



DEFEND LIFE

Promoting the Culture of Life and Fighting the Culture of Death since 1987
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Two Attacks On Local Pro-Lifers In Two Weeks

On Saturday July 8 2023, at 9:30 am, long-time pro-life activist Olga Fairfax was giving witness outside the Silver Spring Women's Center as she has done for several months now. She was accompanied by two other activists who were praying the Rosary about 20 feet away. Olga was holding the picture of an aborted little boy that has been nicknamed "Baby Malachi".

She sat at the corner of New Hampshire Avenue and Kirklynn Avenue, as she has done many times. Suddenly a woman pulled into Kirklynn, jumped out of her car and tried to wrest the Malachi picture away from Fairfax. A struggle for the sign ensued. The woman then got a can of spray paint from her car and proceeded to spray the sign and then Ms. Fairfax herself. Paint was all over the sign, Fairfax's dress and hands. She proceeded to strike Ms. Fairfax repeatedly with the paint can. Ms. Fairfax is in her 80s while her assailant was quite a bit younger.

Ms. Fairfax repeatedly called for help but no passersby came to her assistance. The two other activists praying the Rosary heard the commotion and ran down to her assistance. One other gentleman took charge of the woman and steered



Michael Gribbin attacked by pro-abortion bully

her away from Ms. Fairfax and the Takoma Park Police responded.

Ms. Fairfax sent to us her written account and we now reproduce it verbatim.

“Ever see a Former Embryo beaten up and attacked with spray paint? Every Saturday morning two Knights of Columbus and I pray the Rosary and a 4’ x 6’ sign of an aborted baby at 7676 New Hampshire

painting me and my (startled) body and dress. She hit me repeatedly. I screamed repeatedly and only one man came to help me. The police came. Thank you! Please join us any Saturday 9am. Thank you. God bless you.”

Thus ends Ms. Fairfax’s account.

Just two weeks later, on July 22, outside of the NE DC Planned Parenthood, two pro-life activists associated with the Progressive Anti-Abortion Uprising were attacked by a man and woman who were walking their dog. The two are Terrisa Bukonivac and Michael Gribbin. The couple approached them. The woman threw her cup of coffee in Terrisa’s face. When Michael attempted to come to her aid, the man threw him to the ground and repeatedly punched him. Then he turned on another individual who was recording the altercation, trying to slap the phone away. The recording can be found on the PAAU youtube page at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=POV01QZ53jg>.

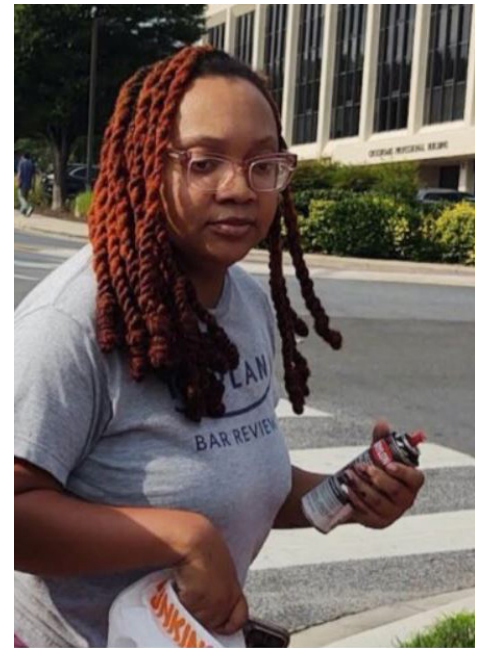
Ever see a Former Embryo beaten up and attacked with spray paint?

Avenue and University Boulevard at the heart of the Black/Hispanic neighborhood in Langley Park MD, near the University of Maryland.

“Saturday July 8 at 9:30 am, a woman drove up and started spray-



Picture of abortion victim damaged by vandal



The vandal who attacked elderly prolifer

watch?v=POV01QZ53jg .

In all these situations, increased numbers might have caused the aggressors to rethink their attacks. Your presence at the mills is needed, not only to protect the babies, but to protect the other pro-lifers who are already there. Of course, their presence will cover you as well.

On Saturday, July 8, 83 year old Olga Fairfax was assaulted by the woman shown in the above picture. So far, the Tacoma Park, Maryland Police have done nothing to identify and arrest the assailant.



Contact Police Chief

**ANTON DEVAUL
at 301-891-7104
and ask him**

why nothing is being done!

REFER TO CASE #230032506

**Insist that you get a
return call from him!**

Faithful Catholics Protest Pride Mass At Trinity Church in Washington DC

On Sunday June 11, we received news that a “gay pride” Mass was scheduled to occur at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Washington DC, just south of Georgetown University. This was intended to be part of the celebration of sodomy known as “pride month”. We knew of the Los Angeles Dodgers honoring that gang of sodomites who dress up in garish mockery of Catholic sisters. The Dodgers honored them at one of their games and were met with massive protests – protests so massive that they vastly outnumbered the people actually attending the game.

We also heard of various merchants and stores bending over backwards to accommodate gay and transgendered perversions: Bud Light beer, Target stores. However disgusting they may have been, at least they are merely secular institutions. A true sacrilege occurred



A call to repentance

when a “gay pride Mass” took place at Holy Trinity on Wednesday June

14. Many good Catholics appealed to Cardinal Gregory to have this



Unrepentant lesbians flaunting themselves before God

A true sacrilege occurred when a “gay pride Mass” took place at Holy Trinity on Wednesday June 14

abomination stopped, to no avail.

The sacrilege took place, but not without loud prayer and protest. Led by the men of the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property, about 20 – 30 of us were gathered on the sidewalk across from the Church to pray a Rosary of Reparation for the blas-

See PRIDE MASS, page 9

Mary's Home — A Catholic and Holistic Approach to Serving Moms and Their Children

Several weeks ago, I attended an open house hosted by the staff and clients of Mary's Home. From their website at maryshomemaryland.org, we read their mission statement, to "provide a safe, pro-life home environment and holistic program of services for expectant mothers in crisis and their children in need." Kelly Obermayer, the executive director of Mary's Home, was kind enough to give me a picture of their vital work

Five or six years ago, they opened their doors in Howard County Maryland. The founders intended it to be a place where young women in crisis pregnancies could safely bear their children. In addition, these women would learn



Abigail Tringali of Mary's Home



Kelly Obermayer, Director of Mary's Home



Base strategy of caring for the young guests of Mary's Home

In addition, these women would learn important concepts and skills to enable them to carve good lives for themselves and their children.

important concepts and skills to enable them to carve good lives for themselves and their children.

As the name implies, the home (actually two houses) is a Catholic facility, with a statue of Mary on the front lawn and icons and Crucifixes on the walls. However, the staff admits women of all (or no) faith traditions and will arrange to have them transported to their respective churches.

Most of these young ladies are

introduced to Mary's Home via their website cited in the first paragraph. Other women are referred to Mary's Home by crisis pregnancy centers, other maternity homes, sidewalk counselors and word of mouth.

Under the "admissions" tab of the website is an intake form that the inquiring woman will complete, along with the conditions that are required for consideration. Many of these conditions are in place to ensure that the other women are not endangered or put in compromising situations.

That same page also lists the three phases of the program at Mary's Home, designed not only to assist the woman as she delivers her baby, but also to help her achieve a situation where she can make a decent life for herself and her children. The first phase assists her in learning to live in community with the other women, as well as to see

to her prenatal care.

The second phase happens after the baby is born. She deals with postpartum issues, learns life skills and homes in on education and ca-

Most of these young ladies are introduced to Mary's Home via their website cited in the first paragraph.

reer goals. In the third phase, she prepares for independent living as she focuses on career development and the needs of her family. On average, the new mothers stay at the home for one year after the birth of

See MARY'S HOME, page 9

Letter to the Editor of Defend Life

John Naughton

I read the otherwise excellent article, “The Most Important Pro-Life Work”, in the Defend Life May- June 2023 issue but found no reference to prayer. The article makes excellent points about how all pro-life activities are helpful and necessary toward reducing abortion and how criticism of another’s work is not productive. Having worked in the pro-life movement almost a half century doing almost every activity imaginable, I heartily agree with the themes of the article.

I read the article twice to make sure there was no mention of prayer which I strongly suggest is the most important activity. We may think we are in this struggle with the devil alone, but we don’t have the power to beat Satan. We need God to win this battle.

There are many opportunities to pray. One most often cited is praying the Rosary at abortuaries. Offering our sacrifices and prayers for the Holy Souls in Purgatory and asking them to pray to God for an end to abortion is also effective.

Another way to pray is to have Masses offered for the Holy Souls in Purgatory and asking them to pray for your intentions. The stipend for Mission Masses is \$5 and they can be obtained at your diocesan Mission office. That way you help the Holy Souls in Purgatory, support the Missions and have the best prayers offered to God for the end to abortion - a trifecta of goodness.

It would be wonderful if everyone would join in the crusade for life with some activity topped with

How (Not) To Celebrate The Dobbs Decision



Linn Fitch, Mississippi Attorney General

On Saturday June 24, 2023, I attended the National Celebrate Life Day on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in celebration of the first anniversary of the Dobbs decision that ended *Roe v Wade*. Almost 60 years ago, Martin Luther King delivered his “I Have A Dream” speech from those same steps, although he was higher up on the steps than the speakers were on June 24.

I arrived late, but fortunately the video of the entire thing is online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nu5XwM7ooc4&t=1s>. I was able to collect some photos of my own (some displayed here). I will report off the official video. Speak-

prayer, or even prayer alone. Since the goal of protecting life appears far off, perseverance is key. Think in terms of decades.

Editor’s note: I am grateful to Mr. Naughton for addressing the deficiency in the referenced article. Indeed, this battle is spiritual and we must be guided and strengthened by



Marjorie Dannenfelser, President of Susan B. Anthony List

ers included Alveda King, Lila Rose, Kristan Hawkins. Rose, in her remarks, opined that protection for the unborn child does not require another constitutional amendment for protection as that already exists under the 14th Amendment. That would be true, IF all agreed upon the definition of personhood. They don’t. That is why a constitutional amendment that spells out when personhood begins, namely, when sperm enters the ovum, is needed.

I arrived just as Mike Pence was introduced. My immediate reaction was disappointment, and as his talk

See DOBBS DECISION, page 10

Our Lord through prayer and the Sacraments. The battle is also in the temporal realm so we must take care that we not excuse ourselves from our duty to actively engage in pro-life efforts, unless circumstances beyond our control (infirmity, pressing responsibilities) render active apostolates impossible. Ora et labora.



DefendLife.Org

DEFEND LIFE

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

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*August 15, 2023 Anno Domini
Feast of the Assumption*

Dear Friend of **DEFEND LIFE**,

Our **23rd Annual Maryland Face the Truth Tour**, held July 24-28, was outstanding for the following reasons:

- We showed the victim images of aborted babies at **15** different heavily-trafficked locations, 14 in Maryland plus 1 in West Virginia. Tens of thousands of drivers saw our images. One driver said to a Core Team member, *“Until now, I had no idea what an abortion looked like.”*

- We had at least **16** Core Team members at all **15 STOPS**, plus numerous local persons who joined us.

- At our Friday morning STOP, **15** members from nearby **Huber Memorial Church**, including their pastor, **P.M. Smith**, joined us at our Northeast Baltimore City STOP.

- We had Holy Mass each morning. Celebrants included **Father Timothy Grassi** of St. James the Greater Church in Charles Town, West Virginia on Monday morning, **Fr. Joseph Calis** of St. John the Evangelist in Silver Spring on Tuesday, and the indomitable Fr. Denis Wilde, O.S.A **of Priests for Life** who was with us Wednesday thru Friday, as he has been with us on countless years.

- We had **5** outstanding luncheon speakers including **Barry Sullivan, Frank Pavone, Maggie Egger Ferrara, Janis Clarke, and Reggie Littlejohn**. Also included was a superb 10 minute video by **Jon Darnell** on why some of us must be willing **to RISK ARREST by RESCUING** at the hundreds of abortion mills that remain in America with the exception of **13 great states**. Watch and be inspired by at least one of those videos. All are posted at DefendLife.org. Then share them with others.



IDEAS TO MAKE FUTURE FACE the TRUTH TOURS EVEN BETTER

- Sadly, we had no high school or college students on our Core Team. We tried but could not recruit a single student.

- **KC Schnitker**, our brilliant Facebook page editor, will begin an **INSTAGRAM** page beginning September 1. She assures me this is a proven way to reach more students and other young persons in general. Stay tuned for the rollout on or about that date.

- **Joan Andrews Bell**, one of our all-time PRO-LIFE heroes, suggested this. **Matthew Connolly** and Emiliano Bell, Joan’s seriously handicapped adopted son, could visit truly Catholic colleges, such as Christendom, Ave Maria, Franciscan, etc., to recruit some of their students for our 2024 Truth Tour.

- **Rachel Carlucci** suggested that at least one Core Team member should carry a **DEFEND LIFE** banner next to traffic lights. Nearly all our 15 STOPS have traffic lights, where traffic must stop so this could only add to our impact. Another idea was to have a large 2-sided **DEFEND LIFE** banner somewhere in the middle of our array of victim image signs.

- **Tamu Davenport** suggested that we reach out to at least one church nearby each of our 15 STOPS. Ask each to recruit **1** member to show up just like Huber Memorial did as described above.

Barry Sullivan lives in Naples, Florida, where Ave Maria University is located, during much of the academic year. I'm sure Barry will be able to recruit some of those **Ave** students for our **2024 Tour**.



JAY WALTON • AGE 41 • PRO-LIFE HERO • RIP

Jay was an iconic PRO-LIFER. Sadly, he died suddenly on Sunday, July 23, the day before our Face the Truth Tour was to begin. He was so much looking **FORWARD** to being a member of our Core Team.

Jay did remarkable things in the three years he was involved in the **PRO-LIFE** movement. He had found out about **40 Days for Life** and wanted to find an abortion mill that was not being covered. He found one in Owings Mills, Maryland, went out there, and was a one-man team for a while, and then his numbers started to grow. At some of his events, he had as many as **40** people, including his dear parents, who came all the way from Berkeley Springs, West Virginia. Jay convinced **Howard Brown**, the owner of the huge multi-tenant facility not to renew the lease of abortionist **Sheo Sharma**. Sharma had come from India many years ago for the sole purpose of aborting babies. The loss of his lease seemed almost too good to be true.

Abortionist **Sharma** simply moved to another location, this one in Lutherville, Maryland. So, Jay Walton simply moved his **40 Days for Life** campaign from Owings Mills, Maryland to Lutherville. He had many good campaigns there with many great speakers such as **Frank Pavone, Mark Houck, Sr. Dede Byrne, Father Ed Meeks, Bryan Kemper** and so many other heroes of our **PRO-LIFE** movement.

And then, as if that were not enough, Jay reactivated a dormant **PRO-LIFE** organization, Baltimore County Right to Life. The goal was to have more **PRO-LIFE** activity going on a day-to-day basis. It was doing very well. Just recently, Jay had **35** members marching in the Dundalk, Maryland 4th of July Parade. Dundalk hosts the **largest** and **longest** parade in the Baltimore area.

Recently, Jay wanted to participate in the annual national bridge day event sponsored by **Pro-Life Action League**. Pro-life banners are held over heavily trafficked overpasses. Unfortunately, Jay was going to be in Orlando during that event. But here is what Jay told me the last time we talked ***we are going to do it weekly on many busy overpasses on the Baltimore Beltway***. That was the feistiness and optimism that epitomized Jay Walton. We were also looking forward to doing a lot of other things. For example, leafleting public school students at the many dozens public middle and high schools in Baltimore County. We were going to handout great pieces of literature available absolutely **FREE** from **Human Life Alliance**.

Pray for Jay's immortal soul. Pray for Susan and their two daughters, Jade and Silver, who were home-schooled by Jay. Pray that somehow God will bring good out of this terrible tragedy. Pray that Susan and her daughters will be able to survive financially. Send financial help to **[GiveSendGo.com/JayWalton](https://www.givesendgo.com/JayWalton)**. Pray that Susan can somehow be able to continue home schooling or send her 2 young daughters to a good Catholic school for now, and ultimately to Mount De Sales Academy, the only authentically Catholic girls' high school in the Baltimore area. In addition to home schooling, Jay tuned pianos. Jay actually had his doctorate in music and was a professional tuba player and studied at the Sorbonne or some other great school of music in Paris. Someone should write a book about this great man! But the important thing is to pray for his soul, and for his family, who certainly need lots of prayers and tons of financial help.

But also pray that **2** different persons will bravely step **FORWARD** to take over the leadership of **Lutherville 40 Days for Life** and **Baltimore County Right to Life**. **Be assured that I will personally do everything possible to help them!**

Enclosure

Long Live Christ Our King!

Jack Ames

Jack Ames, P.E., Director

Editor's note: This article by Charles Molineaux first appeared in the Fall 2022 edition of the Latin Mass magazine. It is reproduced here as it originally appeared. Space constraints will compel us to split this article between two issues. This article, and other excellent pieces, can be found at www.latinmassmagazine.com

The Next Phase of the Pro-Life Effort: Energizing the Bishops

The reversal of the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* case by the United States Supreme Court on June 24, 2022 in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* ended a long and shameful phase in which the crime and sin of abortion had been legally approved in the United States. But that laudable recent decision, written by Catholic jurist Samuel Alito, appropriately applauded, did not end abortion but puts the abortion question back in the states where, in most jurisdictions and for many decades, abortion had been a crime. In short, one battle had been won in a cultural war which nevertheless continues. Can an increasingly secularized America win that war? Can the bishops, teaching and leading, help achieve a pro-life victory?

A few decades ago, this writer was told by a prominent and devout Catholic leader, that the bishops were “greedy.” In my naivete as a cradle Catholic, I was jolted. But as the abuse crisis unfolded (not limited to pedophilia), it became apparent that many bishops were indeed focused on money and, led by their cautious lawyers and their insurance companies, behaved like self-protective bureaucrats. The bishops' conferences, now partially televised, had taken on the appearance of a meeting of overfed corporate stockholders. Had the essential task of teaching and leading souls to Christ been forgotten?

The Second Vatican Council urged bishops, in its Decree on the Pastoral Office of Bishops in the Church (*Christus Dominus*, 1965): “Let them explain also how high a value, according to the doctrine of the Church, should be placed on the human person, on his liberty and bodily life. . . .” (#12).

Subsequently, the Code of Canon Law of 1983, Canon 915 reads, in relevant part: “. . .those who obstinately persist in manifest grave sin, are not to be admitted to holy communion” (*ad sacram communionem ne admittantur*).” The language brooks no exceptions.

So comfortable had the bishops become with simply ignoring this canon that it came as a surprise and show of fortitude when Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone in California publicly announced enforcement of this canon vis-à-vis a leading pro-abortion “Catholic” legislator, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. By marvelous happenstance, the name Cordileone means “heart of the lion”! Aha, a breakthrough? No, as of this writing, only a minority of the bishops have supported the archbishop for following canon law. (Jack Ames' *Defend Life* magazine listed seventeen supporting bishops as of June 2022; that's about 8%. One east coast bishop, to his credit, switched from ignoring Canon 915 to supporting Archbishop Cordileone; careerwise he may have jumped too soon in view of the embarrassing hospitality subsequently shown by Pope Francis to the House Speaker.)

America: Christian at Its Birth

As Robert Reilly expressed it in his impressive book *America on Trial: A Defense of the Founding*: “while one might say that the Declaration and the Constitution are not explicitly Christian, they are nonetheless Christian products. . . there are no Christian principles per se embedded in the Constitution; rather the Constitution is embedded in Christianity.” We might put

it bluntly, as Archbishop Charles Chaput does: America was Protestant at its birth. The signers of the 1776 Declaration, with the exception of Charles Carroll, were Protestant Christians and Deists.

That Christianity, however fractionalized today, is still superficially seen in the structures, names of places, and even streets across the country. Chapels and church buildings are everywhere. But, once the basis for a consensual, commonly perceived morality, Christianity has eroded. Instead, we now say, nonsensically enough, that our strength is in our diversity and in our tolerance of almost anything.

Into that Protestant Christian country in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries came the Catholic immigrants – Irish, German, and, later, Italians. While some historians consider the 1960 election of John Kennedy to have been the apogee of Catholic life in America, the erosion of assimilation had already begun. Catholic Americans wanted to be as comfortable as their non-Catholic neighbors. Groupthink set in and, as more Catholics attended college after World War II (thanks in part to the “GI Bill”), the condescending clericalism of “pray, pay, and obey” began to lose its force.

Two Modern Shocks to Catholics

The 1960s saw Vatican Council II and, in a major shock to now-assimilated Catholics, the issuance of *Humanae Vitae* (unfortunately delayed until after the Council had closed) in the chaotic late 1960s. Rebellion in Catholic ranks

See **PRO-LIFE EFFORT**, page 11

PRIDE MASS, from page 3

phemies and sacrileges that were occurring. As the perverts strolled in, some of them holding hands and canoodling as they dared enter before the Blessed Sacrament, they were unable to ignore the TFP's trademark drums and bagpipes. The banners were also quite visible. Spiritual works of mercy occurred along with the Rosary, most notably "rebuke the sinner".

Please pray for all those who partook of that "pride Mass", for God will not be mocked. Pray for our Church leaders. Not only do many allow these blasphemies, but they approve of them and cheer them on. When you pray, do so in public.



A rebuke of sacrilege



Perversion occurring on steps of a Catholic church

MARY'S HOME, from page 4

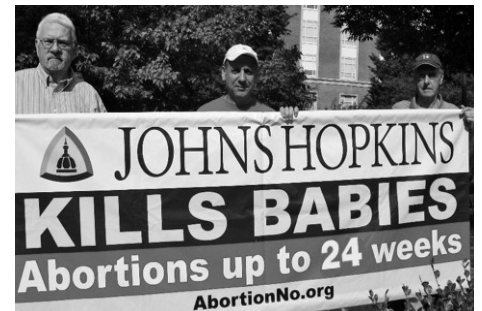
their children.

Each mom has her own bedroom – for herself and baby. Some moms will come with another toddler and that child stays in the same bedroom. As part of their empowerment, the women provide their own food and cook for each other. They have meals together, during which they will hear a speaker address them on topics relevant to their situations.

They have quite a network of churches supporting them. They have even arranged for the donation of cars, so that women have reliable transportation to school and/or jobs. They have also received grants from the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

The website lists ways that pro-life people can assist in this outreach. In addition to donations via check, they will accept gift cards for grocery stores and retail stores.

They will accept in-kind donations such as diapers and other baby supplies, bed linens, maternity clothing, etc. There are varieties of ways to volunteer: share a skill, drive the ladies to doctor appointments, etc. Just check out the site.



**For more info on our
3rd Wednesday
Monthly Vigil
from 9 – 10:30 am at
Johns Hopkins Bayview,
call Jim Bocklage
443-615-3424**

DOBBS DECISION, from page 5

progressed, my misgivings were confirmed. He remarked on the Dobbs ruling, giving credit and thanks to pro-lifers' prayer and work for that ruling. He also gave credit to pro-life leaders. Most conspicuous, though, was any lack of mention of Donald Trump's pivotal role in that victory. It was Trump who nominated three of the five justices that voted to overturn Roe. Pence suggested that we work and pray to advance the cause of life. That is precisely what he should have done, when he, as Vice President, had the opportunity and responsibility to thwart the obviously bogus presidential election of 2020. His words ring hollow, especially when he said that we will work every day to elect leaders that will stand without apology for

None of the speakers mentioned the word "Trump"

the unborn. In fact, he undermined the presidency of the man who made the Dobbs decision possible. None of the speakers mentioned the word "Trump". I will have more to say on that later.

Marjorie Dannenfelser, in her talk, made mention of a "president who kept his promises". It's a pity that she didn't utter the word "Trump". I strongly suspect that the speakers were asked not to mention Trump's name, and that Dannenfelser wanted to give him that acknowledgement. Linn Fitch, the Attorney General of Mississippi, started by saying that she and her team argued for returning the matter to the states. Given the parameters put forth in the Dobbs legal action, that may have been all that they could argue.

That doesn't mean that generally we must settle for that.

Sometime later, Penny Nance, president of Concerned Women for America, offered her remarks. She stated that "we are going to end abortion because we are going to take away the need for it". Stop right there! One cannot talk about a "need" for an intrinsic evil. That is an oxymoron. There might be a warped desire for it, but never a need for it. We simply must stop being sloppy with language and terminology. Our use of language must be precise and disciplined at all times.

When Chad Pechnold, a professor at Catholic University of America, took the stand, he stated that we could not return the abortion matter to the states, disagreeing with what the MS attorney general stated shortly before he took the stand. He stated that the President must recognize the personhood of the child and afford that child the protections due under the 14th Amendment. Again, this to me only solidifies the need to set in stone the definition of personhood. He evinced what I believe to be an overly confident attitude towards the courts. The courts can only act within their constitutional bounds, and that action is largely dependent on the judges that sit at those benches. I will say this, though, for Dr. Pechnold; he seemed to be the only speaker who might have been older than 40 years of age. I'll have more to say on that later in this post.

Nicole Hunt of Focus on the Family took the podium. She repeated a common misunderstanding in stating that babies' status as human beings begins in the womb. That's not quite so. A human person comes into existence when sperm fertilizes ovum, but that usually occurs in the Fallopian tubes. Then the new person, in his/her zygote stage, travels to the

uterus to implant there. The child's cell count is already increasing as the migration takes place. A human life amendment to the Constitution would have to specify the exact stage of the beginning of personhood - the meeting of sperm and ovum.

All in all, this rally left me with quite a few misgivings. With the exceptions of the professor from CUA and Micheal Henney, most of the speakers seemed to be on the younger side. They projected exuberance, to be sure, but they didn't advise the attendees that the struggle is going to increase in intensity that can be disconcerting and even frightening. Why was no mention made of the Red Rose Rescuers who, even today, are facing jail sentences? Why no mention of Mark Houck and the persecution that he underwent last winter? Why no

As we tell the truth, we will make others uncomfortable - not just the hard-boiled pro-aborts, but also those who would rather keep their heads buried in the sand.

mention of Dick Schaefer and Mark Crosby who were severely beaten up as they witnessed in front of the Baltimore Planned Parenthood two months ago? Where were older, more "battle-hardened" leaders like Randall Terry, Monica Miller, Troy Newman, Brian Gibson? I realize that they may have been distracted from the appearance of a happy-clappy celebration, but is that appearance realistic?

How did all this de facto cheer-leading prepare the attendees for the hard-scrabble fight that is ahead of us? As we tell the truth, we will make oth-

PRO-LIFE EFFORT, from page 8

erupted and episcopal leadership in support of Catholic teaching was hesitant: e.g., it took years for Catholic University, founded by the bishops, to rid itself of prominent dissident Charles Curran.

In 1973 *Roe v. Wade* was decided, having been prefaced by pro-abortion activity and legislation in New York and elsewhere. The bishops had indeed already founded the National Right to Life Committee but for the last eleven years it has been headed by Carol Tobias, a gracious Lutheran lady. How do we evaluate the bishops' very low-key pro-life effort? Have the bishops been dancing away from the abortion issue as too controversial, or was this a sincere effort to indicate that abortion is not only a Catholic issue? To her credit, a lay woman, Nellie Gray, gave up her job and formed what became the "Right to Life March" (now an institutional, somewhat fun outing for colle-

gians, attended by few bishops).

The second major shock to contemporary American Catholicism was the eruption in 2001 of the abuse crisis – initially in Irish Catholic Boston. The scandal was not only about pedophilia and homosexuality; it also exposed a long history of cover-up, an institution-protective pattern among the bishops. In disgust, many Catholics drifted out of the Church (some Catholics refused to allow sons to become altar boys!). Bishops feebly tried to speak of the scandal as a thing of the past and the United States Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) reacted slowly: The conference issued in 2002 a "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" – a document which somehow neglected to address the bishops' own coverup role in the scandal. All of this was enjoyed by anti-Catholics.

As we learn from the gleeful media, and as the website BishopAccountability.com has been documenting, the secrecy and coverup apparently

continue to this day. At a conference in June 2022, appropriately held near Boston and sponsored by Bishop Accountability, former Dominican priest and canon lawyer Thomas Doyle explained: "Over the years we have heard the litany of excuses continuously offered by the hierarchy and the clergy for why this all happened and why they responded as they did... or didn't respond at all: 'We're on a steep learning curve; if we only knew then what we know now; we relied on the advice of the medical experts; this behavior was looked upon differently then than it is today.' All of these are from the same playbook they have been relying on for nearly forty years and all of them are baseless, from a playbook that has lost any possible semblance of credibility... Secrecy still is the default position."

The second part of this article will appear in the next issue of Defend Life.

ers uncomfortable - not just the hard-boiled pro-aborts, but also those who would rather keep their heads buried in the sand.

I think I know now why Donald Trump, who placed an essential role in the Dobbs case, was unmentioned. For all his faults, he is not afraid of a fight. He is ready to get in there and mix it up as the need arises. His example is a stark reminder that we pro-life people have to be similarly prepared to do so. Many are, but by and large, they were not represented on the podium of the Celebrate Life Rally. If we are to bring about protection for the babies, we pro-lifers must harden our noses, put some calcium in our backbones and thicken our skins. We must cease being afraid to get some dirt under our fingernails, get a little scrappy,

to raise our voices and firmly rebuke the proponents of death.

One incident that happened just after the rally broke up brought these points to crystal clarity in my mind. A young pro-abort strolled through the crowd with a pro-abort poster that said something to the effect of "protect women's rights, keep abortion legal". I watched this for a few minutes. No one stopped him to take issue with his statements or to refute his logic. In fact, they were all smiley with him as they took pictures of him and his sign. Finally, I chimed in, saying "protect slave-owners' rights, keep slavery legal". I was using his own logic, using slavery instead of abortion as the topic. He then said, they weren't the same as he scurried away. I followed him for a little bit and challenged him. He just

tried to get away.

Finally other pro-lifers decided to pipe in - *by rebuking me, not the pro-abort*. They claimed I was racist because I'm white and the guy was black. So I fired back at them and they too scurried away. If this is the kind of nicey-nice lack of mental acumen that our young pro-life activists are expected to demonstrate, babies are going to pay the price, as will western civilization and Christianity.

It is way past time to knock the stars out of our eyes, act like adults and get serious about ending abortion and bringing about a Godly culture in our country.

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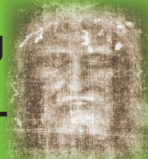
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