

DEFEND LIFE

Promoting the Culture of Life and Fighting the Culture of Death since 1987
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Judge bans pro-lifer from Planned Parenthood for 6 months Pro-abort "escort" charges pro-lifer with assault, coughing in face

At a hearing in Baltimore's District Court of Maryland on October 14, pro-lifer Larry O'Neill was ordered to stay away from the Planned Parenthood abortion center in Baltimore until April 14, 2021.

Judge Nicole Pastore Klein found that "a preponderance of the evidence" showed that O'Neill had assaulted Aliza Worthington in front of the Howard Street facility on September 3, and that he "is likely to commit" such an act against her in the future.

Judge Klein therefore ordered the pro-lifer not to contact Worthington in any manner, and to stay away from Planned Parenthood, where she is a regular volunteer escort, for the six-month period.

Worthington, 51, alleged in her complaint that as a "volunteer patient escort" at the abortion center, she was escorting a woman into the building when O'Neill, "a regular protester," pushed into her from behind.

"There had been sufficient distance between myself and Mr. O'Neill, Jr.," said Worthington.

"[H]e could have stopped before hitting me. This was not accidental. I was almost knocked over."

About 15 minutes later, as



Larry O'Neill (right) stands with attorney Mike May (center) and John Roswell outside Eastside District Court in Baltimore after a judge orders O'Neill banned from Planned Parenthood for 6 months.

she was escorting three people into Planned Parenthood, she charged, O'Neill again approached, and "face-to-face" with her, "deliberately coughed in my face."

"I was wearing a mask," Worthington testified at the hearing. "He was not wearing a mask."

"Planned set-up"

"I believe that this was a planned set-up," says John Roswell, director of the Baltimore branch of Sidewalk Advocates for Life (SAFL).

"They [Planned Parenthood] took my standing signs away; now they're going after the people who hold my signs!"

In August, the Baltimore Housing Department, evidently in league with Planned Parenthood, slapped Roswell with a citation and a \$500 fine for placing pro-life signs

See BANNED, page 4

Pro-lifers give aborted baby girl Christian Mass and burial

On November 27, 2019, a cleaning woman went into the ladies' restroom at Ruby Tuesday restaurant in Upper Marlboro, Md., to wash the toilets.

Floating in one blood-filled toilet bowl, beneath a layer of paper towels and sanitary pads, was the body of a late-term unborn baby girl with her umbilical cord still attached.

Emergency Medical Services, responding to a 911 call from the restaurant, pronounced the unborn baby dead at the scene.

Prince George's County Police followed up on the case.

They located the mother and learned that she had gone for an abortion at a notorious Washington, D.C. late-term abortion facility for a three-day abortion procedure, starting November 25.

On November 26 she was given medication to delete her cervix,



Photo: Jack Ames

with the child to be removed the following day.

But, police reported, when the mother went for dinner at Ruby Tuesday the night of the 26th, she suffered cramps, went to the restroom, and delivered the baby in

the toilet.

She told police she did not see any signs of life in the child. She also told them she didn't want to claim her baby's body.

Pro-lifer Mel Davis had picked up the police reports on a police scanner and called long-time prolife activist Missy Reilly Smith with the news.

Missy, founder of WAKE UP (Women Against the Killing and Exploitation of Unprotected Persons), decided to try to claim the little girl's body to give her a proper Christian funeral and burial.

But first, Missy decided, the poor child needed a name. She named her "Philomena," after the third-century, 13-year-old Greek martyr and saint, and "Grace" after an abortion worker whom Missy knew who had quit and returned to the Catholic Church.

But no mortician Missy called was willing to take the baby's body for safekeeping until the funeral and burial could be arranged.

Missy called Jack Ames for help. The Defend Life director had better luck: he happened to be in a Bible study group at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen with Jolie Mitchell, the wife of John Mitchell III, chairman of Mitchell-Wiedefeld Funeral Home in Towson, Md. Mr. Mitchell readily agreed to Jack's request.

The abortionist had given the baby's gestational age at 25 weeks.

But when Jack went to the funeral home to take a photo of



Bishop Coffey raises the chalice during the Consecration at Philomena Grace's funeral.

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Ambo, fire, police respond to Planned Parenthood 911 call

Pro-lifer Dick Schaefer was at his usual post just outside the front door of Baltimore's Planned Parenthood on the morning of October 30 when he heard the shrill wail of a siren.

Seconds later, as pro-abortion "escorts" stood on the sidewalk, waving their arms to flag it down, a Fire Department Rescue Truck, lights flashing, pulled up on Howard Street and parked opposite the abortion facility.

Two paramedics emerged from the truck, grabbed their medical bags, and hurried in the front door.

Moments later, an ambulance with lights and siren active pulled up near the truck. Two more medics got out and went inside.

"About five or ten minutes later, two police cars arrived," said Schaefer. "The two police officers also went inside."

Audio and printed files of 911 communications from the abortion clinic that day, obtained by *Defend Life*, were heavily redacted and shed little light on the reason for the call, or what occurred inside.

On the audio file, when the 911 operator told the Planned Parenthood caller, "Tell me exactly what happened," she replied, "We had a patient who was here for an appointment, and it seems like she "

The rest of her response was redacted, as was the majority of the audio.

Toward the end of the audio, the 911 operator instructed the caller to "gather her medications, unlock the door, turn on the outside light, and have someone flag down the paramedics. If she gets worse in any way, call us back immediately



Pro-lifer
Dick Schaefer
(right) looks
on as two
paramedics
enter the
Planned
Parenthood
abortion
center in
Baltimore,
responding to
a 911 call.

for further instructions."

Of the four medics and two officers inside the building together, the two rescue truck medics emerged first, said Schaefer.

"But the rescue truck didn't leave," he recalled; "the rescue medics remained outside until the two ambulance medics came out."

After both Fire Department vehicles left, the police officers remained inside ten or fifteen minutes longer, then came out accompanying a young black woman.

"She was obviously pretty upset, walking very slowly, with her head down, paying no attention to anyone," said Schaefer

"The police officers, both men, seemed kind and empathetic toward her."

The pro-lifer thinks they may have offered her a ride home, but she declined and walked away.

"We had four young Christian women there that day" offering help to abortion-minded women, he said.

"One of them began talking to her, and asked her if she would like a ride."

The unhappy woman, with tears streaming down her face, said no, and walked around the corner.

John Roswell, who was also there that day, thinks the woman may have suffered a panic attack.

"The only time when there is what appears to be a panic attack is when the 'deathscorts' [his name for the Planned Parenthood escorts] are there, and get the women [clients] all upset," declared the Sidewalk Advocates for Life Baltimore director

Earlier audio and video files

See AMBULANCE, page 4

BANNED, from page 1

on the sidewalk in front of Planned Parenthood, allegedly in violation of a city sign ordinance.

Roswell, with the help of the Thomas More Society, a public interest law firm, is appealing the citation and fine.

In the meantime, to avoid further crippling fines, the pro-lifers have been carrying their signs.

O'Neill had been volunteering on Thursdays, carrying a large "sandwich" sign showing unborn babies, strapped to his shoulders.

He agrees with Roswell that the assault charge against him is "all about intimidation; every day you're there, they try to intimidate you."

Testifying in his own defense, O'Neill, 77, told the court that he is retired and does various volunteer work.

On September 3, he said, he was on the corner in front of Planned Parenthood when he saw a woman walking toward the building.

When he approached the woman to talk to her, Worthington stepped between the two of them with her back to O'Neill, blocking him from talking to her.

"She said, 'Don't listen to him! Don't listen to him!'

"In my feeling, *she* bumped *me*," he testified.

Later, when Worthington again stepped between him and other people he was trying to talk to, he explained that she was so close, "Her breath made me gag and cough—my cough was not intended to do damage to anyone.

"To be honest with you," he

added, "as a Catholic and a Christian, we try to get them [abortion-minded clients] to see that abortion is the killing of an unborn child."

Objecting to the designation from Worthington and a witness for her that he and the other pro-lifers were acting as "protesters," O'Neill added, "We're not protesters; we're advocates."

On cross examination, he was asked, regarding the first incident, "Did that frustrate you that she was keeping you from talking to the woman?"

"Frustrate? No. Disappoint," O'Neill replied.

He said that he was not wearing a mask when he coughed on Worthington during the second incident because, "If I talk to someone trying to persuade them, they're not going to hear a word I say [with the mask on]; that's why I take the mask down."

"This is a joke!"

Called as a defense witness by O'Neill's attorney, Mike May, SAFL director Roswell, 73, agreed with O'Neill that the Sidewalk Advocates were not acting as "protesters."

"We're there to offer help" and alternatives for abortion-minded women, he explained.

On September 3, Worthington "was following her normal practice of jumping in front of" the pro-lifers when they approached people to talk to them and offer them flyers.

"I did see Larry O'Neill offer a woman a flyer. I saw Ms. Worthington clearly try to interfere with him.

"She was pretty close to him; she had pushed herself between him and the woman he was trying to talk to," said Roswell.

In announcing her Final Peace

AMBULANCE, from page 3

obtained by *Defend Life* confirmed that a woman had suffered a panic attack at the Baltimore Planned Parenthood on December 7, 2018.

The audio file revealed that the Planned Parenthood client herself actually made the call. She said she was having an "anxiety attack" and needed an ambulance.

Although the file was somewhat redacted, it was not nearly as redacted as 911 calls made from Planned Parenthood by the abortion center's personnel.

Apparently, some files are much more heavily redacted than others.

Order, Judge Klein said, "I feel for both sides."

But, she added, "I have some very specific things I have to look at. I have three people [Worthington and her two witnesses] who said that [the alleged assault] was intentional."

Klein told O'Neill, "Do not have any contact with [Worthington] whatsoever. Do not go to Planned Parenthood for the duration of the order.

"I'm very sorry this incident occurred," she concluded.

After the hearing, Roswell told O'Neill and Thomas More Society attorney Mike May, "This is a joke! They jump in front of us whenever we try to talk to people—collisions are going to occur!"

Worthington "was playing this game that you were only a foot away from her; but she jumps in between us—she puts *herself* in that position!" he added disgustedly.

May filed an appeal of the judge's decision on behalf of O'Neill on October 22.

Judge stets charges, bans pro-lifer from abortion clinic for years

On November 5, pro-lifer Larry O'Neill stood in the hall outside Courtroom No. 5 at the U.S. District Court for Baltimore City on Wabash Avenue, awaiting his trial on charges of assault and reckless endangerment against a Planned Parenthood "patient escort."

Earlier, on October 14, a district court judge had issued a Peace Order banning O'Neill from Planned Parenthood and from any contact with the escort for six months based on the same allegations.

But now the stakes were much higher: O'Neill was facing criminal trial on these two charges, with much more serious possible consequences.

If found guilty of reckless endangerment, he faced a penalty of up to 5 years' imprisonment and/or a \$5,000 fine. A guilty finding on the charge of second-degree assault could result in up to 10 years in prison and/or a \$2,500 fine.

Tensions were high in the courtroom hall where O'Neill stood with his Thomas More Society-appointed attorney, Mike May, and John Roswell, director of Sidewalk Advocates for Life in Baltimore.

Down the hall near the courthouse windows, perhaps thirty feet away, his accuser, Aliza Worthington, stood with a small group of supporters.

Amidst this tense tableau, Justin Dickman, the young State prosecuting attorney for the criminal case, approached O'Neill and asked if he would agree to a stet.

"Stet," a Latin term meaning "let it stand," means that a criminal case is placed on the stet docket and remains inactive for a period of time, with neither a guilty or not



Larry O'Neill (right) and John Roswell leave U.S. District Court after O'Neill's November 5 criminal trial.

guilty verdict declared.

"For the first year, either party, the State (not Ms. Worthington) or Larry, can have it opened for any reason," explained attorney May.

"For the next two years, it may only be opened for good cause shown.

"Thus, the defendant must waive (give up) his right to a speedy trial. The advantage, clearly, is that it eliminates the risk of a criminal conviction."

In the earlier Peace Order case, the judge had only to find that O'Neill had committed assault based on "a preponderance of evidence."

In the criminal assault trial, the bar was higher; the judge must find him guilty "beyond a reasonable doubt."

But Worthington was waiting with her witnesses, clearly there to make the same allegations, with potentially much graver penalties.

After a hushed conference lasting some minutes with Dickman and May, O'Neill agreed to a stet.

Dickman then approached Worthington and her group down the hall.

"From my observations of body language, when Mr. Dickman was trying to sell the Planned Parenthood people on [agreeing] to the stet, he had an exceptional amount of difficulty persuading them," noted May.

Judge Martin Dorsey, presiding at the November 5 trial, declared a stet on both charges, stipulating that O'Neill must "stay away" from Planned Parenthood and Worthington.

O'Neill voiced mixed emotions after the trial.

"If I hadn't had this problem with the Peace Order and the way the judge reached her verdict in that

case, I would have gone to trial," he reflected.

He was also concerned about possibly being turned down for future volunteer work.

"People are so worried about liability!" he explained.

"Let's see what happens with this appeal," commented Roswell, referring to the appeal filed by May against the Peace Order.

"You know they [the escorts at Planned Parenthood] are going to make my life miserable now," he added gloomily.

His words proved prophetic.

The day after the trial, as Roswell tried to talk to a woman going into Planned Parenthood, a young pro-abort escort whom Roswell has nicknamed "Pinky" jumped between them and shoved him.

"You assaulted me!" exclaimed the pro-lifer.

"Go ahead and charge me!" his assailant taunted with a smirk; "I'll see you in court!"

FUNERAL, from page 2

Philomena Grace, he was shocked at the baby's size.

"She was a *lot* more than 25 weeks!" he declared. "I swear, she looked like a newborn baby!"

Missy agreed that Philomena looked much older than 25 weeks.

"I talked to the medical examiner, she added. "He was very pro-abortion and was rude to me: he said to call the [police] detective if I wanted to find out how to obtain the [baby's] body."

Maryland law allows abortion through all nine months of pregnancy.

"Little girl we never met"

Missy and Jack, who organized the funeral Mass for Philomena Grace, had originally planned to have it in April, but postponed it to October 17 because of COVID 19 lockdown regulations imposed on churches by Governor Larry Hogan.

Bishop Joseph Coffey, auxiliary bishop for the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, celebrated the Mass, assisted by Father Joseph Meeks, pastor of the hosting parish, Christ the King Catholic Church in Towson, Father William Kuchinsky, pastor of St. Bernadette Catholic Church in Hedgesville, West Virginia, and Deacon Bud Reick.

Approximately 65 people attended.

"We are here to give a proper funeral to a little baby girl we never met," Bishop Coffey noted in his homily.

He explained why with the well-known, cynical quote from mass-murderer Joseph Stalin: "The death of one person is a tragedy; the death of a million people is a statistic."

In other words, by treating little Philomena Grace with love and respect, we give a human face and dignity to the millions of anonymous unborn babies murdered by abortion.

"This is the first opportunity I have had to preach at a Mass of

Christian burial for someone who lived for only 25 weeks," the Bishop noted.

"Philomena lived peacefully for 25 weeks in her mother's womb. Babies that age do live if they are born prematurely; they are fully formed," he pointed out.

Pro-lifers advocate for the unborn in many ways, said Coffey. Pregnancy resources centers offer abortion-minded women practical help and free ultrasounds, knowing that if a mother sees her unborn baby, she is likely to keep it.

"We go to Planned Parenthood and other clinics and pray that women will change their minds and keep their babies, but also that the babies who will die there will not die alone," he added.

The bishop recalled the words of Congressman Henry Hyde, namesake of the Hyde Amendment, which bans federal funding of most abortions.

"He said that when he finally stands alone before God, he hopes he will hear the sound of millions of tiny voices crying, 'Let him in—he tried to help us!'

"I hope to meet Philomena Grace in heaven," Bishop Coffey concluded. "May she rest in peace."

In the recessional procession after Mass to the small cemetery outside the church, Jack carried Philomena's body in a tiny, handmade wooden casket donated by a retired Illinois pro-lifer who makes caskets for unborn babies.

At the rite of Christian burial, mourners shoveled earth on the lowered casket while David Dunlap, from the Tradition, Family and Property Association, played the bagpipes.

For video of Funeral Mass, see defendlife.org; click on "Funeral – View Video."

Wells tells amazing story behind book, predicts persecution

Kevin Wells had some startling things to say about Bishop Joseph Strickland at his Defend Life talk October 16.

Wells had met Bishop Strickland in his bishopric in Tyler, Texas, to talk about Wells' new book, *The Priests We Need to Save the Church*.

Strickland wanted to distribute the book to all his priests and seminarians—great news for the former sports reporter for the *Tampa Tribune*.

But the bishop also told him a moving story: how, after he realized he wasn't truly committed to Jesus, he began doing a Holy Hour of Adoration. And during the Holy Hour, not Jesus, but Mary told him, "Joseph, I want you to become a martyr for my Son."

"You mean a 'white martyr' for Him?" Wells asked dubiously.

"She wants me to *die* for her son!" Strickland insisted.

That was back in November 2019. Since then, Wells told his listeners at Our Lady's Center in Ellicott City, Maryland, the bishop "made a decision to die.

"He has amputated every level of comfort, every level of safety, every level of 'let's just go down the middle here."

Strickland has gone not far right, but 'far *truth*'"—declaring, for example, that a Catholic can't be a Catholic and vote for a pro-abortion, pro-LGBT candidate, said Wells.

As for physically dying for Christ, Wells believes that Strickland is not exaggerating or speaking in hyperbole.

"In a certain sense, persecution is already here; but we all sense that it's going to get ferocious," he asserted.

Priests like Bishop Strickland are going to be the ones who will die;



Kevin Wells tells how his book, *The Priests We Need to Save the Church*, was born from personal trials and often-miraculous experiences.

"They won't die right away, but they will be imprisoned, etcetera, etcetera.

"It's coming," he predicted. "We don't know how it's going to break down—whether it will be in four years or eight years—but it's coming."

From this somber forecast, Wells segued into his own fascinating story behind the writing of his book.

"I love my faith, and that was one of the reasons I fell in love with my girlfriend, Krista," he recalled.

Krista was also a devout Catholic. Their first date, in Lakeland, Florida, in 1996, was at Mass.

"She told me she wanted ten children! I'm from a family of ten, and wanted a big family too," said Wells.

"We got married, and three or four months later, we found out we couldn't have kids."

Krista was devastated—until her pastor told her that, if certain conditions were met, in vitro fertilization was permissible.

Kevin knew that Catholic teaching forbids in vitro fertilization under any

conditions.

"He drove a canyon into our marriage by injecting a lie. Krista became a Hatfield, and I became a McCoy!"

Their marriage became a wreck. Wells lost all interest in his sports writing. They packed their bags and moved back to his home town of Bowie, Maryland, where Wells went to work as a masonry contractor in his family's business.

Then, somehow, he managed to get a reluctant Krista to meet with his uncle, Msgr. Thomas Wells, "one of the strongest, most joyful priests in the Archdiocese of Washington!" said Wells; "He had a zeal for untangling problems by rolling out the cashmere blanket of Catholic truths."

"Uncle Tommy," as Wells called him, gave Krista a warm hug, which was not returned. Then he truly commiserated with her, lamenting, "Krista, I know it's awful—it's

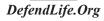
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DEFEND LIFE

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December 8, 2020 Anno Domíní Feast of the Immaculate Conception



Dear Friend of **DEFEND LIFE**,

Here we are again at the end of the year...With Christmas approaching, I want to personally wish you and your family the most joyful and blessed Christmas season ever. Remember that Christmas does not end December 25! Rather, Christmas Day is the beginning of the Christmas Season! This year, we have been blessed once again with a \$15,000 Christmas \$ for \$ Matching Grant offered by a small group of generous persons whom I can never thank enough! In very simple terms, this means that anything you donate between now and **December 31** will be matched \$ for \$ up to a total of \$15,000. Your donation of \$100 becomes \$200, \$250 becomes \$500, and so forth! Please give generously. When deciding how much to give, please* remember this... Almighty God is never outdone in generosity!

Here are just some of what DEFEND LIFE did with your support in 2020:

We sponsored 14 world-class PRO-LIFE speakers who spoke to 26 different audiences as part of our Lecture Tours, our 20th Annual Maryland Face the Truth Tour, and several other talks.



Sean Flanagan



Alex Schadenberg Bishop Joseph Coffey





Barry Sullivan



Kevin Wells



Steve Mosher



Missy Smith





Father Denis Wilde



Chris Manion



Hugh Owen

In March, we prayed the 20 Mysteries of the Rosary on the steps of the Shrine in DC, honoring **Our Lady of America**. In April, we sponsored an event during the **lockdown**: at the Governor's Mansion in Annapolis calling on Governor Hogan to **CLOSE Maryland's Abortion** Mills during the Pandemic. It attracted 52 persons, including Bishop Joseph Coffey who spoke eloquently. In May, we had Rosaries in front of **CLOSED** Saint Matthew's Cathedral in DC for 4 consecutive Saturdays, calling on **Archbishop Gregory** to reopen our Churches in Our Nation's Capital.

Our **20th Annual Maryland Face the Truth Tour** was outstanding even though we had to use park pavilions and lawns for some of our luncheons and evening picnics, due to parish halls being closed. We had **20** Core Team Members, including several Home-Schooled High School Students. In September, we arranged a **National Day of Remembrance** event for the aborted babies buried here in Maryland. On December 17, we will once again sponsor Christmas Caroling at Union Station in Washington, DC and at our State House in Annapolis. We distributed over **25,000** copies of our **DEFEND LIFE** magazine plus we *gave away* hundreds of our increasingly popular **PRO-LIFE** T-shirts thanks to your generosity.

PAT KELLY - RIP

My late friend John Sions, a pro-life hero in his own right, first told me about Pat Kelly shortly after I arrived in Baltimore in 1977. She was married to Ned, a prominent orthodontist AND WAS THE MOTHER OF 10. She died on September 25. Here are just a few things you should know about this godly lady:

• Her daughter Susan said "her home was a haven for her children and their friends and her kitchen served legions. There was always a basketball game or waffle ball game in her yard, a homemade cake ready, and a welcome smile at her door. She was warm, funny, and intellectually curious.

• At her graveyard service, her son John said she never said an ill word about anyone. While a lobbyist for the Maryland Catholic Conference in Annapolis, opponents said they did not agree with her but they loved "how persistent, gracious, and dignified she was in her advocacy."

• Longtime pro-life leader John Naughton said she was always pleasant, and a tower of strength, especially at the death of her daughter Kathleen who was killed in a car accident.

• Pro-life leader Vince Perticone said he "was inspired by her Christ-like personality, and her tireless determination to defend Human Life."

• Frank Kelly, an outstanding pro-life senator in Annapolis said, "She was with us every step of the way during our 8-day filibuster in 1990, which killed the most pro-abortion bill ever introduced in an overwhelming pro-abortion senate, much to the chagrin of pro-abortion governor William Donald Schaefer."

 Perhaps her greatest pro-life feat ever was the recruiting of Marilyn Szewcszyk to our movement. Marilyn founded pregnancy centers all over the state, including Pregnancy Center West, Pregnancy Center North plus others in North Baltimore, Ocean City, and Lexington Park. Thousands of lives were saved by Marilyn's efforts, but she was recruited by a single person, our beloved **Pat Kelly**.



MARY CONNOR - RIP

Mary Connor went to her eternal reward on October 16. Mary was a tenacious prolifer who grew up Somerville, Massachusetts, just 3 miles northwest of Boston. Her father owned a coal company, which was the fuel of choice for homes in those days prior to fuel oil and natural gas. She had 3 sisters and 9 brothers. She began her career as a secretary and soon became executive secretary of the famous **MIT** Lincoln

Laboratory Library, which was funded by the DOD. In 1952, she moved to Washington and joined the **WAVES** (women accepted for volunteer emergency services).

Later she met her future husband Louis, married and began raising their family in Catonsville. Swimming pools and other facilities were segregated in the 1960s (meaning people

of color were not welcome). Mary fought hard had to end that segregation.

As their family grew, they moved to Lutherville and joined the Valley Country Club, a tennis and swim club owned by the late Baltimore Colts legend Artie Donovan. Her youngest son decided to bring 2 of his black classmates from Towson Catholic to Valley CC. Artie Donovan told them they were not welcome... Then, Mary Colbert Connor got right in his face and told him, Artie, shame on you, threatened to sue him, and then resigned from Valley CC. Mary was a volunteer at Pregnancy Center North. I remember talking to her the day Ronald Reagan died in 2004, but I remember Mary best from her 2 priest brothers, Father Arthur Colbert, SSJ and Father Jack Colbert. I have some great stories about Father Arthur, but am out of space. If you want to hear more, please call me!

P.S. We need more tenacious pro-lifers like Mary!

Long Live Christ Our King! Jack Ames, P.E., Director

Enclosure

WELLS, from page 7

God-awful.

"But you guys have no idea how lucky you are! Jesus picked you two—He gave you His cross and asked you to carry it with Him."

It was Kevin and Krista's time to bear the full weight of the Cross, said the priest.

"He asked us to walk it like saints," said Wells. "This is what good Catholic priests do: they take things, flip them inside out, and say, 'Look what God's doing!"

As they drove home Krista began crying. She cried the whole night.

Two days later, "Uncle Tommy" was brutally murdered by a homeless drifter, high on cocaine and alcohol, who broke into the rectory.

Twenty-five thousand people came to the funeral of the beloved priest.

A few days after the funeral, Krista told her husband she was ready to try adoption.

They adopted three children.

Eight years later, while undergoing a major spiritual crisis, Kevin suffered a brain aneurism.

In excruciating pain, he was rushed to the hospital. "Blood was drowning my brain," he explained. "The doctors put shunts in my head, but they kept clogging."

He underwent major surgery, which failed. At age 40, he was close to death.

Krista phoned Msgr. Wells' best friend, Father Jim Stack, who went into Kevin's ICU unit and began praying.

"We're calling on all the local saints" for intercession, he told Kevin. "Bring Tommy in now, we need him," the dying man pleaded.

Father Stack called, "Hey Tommy, your nephew is going to

die—ask God for healing!"

In the cold, dark ICU room, said Wells, "I suddenly felt this strange, all-encompassing warmth."

Father Stack told him later that he suddenly saw "popping lights. "I saw what looked like a heavenly court, and Father Tom was in it, standing next to me!" the priest told Wells.

"The next day, they stuck me in the MRI tube and it [the aneurism] was all gone. God had answered his prayer!" said Wells.

He thought, "I'm Lazarus! What do I do now?"

After his recovery, he went back to work, but thoughts about his lifechanging experience and what he

I saw popping lights and what looked like a heavenly court, and Father Tom was in it.

should do with the rest of his life kept prodding him.

He thought about what made his Uncle Tommy such a good and holy priest—and by extension, what were the characteristics of *all* good and holy priests.

Sadly, with so many contemporary Catholic priests, "There was a contraception of all the things that I loved in the Church: all the glorious things that we do as Catholics to attain eternity—fasting, mortification, the Rosary, striving for virtues, being an ambassador of the Gospel.

"I wanted to tell priests what I needed from them: what I think a priest should be. But I thought, how arrogant in me to tell priests how to be a priest!"

Finally, he took a leave of

absence from the family business and sat down to write.

He wrote a few chapters and sent them off to publisher after publisher. They weren't interested.

After months of discouragement and frustration, however, the *Washington Post* wrote an explosive story about Cardinal Theodore McCarrick. And then the Pennsylvania grand jury report on priestly sexual abuse came out.

"The publishers started calling me back," said Wells. "The [then] president of EWTN, Dan Burke, called and told me, 'This is what the Church needs now; finish the book!"

His book was released in August 2019.

"Within a few months, priests were calling me from all over the world," said Wells; "seminary rectors from all over the country have disseminated this book in their seminaries"

Wells explained that a holy priest does these four things:

- 1. He adores the Eucharistic Jesus in the Holy Hour
- 2. Is devoted to Mary and the Rosary
- 3. Prays devoutly and unreservedly
- 4. Mortifies himself through austerities and denials

These practices give holy priests the courage to preach the truth and to "dive in" to save souls at every opportunity, said Wells.

Wells concluded with "walking orders" to his listeners to speak to their pastor if he shows "a reluctance or tepidity or flat-footedness" in speaking out about the sacred truths of the Church

For Kevin Wells' complete talk, go to defendlife.org and click on "Kevin Wells - View Video."

Book Review

An unflinching look at causes of the Church's sorry state

By Diane Levero

Why is the Catholic Church in such a tragic mess?

Catholics, especially young Catholics, are leaving the Church in droves. Catholic churches and schools continue to shut their doors for good in dismal succession.

The scandals of homosexual clergy and the revelations of widespread sexual abuse by them have plagued the Church—and bankrupted dioceses—for decades.

The banality of the Novus Ordo Mass; the watering down or downright defiance of Church teachings on faith and morals from the pulpit and in religious instruction; and the uglification of churches with tacky felt banners and decorations have stripped a Church once filled with sacredness, truth, majesty and beauty.

How did we get here?

Best-selling author Taylor Marshall tackles this troubling question in *Infiltration: The Plot to Destroy the Church from Within*.

Some critics blame the modern Church's woes on the actions of the Second Vatican Council. But Marshall asserts that the roots of the problem go back well over a century before Vatican II.

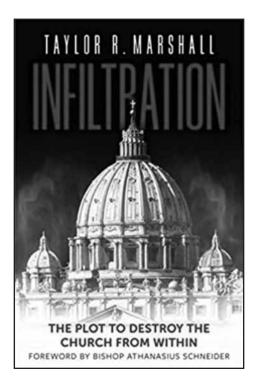
"From the time of Nero to the time of Napoleon Bonaparte, the enemies of Christ sought to destroy His Catholic Church by an outward attack of persecution," he points out.

"But in every century, these attacks yielded a stronger Church."

It seems to have taken eighteen

centuries for the enemies of the Church to realize that it can't be destroyed by outward attacks—it must be infiltrated and compromised from within, says Marshall.

This infiltration began with the Freemasons, a secret society that had lodges throughout Italy, France, Spain, Portugal and Russia.



The Freemasons hated the Catholic Church and sought a new world order based on naturalism, rationalism, and the belief that all religions are equally true.

A secret document, *The Permanent Instruction of Alta Vendita*, written by an Italian Freemason in the 1800s, details how the Freemasons would infiltrate the Catholic Church, with the ultimate goal of taking over the papacy:

"The Pope, whoever he may be, will never come to the secret societies. It is for the secret societies to come first to the Church, with the aim of winning them both.

"The work which we have undertaken is not the work of a day, nor of a month, nor of a year. It may last many years, a century perhaps, but in our ranks the soldier dies and the fight continues."

The strategy, says *Alta Vendita*, is to begin by seducing the young by corrupting families, books, poems, colleges, gymnasiums, universities, and seminaries.

Next, the Catholic clergy will be corrupted.

"In a few years the young clergy will have, by the force of events, invaded all offices," the secret document explains.

"They will govern, administer, and judge. They will form the Council of the Sovereign. They will be called upon to choose the Pontiff who will reign."

Marshall guides the reader through a detailed and scholarly examination of the actions of the thirteen popes who dealt with the Freemason plot as outlined in *Alta Vendita*, beginning with Pope Gregory XVI and concluding with Pope Francis.

Gregory's successor, Pope Pius IX, issued his Syllabus of Errors in 1864, which explicitly attacked the eighty errors of Freemasonry.

Pope Leo XIII wrote four encyclicals against Freemasonry.

Pope Pius X, next in line, "recognized that Freemasonry would not square off openly against

See REVIEW, page 14

One Man's Opinion

Hurray for our new Supreme Court justice soccer mom!

By Bob Brown

America has a Supreme Court justice soccer mom!

She seems so out of place, doesn't she?

America rarely gives women like Amy Coney Barrett a seat at the table—or at the bench. How wonderful, then, that this mother of seven has been confirmed to the highest court in the land.

Of course, she has yet to prove herself there. Still, for too long America's highest judicial court has poorly represented mothers and been poorly represented by mothers—and since 1973 failed more than sixty million of their children.

Thanks goes to President Donald Trump, who put many conservative and pro-life justices into our nation's courts.

If Biden does become president, we shouldn't expect the hardcore pro-abortion Biden administration to nominate *any* family-friendly jurists like Barrett.

In God's good timing, she got in just under the wire.

You probably already know that Justice Barrett's and husband Jesse's seven children include two from Haiti by adoption (who were orphaned at a young age); their youngest child, Benjamin, has Down syndrome.

What's interesting—or sad—is that Barrett's seven children number two *more* than the *total* of all four current and past women Supreme Court justices.

The late women Supreme Court

justices, both born in the early 1930's, did have children: Sandra Day O'Connor had three, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg had two.

Current Supreme Court justices Sonia Sotomayor, born in 1954, and Elena Kagan, born in 1960, have no children.

Amy Coney Barrett, one of seven children herself, was born

Our new Supreme Court justice embodies everything the pro-life movement has been preaching.

on January 28, 1972, just one year (give or take a few days) before *Roe* v. *Wade* was decided.

My point is not to denigrate these other four women justices or their families; I don't know all the details. And having children is not a competition.

But there's something very telling about the generational distinctions among these women.

Born about *four* generations ago, O'Connor and Ginsburg got married and had children in a time when that was still largely expected of women.

But their college and law school education occurred during (and were influenced by) an era when America's sexual mores were rapidly deteriorating.

Many women swallowed the poison pill that the better things they were fighting for included chemical

and surgical control of fertility to buttress sexual promiscuity. (You didn't hear many men complaining.)

They raised daughters like Sotomayor and Kagan, born roughly *three* generations ago, who were in their teens or twenties when abortion was legalized.

That generation sent the annual rate of abortion skyrocketing until about 1990, peaking at over 1.5 million slaughtered girls and boys *every year*. The enormity of the evil defies comprehension.

Barrett was born about *two* generations ago. What do many women of her generation look around and see? Or, what *don't* they see? They don't see sisters and brothers whom their mothers discarded at a ferocious pace.

Shocked by the "choices" their mothers made, mournful of their stolen siblings, many women of Barrett's generation at an early age questioned the morality and value of abortion. For others of Barrett's peers, it has taken some time to unlearn the terrible lessons taught them.

But a populace that equates personal opinion with truth needs more than words. People learn by example. Didn't Jesus put on flesh and dwell among us?

An example we have, now, on the highest stage. Our new Supreme Court justice adopted two children and didn't abort her disabled child. She embodies everything the prolife movement has been preaching.

I hope Justice Barrett

See JUSTICE, page 13

In My Humble Opinion

Election fraud poses grave threat to pro-lifers, unborn babies

By Janet Baker

By the time you read this column, tumultuous current events revolving around the presidential election will undoubtedly have an effect on what I write now. But with that caveat, I offer this assessment.

Like many readers, I watched the election returns on November 3.

What at first looked like a very comfortable lead for President Trump "mysteriously" evaporated—well, not so mysteriously: the progressives that control the Democrat party aren't even trying that hard to disguise their chicanery.

In Michigan, some ballot watchers were told they could leave. One astute watcher sensed something amiss and decided to wait and watch from a relatively safe distance.

Several hours later, she saw two vehicles, with out-of-state plates, pull up and unload several boxes containing approximately 130,000 ballots. They were all for Biden. Right there we have a statistical impossibility.

Some voting machines, running on Dominion Voting Systems (with connections to Nancy Pelosi) were found to have "technical glitches." Antrim County, Michigan, was one such area. It had been declared for Biden. After those ballots were manually recounted, Antrim was declared for Trump.

This same software was used in all the states considered "swing."

A group of Pennsylvania Republicans have filed suit with the U.S. Supreme Court to ask it to overturn an extension for mailin ballot counting ordered by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

They argue that this extension encroaches on the authority of the state's legislature. The Republicans are supported by an amicus brief filed by attorneys general from ten other states.

If we don't deal with this corruption now, we will never have another free election in this country.

I am also hearing that Arizona may have been pulled out of the Biden column.

So why am I rehashing all this in this pro-life newsletter?

Simply put, this whole debacle isn't just about the 2020 presidential race. If we don't deal with this corruption now, we will never have another free election in this country; the culture of death devotees will see to that

At present we live in a constitutional republic, and elections are a key tool that we use to put pro-life people in office to further the protection of innocent life.

It is clear that any irregularities are being perpetrated by the party that has ensconced the "right" to unbridled baby-slaughter in its platform.

Any entity that cheers the wanton slaughter of babies will have absolutely no moral compunction whatsoever to cheating in elections and thus disenfranchising every person of their rights.

We pro-lifers would be rendered virtual minorities, marginalized in our country. We would be unable to offer legal protection to defenseless people.

By the time this newsletter is in your hands, other developments will have taken place. I've no doubt how many of us will hope these events unfold.

One thing we are hearing with greater emphasis is that we must be praying for our country and civilization that in so many ways has gone astray.

Our Lady of Fatima has always urged daily Rosaries. If that is not yet a habit of yours, please make it so now.

JUSTICE, from page 12

demonstrates by her decisions and her lifestyle that slaughtering girls and boys should be eradicated from America's law books just as slavery was.

I look forward to the day when she declares that child-killing is unconstitutional.

I pray that Amy Coney Barrett will encourage other pro-life women to shine as role models for girls of *this* generation, proving that having a career and driving a van full of kids to soccer practice is not out of place.

Annapolis Rosary Rally centers on election, pro-life issues

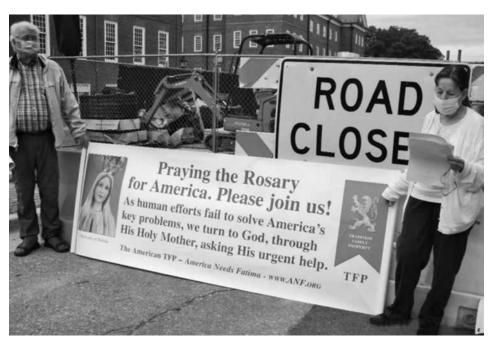
Since 2017, America Needs Fatima has been holding its annual Public Square Rosary Crusade with thousands of rosary rallies in cities across America.

The rallies take place on the closest Saturday to October 13, the date of the last apparition of Our Lady of Fatima and the Miracle of the Sun.

This year's rallies, on October 10, took on special urgency as the country braced for a crucial presidential election that would decide the direction of America.

The rosary rally opposite the historic State House in Annapolis, Md., sponsored by Defend Life, focused on what was at stake in no uncertain terms—thanks in great part to Bishop Joseph Coffey.

Coffey, an auxiliary bishop for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese



Annapolis Rosary Rally coordinator Charity Passalacqua (right) and Dr. Patrick McCarthy display a banner.

for the Military Services, brought nominee Amy Coney Barrett and a large banner to the rally bearing a picture of Supreme Court Justice

See RALLY, page 15

REVIEW, from page 11

Catholicism but would undermine her from within with ideas," writes Marshall.

"He at once identified this internal Freemasonic attack as 'Modernism,' the naturalism of Freemasonry with a Catholic veneer that justifies itself by appealing to the 'evolution of dogma.'"

Marshall covers ex-Communist Bella Dodd's testimony before Congress in 1953 that in the 1930s the Communists put eleven hundred men into the priesthood in order to destroy the Church from within, and "right now they are in the highest places in the Church."

The author gives thorough coverage to Vatican II and to the infiltration of the liturgy, naming names and assessing blame.

He lists a plethora of statistics showing the collapse of Catholic practices (Sunday Mass attendance, baptisms, Catholic marriages, etc.) since the close of Vatican II in 1965.

"The Catholic Church has been in a tailspin since Vatican II," he comments drily.

Marshall also delves into the infiltration of the Vatican Bank under Pope Paul VI, with horrifying info on money laundering of heroin profits from Mafia families, and the murder of Paul VI's financial advisor Michele "the Shark" Sindona, while he was serving a prison sentence.

Rather than throw up one's hands in despair at the wretched condition of the Church, however, Marshall urges his readers to take what he calls the "recognize and resist" position.

Catholics "may in good faith and conscience resist errors spoken by a pope on Twitter, on an airplane, or even in a papal document," he declares.

The "recognize and resist" position "is the only solution that conforms to Scripture, Tradition, and our contemporary crisis," says Marshall.

"The Catholic Church has been infiltrated all the way to the top," he admits.

But because it is still the Catholic Church, with a "valid pope and valid cardinals," we must call, "respectfully and reverently, certain spiritual fathers back to Christ and the unadulterated Apostolic Faith."

RALLY, from page 14

the message: "Senators: Confirm Amy Now!"

Senate confirmation hearings were set to begin just two days after the rally—with pro-abortion Democrats ferociously in opposition to the brilliant and accomplished jurist and devout, pro-life Catholic.

The Democratic Party platform and Democrat presidential candidate Joe Biden support abortion up to the day of birth and with no restrictions.

President Trump has appointed pro-life judges, defunded Planned Parenthood, and actively worked for pro-life laws.

"We have many intentions when we pray the rosary," Bishop Coffey explained to the pro-lifers; "one of our intentions is for this election."

The bishop reminded his listeners that the bishops had voted at the November 2019 U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore that abortion was "the

pre-eminent moral issue" in the upcoming election.

"We ask the Blessed Mother for her help" in ending abortion, he said. "Roe v. Wade has to be overturned."

But even if *Roe* is overturned, the issue will go back to the states and will have to be fought there, said Coffey.

"Never give up, never get tired, never get discouraged!" he urged.

About twenty-five pro-lifers at the State House rally sang hymns, prayed the Angelus, and recited the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Then they, along with Bishop Coffey, drove to the Planned Parenthood abortion facility, about a mile away on West Street, where they joined 40 Days for Life participants and prayed the rosary.

While they were praying, a driver leaned out of her window and screamed, "My body, my choice!" Another motorist gave them the middle finger and yelled an epithet.

Several drivers gave "thumbs up" signs or honked approval.



Bishop Joseph Coffey addresses the crowd at the Rosary Rally.

"Know that your being here makes a difference!" the bishop told the pro-lifers.

Coffey, who has faithfully prayed outside abortion clinics for decades, said, "I've had women come up to me and say, 'I saw prolifers praying and changed my mind about having an abortion—here's my 2-year-old!'—or 10-year-old, or 20-year-old."

America Needs Fatima is a special campaign launched by Tradition, Family and Property to spread the message of Fatima in the United States.

The campaign's goal is "to win the heart and soul of America for Mary by spreading Our Lady of Fatima's message and promoting devotion to her Immaculate Heart."



Defend Life Director Jack Ames and Bishop Joseph Coffey call on senators to confirm Amy Coney Barrett as Supreme Court justice.

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INSIDE: Pro-lifers give aborted baby Christian funeral, burial

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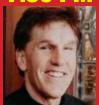
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Fr. James Altman

Diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin

Rock Creek K of C 5417 West Cove Lane

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* Our January 22 Speaker– See Add on Left