



DEFEND LIFE

Promoting the Culture of Life and Fighting the Culture of Death since 1987
CATHOLIC • PRO-LIFE • PRO-FAMILY Nov. 2021 – Feb. 2022, Vol. 33 No. 1 Circ. 4098
www.DefendLife.org • mail@DefendLife.org
www.Facebook.com/DefendLifeMarylandDCVirginia • (410) 337-3721

Dobbs – What It Means For Maryland Prolifers

On January 22, 1973, the US Supreme Court handed down two decisions that paved the way for the slaughter of millions of babies in the US alone: *Roe v Wade* and *Doe v Balton*. *Roe v Wade* basically rendered unenforceable all state laws that either limited or banned abortion. *Roe* removed all limits during the first trimester of pregnancy and *Doe* removed them in later parts of the pregnancy “to protect the health of the mother”. However, *Doe*’s definition of “health of the mother” included all factors such as “emotional, familial” etc. This definition therefore included any factors desired by the mother. Both of these combined amounted to abortion on demand with no restriction whatsoever.

The premises of *Roe* were acknowledged by both sides of the abortion controversy to be constitutionally flawed. First, there is the false premise of “privacy”. It is based on a faulty reading of the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution that barred “unreasonable search and seizure”. The operative word there is “unreasonable”, for the usage of that word admits the existence of reasonable searches and seizures. The false premise was utilized in the 1965 case known as *Griswold v Connecticut*; that ruling allowed for the usage of contraceptives. It’s interesting that even here we see how



A familiar scene at the Supreme Court for the past 49 years

the usage of contraceptives paved the way for baby-slaughter, but I digress.

Built into the *Roe* decision was the acknowledgement that if the fetus were indeed a person, all abortion bans would be constitutional as the unborn child would enjoy all constitutional protections per the 14th Amendment to the Constitution. Since 1973, medical advances have been made that demonstrate beyond reasonable doubt that the unborn child is as fully human as any adult. We have the sonogram, for instance, that shows a very human face on the unborn child in his/her mother’s uterus. We also have seen many ad-

vances that have decreased the age at which the unborn child can survive outside of the womb, resulting in the arbitrary benchmark of “viability” being decreased.

With the acknowledgement of *Roe*’s eventual demise, both pro-abortion and pro-life advocates have been struggling to enact legislation that would either codify *Roe v Wade* on state books or reinforce protections for unborn children. On the federal level, pro-abortion activists were successful in having enacted the Freedom of Choice Act after Bill Clinton took office. Many of us in Maryland will recall

the epic battle over SB162 that was enacted to liberalize abortion laws in Maryland, going even beyond the federal Freedom of Choice Act. Not too surprisingly, that passed, making Maryland a veritable abortion bonanza – more on Maryland later.

A few abortion regulation cases over the years made it to the Supreme Court, only to have the cases decided for the pro-abortion positions owing to the make-up of the Supreme Court. However, after Donald Trump took office, he replaced Antonin Scalia, Anthony Kennedy, and Rita Ginsberg with Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Comey-Barrett respectively, giving a different tilt to the Court.

On Dec 1, the Supreme Court heard arguments for the Mississippi case called *Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization*. Jackson Women's Health Organization is Mississippi's lone abortion mill. They bristled at the 2018 legislation called the Gestational Age Act that limited their baby-slaughter to the first 15 weeks of pregnancy. Note that this law directly contradicts *Roe v Wade*; the latter stated that abortion in the first trimester could not be limited. I want to reiterate that *Roe* is a court ruling, not enacted law.

I won't go into any particulars of the discussions during that Supreme Court hearing. Suffice it to say that the Trump appointees gave indications that they were seriously considering the scientific and constitutional issues underlying the *Dobbs* case while some Obama appointees displayed quite the opposite. There is hope that the Mississippi law will stand, meaning the overthrow of *Roe v Wade*.

The demise of *Roe* would mean that the anti-abortion laws that sev-



Will this scene at the Supreme Court become a thing of the past?

eral states have would now be enforceable. In other words, babies would enjoy some safety depending on their location. Therefore, in some states they would be safe, while still threatened in other states.

Maryland is among that latter group. Some of us will remember the big abortion battle in Maryland during the 1992 elections, where we fought against SB 162 that legalized abortion in Maryland for any reason and any stage of gestation. We lost that battle and as a result, Maryland is seen by abortionists as a mecca for baby-slaughter. Hence we have the likes of Leroy Carhart setting up shop in Montgomery County, a locale that is particularly friendly to abortionists.

We can glean some lessons from this scenario. As noted earlier in this article, President Trump appointed three Supreme Court justices who are now hearing this case. Had Hillary Clinton won that election, we know for a fact that she would have appointed pro-abortion justices; she

loudly proclaimed that herself. Under her court, this case would never have been allowed to see the light of day.

Another lesson we can learn is the importance of local-level elections. If *Roe* is scuttled, the abortion conflict descends to state levels. Therefore we now see that we must elect pro-life candidates in all levels of government.

I will now take a moment to address a regrettable tendency among pro-life people that was on display during the 2016 presidential elections. Then we were presented with two candidates. Neither one could have been held as a paragon of virtue. However, one candidate made very clear her intent to promote baby-killing, the normalization of sexual perversion and a host of other evils. The other, with his admittedly chequered past, promised the opposite. Misguided pro-lifers trumpeted their disdain in voting for the “lesser

See DOBBS, page 5

Tributes to Dick Retta

Many local pro-life activists are already aware that Dick Retta, a long-time and quite successful sidewalk counselor, passed away on Christmas Day, December 25, 2021. Ten years ago, The Defender newsletter published a tribute to Dick. This tribute now follows in its entirety and is followed by my own comments.

Reprinted from The Defender, Dec 2011 issue, by Jim Fritz and Missy Smith

The title of the Defender article is “Mr. Pro-Lifer, Dick Retta”

Dick Retta is a hero to many of us in the pro-life movement. He has been sidewalk counseling for about 10 years and has personally convinced over 400 women to change their minds about having an abortion. He has had an unbelievable eight ‘saves’ in one day. No one is more dedicated than this man. He recently turned 80 years old, so I thought it was time for a well-deserved article about him.

Dick’s Story:

Dick was a “cradle Catholic,” born in the Bronx, NY, in 1931 -- a descendant of Italian immigrants. He had one sibling: a brother, Joseph, two years older who died in 1986. Dick received a bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering in 1953 from Manhattan College in the Bronx, a Catholic institution. He also attended Maryland University and has 21 credits in nuclear engineering. After college Dick took a job in June 1953 with the Navy Department in Washington DC. There he specialized in Manufacturing Technology Research and Development for Naval aircraft and was chairman of a



Dick Retta gives literature to a woman outside an abortion mill

NATO working group; work which frequently took him to Europe. Dick learned to love traveling in Europe and also traveled to Taiwan, thanks to his son who lives there. Dick married the former Rosalie Schinelli, also from the Bronx, in 1956. They had seven children, and Dick now has eleven grandchildren. Rosalie died of leukemia in 2003.

In 1991 Dick’s daughter invited him to attend Mass with her at St. Catherine of Sienna in Great Falls, VA. She thought he would like the pastor, Fr. Fasano, and she was right. He was a holy priest and a great homilist. In 1992 Dick began attending Fr. Fasano’s Novus Ordo Mass in Latin every Sunday. He also attended Fr. Fasano’s weekly Wednesday night Mass and recorded many of his homilies. He became a spiritual director to Dick, resulting in a quantum leap in Dick’s faith.

Dick retired in 1997 and five months later began attending daily Mass in Rockville, MD, where in

the Catholic Standard, he read an article about people who pray the rosary and counsel at the abortion mill in Kensington. The following Saturday he joined those praying the rosary in Kensington, and every Saturday since, he has been in front of an abortion mill as a prayer warrior and eventually a sidewalk counselor. Being a prayer warrior was a spiritually rewarding experience for Dick. However, he was absolutely certain he never wanted to be; nor could be a sidewalk counselor.

On occasion he found himself in front of the abortion mill alone for short periods of time and had no idea what to say to abortion-minded women. He took a short course on sidewalk counseling in Baltimore, along with pro-lifers Jim Fritz, Bill Luksic, Francis Popper and Sandy Nunez. They took notes and after the course, together came up with a step-by-step procedure for sidewalk counseling.

He became inspired, and when

Jim Fritz expressed a desperate need for sidewalk counselors at the Hillcrest abortion mill on Georgia Avenue in Washington DC, he began his career as a sidewalk counselor. For some reason known only to the Holy Spirit, he overcame his reticence with the very first abortion-minded woman he encountered. She was surrounded by deathscorts who tried to block him. He was as persistent and assertive on that day as he is today. He had to try several times before a woman would accept a flyer from him and many more times before his first save. He enjoyed every minute of his new adventure in pro-life work supported by the Holy Spirit and Our Blessed Mother.

Dick has been a sidewalk counselor since 2001. After the Hillcrest abortion mill closed, he moved on to the Planned Parenthood abortion mill in Silver Spring, MD, then to the Metropolitan abortion mill near College Park, MD, the Hagerstown abortion mill (to help get it going in 2006 and 2007); and finally to the Planned Parenthood abortion mill at 16th and L Streets in Washington DC.

He has been so successful at saving lives he now teaches sidewalk counseling at various locations including Hagerstown, MD, the Washington DC area, Northern VA, New Jersey, Christendom College in Virginia and gives short talks in various locations.

Dick has participated in various pro-life demonstrations such as Jack Ames' famous Face The Truth Tours, Catholic bishops' conferences and in front of House and Senate office buildings. He also completed a 100-Day Rosary in front of the White House at the beginning of the Obama administration.

Dick was arrested at Notre

Dame University with 87 others in the spring of 2009, protesting pro-abortion president Barack Obama's invitation to give the keynote commencement speech. Others from the Baltimore/DC area arrested included Jack Ames, Jim Fritz, Joan McKee and Missy Smith. The group became known as the Notre Dame 88.

In August 2010 he was arrested using a bull horn on the Capitol grounds with Randall Terry and Joan McKee while protesting the democratic administration's new 'Affordable Care Act' being introduced by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi.

Dick is the president of *Nuestra Madre por la Vida Inc.*, an organization which helps women turned from abortion with emergency needs up to six months after the baby is born and depends on donations; treasurer of St.

Dick usually spends four mornings a week in front of abortion mills.

Anne's Helpers for Life Inc., which helps women turned from abortion; treasurer of WAKEUP (Women Against the Killing and Exploitation of Unprotected Persons) which promotes and teaches chastity and pro-life causes; member of the Board of Directors of Right to Life Montgomery County which sponsors various pro-life activities in Montgomery County, MD; member of the St. Raphael's Respect for Life Committee in Rockville, MD.; and member of the core group to close up Carhart's late-term abortion mill in Germantown, MD.

Dick usually spends four mornings a week in front of abortion mills. If all of that is not enough, Dick assisted Randall Terry and

Missy Smith in their campaigns to run for public office in order to place ads on nation-wide public TV showing graphic abortion images to promote awareness of the horrors of abortion.

In regard to the success of Dick's sidewalk counseling effort, he has kept very good records ever since he began in 2001. He has recorded about 400 saves in which he had a direct influence on the abortion-minded woman who changed her mind. In some instances a woman has taken a flyer from Dick and listened to his counseling. In others, women changed their minds because of the prayers of Dick and others. Dick has often recorded multiple saves in one day. There have been several days when there were five or even six saves. His record is eight saves in one day.

After working with Dick, I believe the key to his success is his persistency. He begins talking to a woman before she leaves her vehicle and continues until she has entered the door of the abortion mill. The talk concentrates on the woman rather than the baby.

Missy Smith has a more colorful view of the reason for Dick's success. Here, in her wonderful words, she describes it.

From Missy Smith:

"Dick and I met over a decade ago at Hillcrest killing center on Georgia Avenue in Washington DC. I had started after discovering the traffic in body parts "harvested" from the bodies of babies murdered by abortion. I must say it was a wakeup call, and I was a one-man band, touching on one facade of the pro-life movement after another until it led me to the "front line" as a sidewalk counselor.

"I was a post-abortive woman; having had two abortions not real-

izing what I was doing was feeding this multi-million-dollar business -- the sale of body parts of aborted babies. I was passionate and had found my life's mission.

"Joan McKee, a friend and great pro-life hero, asked me to accompany her to Hillcrest on Georgia Avenue. It was a three-ring circus by the time we arrived. The sidewalk was narrow, and there were four groups of people. One was the prayer warriors at the end of the sidewalk in a circle saying the rosary, then the so-called "deathscorts" lining the length of the building, then a line of sidewalk counselors with the possible abortion-minded women pushing their way through the crowd.

"Dick was there and he was on fire. I had met Dick briefly at a Knights of Columbus breakfast, but this was the first time I saw him in action. He was darting in and out, up and down the sidewalk trying to ferret out the abortion-minded women.

"I remember thinking, with all this commotion I didn't know where to start. I just stood and tried to make some sense of the overwhelming chaos. Out of nowhere came a woman saying to me, "I just want to thank you for coming out here. Eighteen years ago I was going through that door and one of you came to me and said, "You do not need to do this." I didn't, and I have the most beautiful 18-year-old daughter who is the love of my life." Wow! The Holy Spirit had certainly answered my question quickly. All of a sudden the picture came in very clearly.

"I never have gotten the 'bobbing and weaving' thing down like Dick. He is like an athlete. He is unsurpassed in terms of energy. Like the mailmen of old, no matter what the weather, rain snow, or heat, Dick is out in the front of abortion mills for hour upon hour.

"He truly loves what he does. He spends hour after hour talking to everyone. He speaks directly to all people surrounding the mills. That means evangelizing people passing by, deathscorts, possible abortion-minded persons and finally, when a woman comes out broken and bleeding after killing her innocent child, he is there to offer a kind word and help. He keeps a record of everyone going in and coming out. He encourages women to follow up with him if there is anything they need. And often they do, and he takes them on as his responsibility. I know for a fact he shops for these women when their children need clothes or provides rent money and tries to solve every possible problem that comes up.

"Every waking moment is committed to the pro-life cause and each aspect of it. He is open and pro-active. Whatever is suggested he takes under consideration. He is game to try anything new and will try new strategies not wanting to continue, as he says, 'business as usual.' God is working in Dick in the mightiest of ways.

"Our relationship was forged when Dick had heart surgery. Afterward he said to me, 'God let me live so we could work together to stop the killing of innocent children.' I was really taken aback. That was quite a statement. Little did I know we would end up working hand-in-glove.

"No question, problem or project is too small or too big for Dick to be involved in. He has been invaluable to me in accomplishing projects with WAKEUP, with activism and lobbying and even running for federal office last year when I ran for delegate to congress.

DOBBS, from page 2

of two evils" and decided not to vote at all. Well, since Our Lord is never a candidate for election, it will be safe to assume that only flawed human beings will seek election. Such are our options. To not vote is itself a dereliction of duty to at least mitigate any harm to be done to civic life. Again, had Trump not won, we would not be presented with this opportunity at all.

There have always been hopes of passing a human life amendment to the US Constitution, guaranteeing constitutional protections to unborn people. In order for that to happen, the amendment must receive 2/3 votes from both houses of the US Congress and be ratified by 3/4 of the state legislatures. This will require much political activism on our parts. To those who claim that the abortion matter will not be solved by politics, I reply that they are correct in saying that politics itself will not be sufficient. However, politics will be necessary as we strive for protection of the unborn child.

For Maryland, an immediate consequence of Roe's demise would be an uptick in the numbers of abortions committed here. The bordering states of Virginia and Pennsylvania do have abortion restrictions on their books that would become enforceable. Once that happens, abortion-bound persons would be crossing into Maryland to murder their children. Therefore, pro-life people, more than ever, will be needed in front of the abortion centers to pray and to offer assistance to abortion-bound women.

Will you accept the opportunities and challenges that a Roe reversal would bring to Maryland?

See RETTA, page 6

STOP ABORTION NOW!

RETTA, from page 5

“Dick has been there on every level for me and the pro-life movement. He has been thoughtful, thorough, and generous with his time and money. He is a one-man whirling dervish! Who would have guessed that God would send me such a partner, co-worker, friend and supporter? God is so good!”

Conclusion:

I asked Dick what his future plans were, and he talked about continuing the kinds of things he has been doing. New things will depend on circumstances like the Carhart late-term abortion mill protest activities. It is a recent addition to my agenda that I felt compelled to participate in and take somewhat of a lead in. Changes will depend on such influences as you, Bill Luksic, Missy Smith, and others, who have been instrumental in my developing into the pro-life person I am today. Only the Lord knows where I am going from here.”

Dick feels the biggest challenge facing the pro-life movement is to elect the right people to political office who can and will influence pro-life legislation. The problem is electing politicians who will not turn their backs on the holy innocents for money, blackmail or political favors in order to remain in power.

Equally important, Dick believes is what we as individuals do in our daily lives for the pro-life movement. Praying, counseling, our involvement in abortion awareness programs and what we do at places like Carhart in Germantown all can have an impact on election results.

He knows we can get discouraged on the frontlines of the spiritual warfare because of what we experience in our efforts to save lives. The many men and women

who reject our offers of help to allow their unborn children live; passers-by who shout at us for “harassing” abortion-intent women and thank the deathscorts for the “good work” they are doing; the deathscorts who block our attempts to help these women and save babies’ lives or help post-abortive woman exiting the abortion mills; and seeing abortion-minded women easily distracted by the deathscorts who talk over us and engage in trivial conversation to keep them from hearing our words of help and encouragement.

Dick, like many of us, has been pushed, shoved, spit on,

Dick arises in the very early hours in the morning to spend at least 30 minutes praying in front of the tabernacle before and after an early morning Mass.

and threatened by passers-by and abortion-intent women and their companions. Dick was pepper-sprayed by a woman accompanying a pregnant friend. He has had false charges brought against him by the U.S. Department of Justice for blocking a woman entering an abortion mill on 16th Street. But Dick, as a true soldier for Christ, says, “It is difficult sometimes, but important that we stay the course because where we are and what we do is the most important work we could be doing. Know that it is the Lord’s work. Our mere presence can save a child’s life!”

As Pope John Paul II said: “Above all, the common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of

human rights - for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture- is false and illusory if the right to life, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all other personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination.”

Jim Fritz

After listening to a talk on Eucharistic Adoration and the saintly habit of very early morning prayers on Catholic Radio this morning, I feel Missy and I may both be wrong on why Dick is so successful. A good friend of ours called the night before and told me Dick arises in the very early hours in the morning to spend at least 30 minutes praying in front of the tabernacle before and after an early morning Mass.

(End reprint)

The preceding article was published exactly ten years ago. Since then the number of babies saved through Dick’s efforts had increased. During the intervening ten years, Leroy Carhart closed his abortion mill in Germantown. No doubt the efforts of Dick and the other pro-lifers who were in front of that place for several years made those operations unprofitable for Carhart. Carhart relocated his baby-killing racket to the Wildwood area of Bethesda on Old Georgetown Road. Dick and others transferred their efforts to Bethesda accordingly. Because of the difficulty in approaching women that the Wildwood location posed, the pro-lifers showed to the neighborhood via pictures just what Carhart and his staff were doing.

When Dick was present at the Hillcrest mill on Georgia Avenue in DC and the Planned Parenthood

See RETTA, page 7

Deathscorts show their true colors at Baltimore Planned Parenthood

The “Pro-choice escorts” in front of the Planned Parenthood abortion mill on North Howard Street in Baltimore usually wear plain orange vests with the words “Pro-Choice Clinic Escort” printed across them. But on Thursday, October 28, they showed their true colors: all of them wore brightly striped vests with “rainbow” colors. Rainbow colors are a very familiar symbol of the gay pride movement. Each color has its own significance for homosexuals: “Hot pink” stands for sex, for example.

The rainbow vests “show their support for homosexuality, and Planned Parenthood’s connection with it,” said John Roswell, the informal leader of the pro-lifers at the abortion mill. Roswell wasn’t surprised: “I already knew that pretty much all the men are homosexual,” he said; “we’ve heard them talking about gay pornography when they’re bored.” When he first saw the “escorts” in their rainbow vests, he didn’t say anything to them. “I try not to talk to those jerks,” he explained.

They said nothing to him either.



Rainbow-vested Deathscorts step inside the Baltimore Planned Parenthood

Roswell knows that both abortion and homosexual acts are a violation of God’s law, because they violate the Sacrament of Marriage, instituted by Jesus, who said, “But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this reason shall a man leave his

father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one flesh.

What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder” (Mark 10: 6-9).”

RETTA, from page 6

in Silver Spring, I and others were counseling alongside of him. I can attest to his tenacity in his attempts to talk to abortion-minded women in the face of their indifference and hostility, the opposition that we faced at the various mills, etc.

On Christmas day 2021, Dick passed away from Covid. Just a few weeks prior to that, Dick had

returned to the Bethesda location after he had recuperated from a fall that he had taken. To the last, he was trying to save babies.

Now a void has been left, not only by Dick but by several frontliners who also passed in 2021. If you aren’t already doing so, will you fill that void? I think that question is echoed by Dick and the others. The babies now depend on you.

Until America Sees Abortion, America Will Not Reject Abortion!



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
Jack Ames, Director
410-337-3721
Jack@DefendLife.Org

*February 9, 2022 Anno Domini
Feast of Saint Scholastica*



Dear Friend of **DEFEND LIFE**,

My 80th Birthday — November 30, 2021

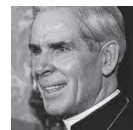
Thanks to **Sandy Korzick**, the co-conspirator who organized the event at **Christ the King**, the wonderful Ordinariate parish where I belong. The other co-conspirator was Father Denis Wilde, OSA. Father Denis and I were at Villanova at the same time but our paths did not cross until **2006**, the same day that word came down from the Supreme Court that the best friend of my life had lost the first round in the historic **NOW v Scheidler** case. Joe Scheidler was speaking at Villanova that very day. I met Father Denis that very evening. Father Wilde has been full time in **PRO-LIFE since 1998**. He is the Associate Director of **Priests for Life**, in addition to being a world-class organist and pianist.

My event began with a noon Mass that Tuesday. Afterwards, we adjourned to **The Stable**, a lovely parish hall. The delicious feast was furnished by the wonderful ladies of Christ the King. I can still taste the delicious scalloped potatoes furnished by **Jackie Breschi**. Her husband **Lou Breschi** was a doctor in Vietnam and later performed many vasectomy reversals as a urologist. Thanks to all of you who came, the cards you gave, the gifts you gave to **DEFEND LIFE** and some of the somewhat **apocryphal** stories you told about me. But here are a few of **my** brief stories. (Sandy Korzick made it clear that I had to be brief.)

- My confirmation was at Our Lady of the Snows in my adopted hometown of Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania. Auxiliary Bishop of Scranton Henry T. Klonowski asked, **“Where did Pope Pius XII go to proclaim the Doctrine of the Assumption in 1950?”** Nobody could answer it then and nobody could answer it when I re-asked it at my 80th.
- In Pennsylvania, we had what was known as **Released Time**, it meant that all grade school students in public schools were allowed 1 hour a week for religious education. In 5th and 6th grades on Monday afternoons, a group of about 10 of us from Grove Street Elementary School walked to Our Lady of the Snows. There we were taught so many wonderful truths of our Catholic faith by 2 outstanding Maryknoll nuns from nearby Venard College, a high school seminary for future Maryknoll priests. I remember learning the acts of Faith, Hope, and Love from these 2 nuns and then going home to type them on my dear mother’s Royal typewriter. I also remember them teaching the 3 different types of Baptism (water, desire, and blood) and so many other truths. They had such an impact on me. The years were 1951 and 1952. If anyone can find their names by going to the Maryknoll archives they will win a beautiful wood carving of Our Lord with his Crown of Thorns.



I also recalled my years at Villanova which I loved so much I decided to attend **5 years** instead of **4**. (Actually, it was because I switched from engineering to math and then back to engineering.) I think of it as the **best mistake I ever made** because it enabled me to have such teachers as **Peter Kreeft** one of the most prolific Catholic authors in the 20th and 21st century, as well as **Fr. Charles McFadden**, a close friend of **Archbishop Fulton Sheen**. I took his course **Philosophy of Communism** which was based on the book he authored of the same name. Fulton Sheen said in his forward to that book it was without doubt the best book in any language on the subject. Speaking of Fulton Sheen, I was



privileged to hear him speak twice at Rosemont College where his niece had studied in the 1950s. Years later I heard him speak **8 more times**.

In 1965, I moved to Richmond. It was there that I founded Richmond Right to Life in 1974. I remember Bishop John Russell, the founding pastor of St. Ursula's here in Baltimore. He was a Godly Bishop but had been deceived by priests in his diocese who told how much **we loved the Novus Oirdo**.

After he retired, I talked to him one Saturday in front of Richmond's only abortion mill, founded by a Presbyterian minister. He had just come back from the NCCB meeting in Chicago where the Bishops had voted to approve communion in the hand. **He was astounded, and rightfully so**, I remember visiting him at the Little Sisters of the Poor where he lived not long before I moved to Baltimore..

Here is how that move to Baltimore happened. In 1987 I was offered what appeared to be a great opportunity working for an energy management company in Towson. But it was difficult to decide whether to leave Richmond, where I had founded **PRO-LIFE** activism three years earlier, or move to Baltimore, which I naively believed was a bastion of Catholicism. I spoke to a dear friend, Father Neil Gargan, S.J. Father Gargan was the former president of Gonzaga High School in Washington, D.C. He was the founding Rector of Loyola Retreat House where I was graced to attend the first Spiritual Retreat of my life in about 1968. He led that retreat and I will always be thankful to him. He was everything a real Jesuit should be, then as now. My dilemma was this.! Should I make the move to Baltimore where I knew nobody or stay in the confines of Richmond where I had founded **PRO-LIFE** activism which was still in its infancy?

I traveled to a retirement home near Catholic University where Fr. Gargan was living. He told me, **"Imagine you were on your death bed. What choice would you make?"** It was simple for me then! I knew I had to move to Baltimore where I believed there would be great opportunities for **PRO-LIFE** activism. Here are some of the great things that happened as a result::

- I met **Chris Cuddeback** who helped me immensely with my engineering career.
- I met my future wife **Mary Lou**.
- I co-founded **DEFEND LIFE with Eileen Bolgiano**.
- I met great persons at Loyola College where **DEFEND LIFE** began, such as **Carol Sue Abromaitis, Liz Dever Walz, Father Frank Haig, S.J., Father William Driscoll S.J., Paul and Barbara Melanson** and so many others.
- I cemented my relationship with the late **Joe Scheidler**. Between Joe, Ann & Eric, the Scheidlers have spoken for us nearly 20 times in countless different situations.
- I met many **PRO-LIFE** heroes like **Missy Smith, Cathy Roth, Albert Strecklein, Larry Grayson, Gerry Mitchell, Dr. Ed Sheridan**, and the late **Dick Retta**. I certainly would not have met **Clare Merkle, Steve and Michael Peroutka, Diane Levero, Congressman Andy Harris, Dr Bill Hogan, Moira Sheridan, Dee Becker, John Naughton, Joan Andrews, Joe Wall, Randy Terry, Paul Van Sant** and so many other heroes that I have forgotten.
- And certainly I never would have never been falsely arrested on August 7, 2008 **when the out of control Maryland State Police** arrested myself and **17 other PRO-LIFE** activists.
- And most certainly, I never would have met the **150 or so** great speakers we have hosted in our **35 years such as Dr. Bernard Nathanson, former Satanist Zachary King, Mercedes Wilson, Mary Ann Kuharski, Congressman Chris Smith** and so many dozens of others that I do not recall.

In conclusion, none of this would have happened had I not followed **Father Gargan's Godly advice and made the move from Richmond to Baltimore in 1977**. I have given Father Gargan's advice to many others since to which I always try to add, **Think Big!**

Long Live Christ Our King!

Jack Ames

Jack Ames, P.E., Director

Enclosure

Physician-Assisted Suicide To Rear Its Ugly Head

From January 12 2022 through April 11 2022, the Maryland State Legislature will be in session. Among the bills that this largely pro-death body will likely try to inflict upon Maryland will be a rehash of the “End Of Life Option Act”. In plain language, this was a bill to legalize physician assisted suicide. In 2020 the bill numbers were SB 701 and HB 643. Those bills failed to advance and the matter was not broached during the 2021 session. However, many believe that in 2022, the pro-death contingent in Annapolis will try again.

Adolf Hitler called them “useless eaters”. How is the attitude of the pro-death person any different?

During the 2020 hearings, Peg Sandeen of “Death with Dignity” testified in favor of the legalized-murder bill, touting the so-called “success” of “the Oregon experience”. See <https://deathwithdignity.org/news/2020/02/maryland-end-of-life-option-act-majority-support/> However, Jenny Kraska, Executive

Director of the Maryland Catholic Conference, warned of the planned mischief of these new bills in a November 17th 2021 article in the Catholic Review. See <https://catholicreview.org/physician-assisted-suicide-expected-to-be-an-issue-in-maryland-general-assembly/> She related what a deacon, who is also a physician, told her. He was seeking lifesaving help for two of his patients, one in Oregon. There insurance medical directors told him that they would not cover the healing procedures; rather, they suggested physician-assisted suicide.

The situation reported by Kraska is exactly the same scenario dismissed as contrived by Sandeen in the “Opponents’ Claims Are False” section of her article – right in the first paragraph. In that situation, financial pressure was most certainly brought to bear on the family in Oregon who were told that no financial assistance would be rendered to cure the patient, but only to kill him or her. To understand more lies in Sandeen’s article, we need only to examine countries who are further along that slippery slope like the Netherlands, where ill people are most certainly being euthanized without consent. Moreover, we have only to recall the plights of the two baby boys in England: Alfie Evans and Charlie Gard. Despite the pleas of their parents and offers of assistance from other countries, England’s National Health Service was literally hell-bent on keeping those boys imprisoned in the hospitals until they died. We have had similar situations already in the United States, with Terri Schiavo’s murder probably being the most

well-known.

The Oregon scenario reveals the values (or lack thereof) that seem to impel the pro-euthanasia crowd. The first is financial, as displayed by the insurance directors who would cover the suicide but not actual medical cures for the illnesses. The second, and probably most insidious, is disdain for God, manifest in disdain for human life – unless the person can serve some “useful purpose”. The unborn child is not productive; neither is the ill and/or aged person. Hence they are expendable. Adolf Hitler called

Anyone who votes for murder, be it the unborn or the elderly and sick, must be voted out of office

them “useless eaters”. How is the attitude of the pro-death person any different?

Please follow the website of “Maryland Against Physician-Assisted Suicide” at <https://stopassistedsuicidemd.org/>

Session will end on April 11. Two months later, all across Maryland primary elections will be held for every office at every level of Maryland government. Anyone who votes for murder, be it the unborn or the elderly and sick, must be voted out of office for they will have shown themselves to be traitors to the principles espoused in the Declaration of Independence that state that all are endowed by God with rights to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness – in that order.

**FIGHT
ABORTION!**

*Your very life
depends on it.*

The Kingship of Christ and Defense of Life

Dr. Timothy O'Donnell is President of Christendom College, located in Front Royal VA. On Friday evening, January 14, 2022, he spoke to a group of faithful Catholics at the Rock Creek Council of the Knights of Columbus in Bethesda, MD. This lecture was sponsored by Defend Life.

The title of Dr. O'Donnell's talk was "The Kingship Of Christ And The Defense Of Life". Before his talk, Dr. O'Donnell himself gave an introduction to his topic; that can be found at <https://defendlife.org/2022/MarchForLifeKickoffLecturePreview.mp4>. A recording of the talk can be found at NAME LOCATION.

He based his talk on documents written by two popes at the dawn of the 20th century. They are:

- Annum Sacrum, written by Pope Leo XIII in 1899
- Quas Primas, written by Pope Pius XI in 1925

We urge our readers to not only watch the recording but to study these two papal writings. Both can be found at the website www.papalencyclicals.net.

When one reads these two papal letters, they cannot help but notice that they are lamenting the spiritual and moral climate that oppresses us today. The situations that we see today are nothing new; the spiritual and moral rot of modernism and atheism has been festering for some time now. In 2022 the rot has so progressed from the early 20th century that remnants of Christianity that lingered back then have eroded, and continue to do so.

We're in the midst of full-blown secularism. That is painfully obvious. Pope Pius XI listed seven effects



Dr. Timothy O'Donnell Addresses Pro-Lifers At The Rock Creek Knights Of Columbus

1. Christ's rule over mankind is denied.
2. The Church's right to evangelize is denied. (Look at what constitutes "hate speech".)
3. The Christian religion is made equal to other religions and is lowered to their level.
4. The Catholic religion is made subject to civil powers (Lockdowns are a prime example)
5. There is an effort to substitute a vague, naturalistic religion for the truth of Jesus Christ (Pachamama, new age, etc)
6. Governments can do without God and even promote disrespect for God.
7. Selfish egotism attacks and destroys families. When the family, bedrock of society, collapses, we see society collapse.

For these reasons, he instituted the Feast of Christ the King who reigns through His Sacred Heart. He asked for a consecration to the Sacred Heart. In 1969, Pope Paul VI moved the feast to the end of the liturgical year and made it a solemnity, naming it "Feast of Jesus Christ, King of the

Universe". This was intended to give Christ's Kingship more prominence to fight the ongoing secularism.

We can't expect civil leaders to acknowledge Christ's Kingship if the Church doesn't do so. We need to step out in courage. That is incumbent not only on the clergy but also on laypeople. We need to proclaim the truth, even in the face of inevitable mockery and opposition. The March for Life is an opportunity to bear witness to the truth of our Faith.

Dr O'Donnell ended his talk with quotes from Popes Francis and Leo XIII.

- Francis, in *Evangelii Gaudium*, writes, "I invite all Christians everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting Him encounter them. I ask all of you to do this unflinchingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her. No one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord. The Lord does not disappoint those who take

See **KINGSHIP**, page 15

Bringing Our Lord in Mass and the Blessed Sacrament to the Abortuaries

Defend Life annually sponsors a March for Life Kick-Off Rally, normally held a week before the National March for Life. It usually takes place at the Rosensteel Council of the Knights of Columbus in Silver Spring, MD. This year it was to have occurred on January 14th. However, a snow storm during that day caused the meeting to be relegated to a virtual event over Zoom.

During that Zoom session, Missy Smith, a long-time local pro-life activist, described what she believes to be a key element in getting Leroy Carhart and company to cease their late-term abortion racket. That element is the Blessed Sacrament: that is, Our Lord Himself, Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity.

Missy mentioned the fact that in the parking lot next to the Carhart location, over 30 Masses have been said with the specific intention of ending abortion at that site. A van belonging to another pro-life activist has served as an altar for Mass. After many of these Masses, Eucharistic processions have been conducted, with the path of these processions planned so that they encircle the building in which Carhart plies his deadly trade.

The Holy Eucharist at abortion mills is nothing new. When Carhart

was in the Executive Office Park in Germantown, his mill was next door to a technology firm owned by two staunchly pro-life Catholics. Several times they hosted Holy Mass.

Thirty years ago in College Park, MD, a mill was located a short distance from the UMD campus, on the second floor of an office building. At that time the Archdiocese of Washington had a pro-life ministry that actually did some good. One of the good efforts involved the Birthing and Care Program. They had gotten word of vacant space becoming available at the building where the College Park mill was, and on the same floor. Moreover, this space was located at the top of the stairs. Women on their way to the mill would have to pass that space. So the Birthing and Care Program set up shop there. Many abortion-bound women were diverted into the BCP suite and often changed their minds. The BCP suite averaged about 1 save per week while both they and the mill were in the building.

One key thing the BCP people did was host Mass. Moreover, the Mass was offered against the wall that was between them and the abortuary. We know that grace flowed from that Mass, not only to bless the BCP work, but to thwart what was transpiring on the other side of that wall. Business for the abortuary dried up to such an extent that they eventually left the building. I don't know what became of the abortionist(s).

This strategy is happening elsewhere. This past August, outside of a Planned Parenthood in Denver CO, a 40 Days for Life Kick-Off Rally culminated in an outdoor

Mass, just across the street from the mill. While the Mass was being said, an abortion-minded woman drove into the Planned Parenthood parking lot, but then drove right back out and headed to a Catholic women's center just down the street.

Two years ago in Wichita Kansas, Bishop Carl Kemme was the main celebrant at a Mass for Life outside the local abortion mill. He then offered prayers of exorcism and processed the Blessed Sacrament in front of and to the sides of the mill.

There is solid Biblical precedent for processing the Blessed Sacrament around places of great evil to bring about their downfalls. It is to be found in Joshua 6:1-20. After the Israelites entered the promised land under the leadership of Joshua, they had to conquer that land and drive idolatry from it. Jericho was a large fortified city surrounded by a wall. God had instructed Joshua to process the Arc of the Covenant, with the priests, around the wall for six days. On the seventh day, they processed again and then blew horns. At that, the walls of Jericho fell and the Israelites destroyed Jericho.

Inside the abortuaries is evil that is at least commensurate with the evils within Jericho, if not more deadly. On the other hand, Our Lord present in the Blessed Sacrament is infinitely greater than the Arc of the Covenant. In reference to the van in which Mass has been said outside Carhart's Bethesda location, a local priest expressed a wish to see many such vans at abortion mills bringing God's grace to drive out the evil. We pray that such may come to pass. We will post news if and when we hear of plans to bring this goal to fruition.



Winning In Court

January 5th marked a great start to 2022 for the defenders of life who pray, protest, and sidewalk counsel outside of the Falls Church Healthcare Clinic when Erik Rasmussen accepted a plea deal in the Falls Church, Virginia General Court for his June 2021 assault on two pro-lifers. His sentence included 50 hours of community service and a prohibition against contact with the victims for one year.

The victims believe Rasmussen's actions were pre-meditated and designed to goad them into a confrontation. The incident occurred on the afternoon of June 18th while Juan Aguirre, Ken Groves, Ruby Nicdao, Jim Everett prayed and sidewalk counseled outside Falls Church Healthcare Clinic located at 900 South Washington Street. Aguirre and Nicdao were standing on the corner when Rasmussen approached and executed an unprovoked assault on Aguirre by knocking Juan's sign out of his hands before continuing down the sidewalk in an arrogant manner. Everett, who witnessed the assault, told Rasmussen to keep his hands to himself and Rasmussen forcefully knocked the sign out of Everett's hands cutting his face near his lower lip.

The assaulter kept walking down the sidewalk with ear buds inserted continuing to act as if nothing had occurred while moving toward Groves. Groves and Everett tried talking with Rasmussen but he reached into Everett's shirt pocket pulled out his prayer sheet and tossed it to the ground and again walked away until Everett grabbed one of his ear buds and threw it into the street.

Rasmussen called the police



Triumphant Pro-Lifers Stand Outside The Falls Church Courthouse

claiming he was the victim of an assault and asked for Everett's arrest. The police interviewed all participants and were initially confused because Rasmussen's account was diametrically opposed to the pro-life recounting of the incident. Fortunately, Nicdao captured the entire incident on her bodycam and also used her camera for high-definition video of the assault on Everett and the confrontation with Groves and Everett.

Nicdao coordinated with the police and provided them unedited copies of both videos; no arrests nor issued tickets were issued on scene. As suggested by the police, the pro-life team went to the Arlington County Magistrate to request arrest warrants against Rasmussen. The sworn statements, the video, and the police report resulted in misdemeanor assault warrants issued by the Magistrate for Rasmussen because of his actions against Aguirre and Everett. Steadfast in pursuing legal action, the pro-life team protected

their constitutional rights and helped ensure the future safety of all who pray, protest, and counsel outside of Falls Church Healthcare Clinic. This was the third legal victory in the last 4 years when previous incidences of assaults (06/23/17 and 01/05/21) were reported to the police with evidence from videos taken. In the first case, the guy did not agree with our message and assaulted two pro-lifers. In the second case, the guy claimed he was pro-life but was anti-Catholic and anti-Mary.

Once again this experience highlights the importance of video evidence in protecting pro-life volunteers from unjust accusation, protecting constitutional rights and setting the stage for legal action to enhance the physical safety of those on the pro-life front lines. It also emphasizes the need to engage all aspects of the community's legal process from the county magistrate to the court system and stay with it until

See WINNING, page 15

Va. Guard men bring Afghans for abortions, say pro-lifers: Virginia National Guard man goes in with Afghan women

On Tuesday, October 5, at 2:26 p.m., pro-lifer Becky saw an unmarked, multi-row van drive up to the entrance of the Falls Church Health Clinic at 900 South Washington Street. “It had New York license plates and was driven by a National Guard young white male,” recalls Becky. “Another National Guard man—I think he was Hispanic—was seated in the front passenger seat. Both wore light tan/brown fatigues. The back windows were tinted, but I was aware that there were two women in the second row of seats.”

Becky asked the driver to roll down his window and offered him literature on the dangers of abortion and about the pregnancy center a half-mile down the road. “When he started to put the literature in his visor, I asked him to give it to the women in the back instead, since this ‘health clinic’ was a dangerous place for them to go to,” says Becky. Instead, he gave it to the Guard man in the passenger seat, who began reading it.

Peggy, another pro-life counselor in front of the building, remembers that the driver of the van “didn’t have an answer; he just kind of smiled.” The two Guard men “looked like two innocent persons on the job, just told to take these ladies to a certain place as part of their job,” she said.

Becky asked this man to give the literature to the women, and translate it if necessary,” said Becky, “he refused to do so.” Becky repeated to both men that this was not a good place for women and asked if they were aware that by bringing the women, they were complicit in this act of murder. But the Guard in the passenger seat got out of the van, helped the two women down,



A VA guard man leaves after taking a woman into an abortion mill

and took them inside the building.

“I went to a position where I could get a better view of the women,” said Becky. The one in the lead was foreign-looking, but dressed in western wear. The other woman was dressed as an Afghan. She wore beautiful, gold-embroidered pants, a long, traditional top/blouse, and a hijab (head scarf). “I called out to them, but the guardsman quickly ushered them into the building so they could not respond.” The male Guard then returned to the van and the two drove off.

Becky finished her pro-life counseling shift and went home. Pro-lifer Ken Groves, who acts as informal coordinator for the rest of those who pray at the clinic, stayed longer. About an hour later, Groves saw the van with the two Guards come back and park in the parking lot behind the building. “When they got out, I called out to them, ‘Did you just bring two Afghan women to the abortion clinic?’ I pointed up to the third floor, where the clinic is. Of course, they knew what we pro-lifers were all about and why

we were there. One of them called back, saying, ‘We claim the Fifth’—and laughed a little bit—ha-ha-ha! They were very young guys.”

Falls Church Healthcare Center does medication abortions (“the abortion pill”) through 9 weeks gestation and surgical abortions through 15 weeks gestation. The abortion center is located in a three-story building that houses other medical offices. Pro-lifers counsel at the Northern Virginia center when women are coming into the clinic for abortions: on Tuesdays and Fridays at 1:00-3:00 p.m., and “real early on Saturday mornings—as early as 6:30 to about 8:15 and then 10 to noon,” said Groves. “We’re just a loose group of pro-lifers—basically from the Catholic churches from about a 30-mile radius,” he explained.

The October 5 incident is one of two times the pro-lifers have observed what they believe are Virginia National Guardsmen escorting Afghan-appearing women for abortions. The second incident occurred on Friday,

October 22, at about 12:45-1:00 p.m., according to pro-lifer Ellen. “A private car—a large SUV with Florida tags—pulled up to the front entrance,” said Ellen; “the driver was youngish, with short hair.” The two Caucasian National Guardsmen in the front seat weren’t wearing uniforms this time, says Groves. “A dark-skinned woman got out of the left rear seat,” recalled pro-lifer Matt: “She was wearing

out of the car and moved quickly into the building.” The vehicle then exited the parking lot.

Several minutes later, the man who had opened the door and gone in with the women came back out and walked to the rear of the building under a parking overhang, Matt recalled. “He got on his phone and walked briskly around to the front of the building, where the SUV had arrived to pick him up. He got in the SUV and they pulled away. “I left maybe 40 minutes later, and the two women were still in the building,” Matt noted.

Afghan women get housing and medical care at Fort Lee, Fort Pickett, and Marine Corps Base Quantico in Virginia.

professional black business attire and a long lanyard around her neck, seemingly an ID badge.”

At the same time, “a broad, fit man got out of the front passenger seat, wearing a baseball hat and mask—and held the door open to the building,” he added. “Once he had the front door open, a woman in a black hijab got

Guard houses Afghans

According to an October 8 article by the National Guard Bureau, which is headquartered in Arlington, Va., National Guard members from nearly every state are involved in Operation Allies Welcome, a program helping with transportation, medical care, and other support for up to 65,000 Afghans housed at eight military installations nationwide. Three of those eight installations—Fort Lee, Fort Pickett, and Marine Corps Base Quantico—are in Virginia (“National Guard aids Afghan evacuees in Operation Allies Welcome,” National Guard Bureau, October 8, 2021).

WINNING, page 13

the bitter end. The case was continued in court twice as Rasmussen employed delaying tactics but the team maintained communication with the Commonwealth’s Attorney and provided statements and video to bolster the case. In the end, Rasmussen recognized his only viable option was to plea bargain moments before his trial began on January 5th partly because both victims and a witness were present in court.

KINGSHIP, from page 11

this risk. Whenever we take a step towards Jesus we come to realize that He is already there waiting for us with open arms.”

- Leo XIII, in Annum Sacrum, wrote, “When the Church in the days immediately succeeding her institution was oppressed beneath the yoke of the Caesars, a young emperor saw in the heavens a cross which became at once the happy omen and cause of the glorious victory that soon followed. And now today behold another blessed and heavenly token is offered to our sight the most Sacred Heart of Jesus with a cross rising from it shining forth the dazzling splendor of its flames of love. In that Sacred Heart all our hopes should be placed from it the salvation of men is to be confidently besought.”

Dr O’Donnell added that if we place our hopes in the Sacred Heart, the pro-life movement will be victorious, that many lives will be saved.

GET THIS GREAT T-SHIRT FREE



If you PROMISE —

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

Send requests including name, shirt size (M, L, XL, 2XL), address and phone # to:
T-shirts@DefendLife.Org
 or: **DEFEND LIFE**
 PO Box 5427 Baltimore, MD 21285

BULK DISTRIBUTE DEFEND LIFE!

We will mail you **5 EXTRA COPIES** of each issue of this most outstanding magazine.



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: What Dobbs Mean for Maryland Pro-Lifers?

Please donate NOW so we can send upcoming issues!

MAILING LABEL HIGHLIGHTED

To continue receiving this outstanding magazine:

- Please donate NOW!
- If you cannot, simply CONTACT US!

Read about Jack Ames' 80th Birthday Party **DEFEND LIFE** deserves your financial support! PAGES 8-9

More Prayer Warriors & Sidewalk Counselors urgently needed at Baltimore's Planned Parenthood, Maryland's Largest Death Camp



Contact John Roswell
410-371-4188
JohnRoswell@msn.com

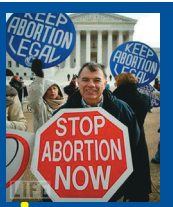


In September, CHRISTENDOM COLLEGE will dedicate its new chapel built in Cathedral proportions. In front of it will be a beautiful public square with statues, fountains and benches where students can study, pray and converse.

What a wonderful place to memorialize a friend or family member on a bronze plaque!

For more information, contact Zachary Smith • 540-660-2120 and ask about the Piazza Project

JACK AMES TURNED 80 IN NOVEMBER!



JACK AMES Needs Your Help!

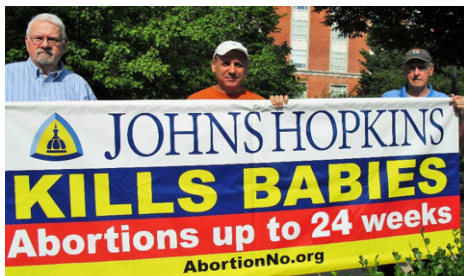
- Maintaining our mailing list
- Making phone calls
- Publicizing events

For more information, please contact Jack
410-337-3721
Jack@DefendLife.org

Our Hearts are Restless O Lord, Until They Rest in Thee. – St. Augustine

THINKING LONG-TERM?

Remembering DEFEND LIFE in your **WILL** shows a serious commitment to strengthening and continuing what DEFEND LIFE stands for! The following language is suggested for making such a bequest: **"I give to DEFEND LIFE, INC., a Maryland not-for-profit corporation, whose address is PO Box 5427, Baltimore, MD 21285, the sum of \$ _____, to be used for the benefit of DEFEND LIFE."**



Join us every
3rd Wednesday
9 am – 10:30 am
JOHNS HOPKINS BAYVIEW
4940 Eastern Avenue Baltimore 21224
Contact Jim Bocklage 443-615-3424
for exact location and parking information