Battle:  
Witnessing for Christ*



RICHARD LANE

*Real Men Take  
the Narrow Road*



WILLIAM LORI

*Archbishop  
of Baltimore*

**BULK DISTRIBUTE THIS GREAT MAGAZINE!**

We will mail you 10 extra copies of this outstanding newsletter to distribute in various ways.



**410-296-LIVE (5483)**  
[Bulk@DefendLife.Org](mailto:Bulk@DefendLife.Org)

**ULTRASOUND, from page 9**

them they had to move, and eventually called the police. They left.

They had better luck outside an abortion facility in Alexandria, where their signs attracted several women who came in for pregnancy tests and ultrasounds.

Angela had helped establish a pro-life group, Students for Life at George Mason. When she and the group tried to get permission to bring the RV on campus, they got the run-around.

"They stalled with us as they did earlier when GAP [the Genocide Awareness Project] tried to bring their display on campus," said Clark.

The school administration had capitulated when GAP's sponsor, the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform, threatened to bring in attorneys.

Clark met with persons from George Mason's Events Management office which, after more stalling, finally granted permission.

"We brought the RV on campus December 12, and handed out hundreds of fliers explaining what we

do," said Clark. "A lot of students took pictures of us with their cell phones."

The group has received permission to be on campus every other Wednesday during the spring semester.

They are also going to Holy Family Church in Dale City, Va., every other Wednesday, and hope to be going soon to the abortion clinic in Manassas.

With a \$10,000 donation from 13 area Knights of Columbus councils, as well as donations from local parishes, A Best Choice was able to purchase a new ultrasound machine (their original machine was "very old," said Angela).

"The Knights of Columbus have been amazing!" said Clark. "They have done pancake breakfasts, car washes and other fundraisers to help us."

Fr. Mike Bazan, pastor of Clark's church, Sacred Heart in Manassas, blessed the new ultrasound and the RV on January 20, after 12:30 Mass.

What does A Best Choice need most now?

"Operating funds," said Clark. The cost for medical malpractice insurance is extremely high, for example.

It costs \$80 to fill the tank of their 1987 RV, which gets only 7 miles per gallon. "We'd love to be able to downsize to a more fuel-efficient van," said Clark.

They also need drivers who can operate an RV—Angela currently does all the driving.

*For more information on A Best Choice, call Angela Clark at 703-946-3076. Their website is [abestchoice1.org](http://abestchoice1.org).*

**POW, from page 8**

this war. We have to pray for them, that they have guts enough to speak out—that they forget about government money.

"Then we have to obey the bishops—that's critical. If 60 million Catholics obey them, that's the end of abortion."

*Readers may view Guy Gruters' talk at [YouTube.com/4defendlife](http://YouTube.com/4defendlife).*

## ADDITIONAL STUDENT DIRECTORS

**Needed for  
July 22-26  
13th Maryland  
Annual Face the  
Truth Tour**

- These are paid positions
- Most work can be done from home at night enabling you to hold a day job
- A great item to add to your pro-life resume

Contact Jack Ames  
410-337-3721

**FIRST COME – FIRST SERVED**

## GRAPHIC SIGNS SAVE LIVES!

Order your own  
3' x 5' laminated  
signs and start your  
own Truth Tours!

**FaceTheTruthAmerica.Com • 412-835-8127**



***Until America Sees Abortion,  
America Will Not Reject Abortion!***

**Visit [ExposeAbortion.com](http://ExposeAbortion.com)**

See what Father Frank Pavone means!

## HEAR JOE SCHEIDLER

**New Message Weekly  
Call PRO-LIFE Action News**

**410-296-2676 or 773-777-2525 (for unlimited Long Distance)**



# DEFEND LIFE

P.O. Box 5427, Baltimore, MD 21285

Affiliate, Mater Dei Chapter, Catholic United For Faith

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage

PAID

Baltimore, MD  
Permit No. 7433



**INSIDE: Abortion show  
comes to reality TV**

*Please donate to receive  
all upcoming issues!*

**MAILING  
LABEL  
HIGHLIGHTED  
PINK??**

*To continue receiving  
this outstanding  
magazine:*

- Please donate!
- OR
- Simply contact us!

**DEFEND LIFE is ALL-VOLUNTEER!**

**Every \$ you give goes to ERADICATE ABORTION!**

**Least  
Expensive  
Printing in  
America!**

**DETAILS PAGE 18**

**Maryland  
March  
for Life  
Monday  
March 11**

**DETAILS PAGE 18**

**Catholic  
Men's  
Conference  
Saturday  
March 16**

**DETAILS PAGE 18**

**13th Annual  
Maryland  
Face the  
Truth Tour  
July 22-26**

**DETAILS PAGE 19**

**RIP  
John Lewis Smith, III  
1941 - 2013**



*Devoted Father of 5  
Grandfather of 13  
Beloved Husband of  
Pro-Life Hero  
Missy Reilly Smith  
Friend, Protector  
Advocate*

*Superb Attorney  
Insurance Executive*

Please send Mass Cards  
for the repose of his soul:  
Missy Reilly Smith  
4000 Cathedral Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016



**Dee Becker, 86**

Founder of the Pro-Life  
Movement in Delaware and  
one of the founder of The  
March for Life, suffered serious  
injuries on January when her  
car was broadsided while  
bringing Holy Communion to  
Nursing Home Residents in  
Wilmington.

Dee had major surgery and is  
now facing many months of  
rehab and physical therapy.

PLEASE SEND MASS CARDS  
FOR HER TOTAL RECOVERY TO:

Dee Becker  
217 East Court  
Wilmington, DE 19810

## DEFEND LIFE MARCH LECTURE TOUR



**Vicki Thorn**  
Founder, Protect Rachel  
*The Biology of the Theology  
of the Body*

**Thursday, March 14 • 7:30pm**

**St. Mary of the Mills Catholic Church**

166 St. Mary's Place • Laurel, MD 20707

703-618-5273 • [Deb@DefendLife.org](mailto:Deb@DefendLife.org)

**Friday, March 15 • 10:00am**

**St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church**

**Birch Library**

9190 Church Street • Libertytown, MD 21762

301-829-2888 • [BBolgers@Msn.com](mailto:BBolgers@Msn.com)

**1:00pm**

**Our Lady's Center**

3301 Rogers Avenue • Ellicott City, MD 21403

410-461-5066 • [Email@OurLadysCenter.net](mailto:Email@OurLadysCenter.net)

**8:00pm**

**St. Jane Frances de Chantel Catholic Church**

9801 Georgetown Road • Bethesda, MD 20814

703-618-5273 • [Deb@DefendLife.org](mailto:Deb@DefendLife.org)

*N.B. Talk will be in the Church Hall immediately after  
Stations of the Cross beginning at 7:30pm*