



DEFEND LIFE

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

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www.DefendLife.org • mail@DefendLife.org

www.Facebook.com/DefendLifeMarylandDCVirginia • (410) 337-3721

Vote NO on the Reproductive Amendment

By Deborah Brocato, Chair,
Health Not Harm MD

(Editor's note – please see addendum at the end for an important update.)

In the 2024 General Election, Marylanders will be asked to vote YES or NO to amending the Maryland Constitution with what is being called a “reproductive freedom” amendment. Without careful review of the amendment, it would be easy to assume that it is an abortion amendment. That’s what the sponsors and supporters want you to think. The actual wording reveals that the amendment creates a new and unlimited right to “reproductive freedom” for all individuals, regardless of age. This amendment is really about eliminating a parent’s right to participate in the healthcare and education decisions of their minor children when it pertains to their reproductive system. Abortion is the Trojan horse being used to trick pro-choice Marylanders into voting away their parental rights.

Under current law in Maryland, abortion is unrestricted and fully funded. The Maryland Freedom of Choice Act of 1991 is the law that allows abortion throughout pregnancy for any reason. By this law,

HANDS OFF OUR KIDS

Vote **NO**



on **QUESTION 1**

Baby-killing cannot become a constitutional right.

physicians were required to perform abortions. The physician determined parental notification for minor girls. This law was already in place when the Dobbs decision overturned Roe; therefore, the Supreme Court decision had no effect on abortion access in Maryland. Since 1991, the Maryland General Assembly has passed other laws to protect and fully fund abortion in Maryland. A vote against this amendment will not change any of those laws.

The Mental Health Access Initiative of 2021 lowered the age to seek mental healthcare from 16 years old to 12 years old without parental consent.

The Abortion Care Access Act of 2022 removed the physician requirement for abortion and allows a “qualified provider,” a person trained, certified, or authorized by the state of Maryland, to provide abortions. This was done to give more access to abortion by allowing more individuals to perform abortions. The abortion provider determines parental notification. The law requires Medicaid and private health insurance providers to cover abortion.

The Trans Health Equity Act of 2023 requires “the Maryland Medical Assistance Program to provide medically necessary gender-affirming treatment in a non-discriminatory

ry manner,” which includes hormone therapy, hormone blockers, and puberty blockers. Adults have already gone through puberty. Puberty blockers are necessary for minors.

If Marylanders vote to amend the Maryland Constitution, the amendment will give minors a right to consent to vaccines, puberty blockers and surgeries including breast removal. Children will be able to permanently alter their bodies without their mother or father being part of the decision-making. Children cannot give informed consent. They are too young and lack the knowledge and life experience to understand the consequences and permanency

Marylanders deserve to know exactly what they are voting for.

of altering their bodies. Minors need signed permission forms to take Tylenol and Ibuprofen in school. Minors need parental permission for piercings and tattoos.

Minors cannot buy alcohol or cannabis or join the military. We protect minors from lots of behaviors that could harm them.

The proposed amendment for the Maryland Constitution states, “That every person as a central component of an individual’s right to liberty and equality has the fundamental right to reproductive freedom, including but not limited to the ability to make and effectuate decisions to prevent, continue, or end one’s own pregnancy. The State may not, directly or indirectly, deny, burden, or abridge the right unless justified by a compelling

state interest achieved by the least restrictive means.”

The words “person” and “individual” apply to males and females, adults and children. Reproductive freedom, reproductive liberty and reproductive autonomy are ambiguous umbrella terms used for treatments and behaviors related to the reproductive system. These terms are not defined in this amendment or in law. In Maryland, adults already can obtain any reproductive intervention they choose whether that is a vasectomy, abortion, birth control, tubal ligation, pregnancy, gender interventions, etc. This amendment creates a new right called “reproductive freedom” for all individuals, male and female, regardless of age.

When legislators tried to refine the amendment with more specific and narrow language, those efforts were rejected. Proposed changes included using the word woman in place of person and individual, using abortion in place of reproductive freedom, and putting in minimum age and parental consent requirements. All those efforts to make an amendment with clear intent were voted down.

Then, there’s the deception. The ballot language about the amendment is not required to match the actual wording of the amendment. Marylanders deserve to know exactly what they are voting for. The proposal that the ballot language exactly matches the wording of the constitutional amendment was also voted down.

There are many other obvious adverse consequences to this amendment but others will be learned if this amendment passes. The loss of Title IX regulations that protect and promote athletic endeavors for

women and girls is one that is clear. If a male has the reproductive right to declare himself a female, then he would have access to all the spaces that are meant for women and girls. The amendment is vague which allows for broad interpretation of the new right.

Marylanders need to know that voting NO on the amendment does not prevent adults from seeking and obtaining any reproductive intervention. Whether Republican, Democrat or Independent, or pro-choice, voting YES on the amendment allows children to obtain reproductive and/or gender interventions without parents ever knowing, much less consenting.

Protect children and preserve parental rights by voting NO on amending the Maryland Constitution.

Protect children and preserve parental rights by voting NO on amending the Maryland Constitution.

Learn more at HealthNotHarmMD.org. To defeat this amendment, our fellow Marylanders need to know about the amendment and what it does. Go to HealthNotHarmMD.org and volunteer and donate.

Important update – Since this article was written, the number for the ballot question at hand is number 1. The ballot question language remains unknown, but now we know to Vote No on Question 1. The website HealthNotHarmMD.com now has literature that is updated with the question number.

Richmond VA Abortion Scandal Comes to Light

Many public schools around the country have found themselves closed due to a reduction of babies being born, thanks to the anti-life mental poison that has festered in the United States for at least two generations now. Quite a few local governments have re-purposed these former school buildings to serve other needs in the community.

Such was the case in Richmond Virginia. The Brookeville school located at 4929 Chamberlayne Avenue was permitted to be used by the Adult Alternative Program. This is an effort by Kenneth and Alfreda Williams to help ex-offenders become productive members of society again through job-training and learning other life-skills. The Adult Alternative Program is a 501c3 charity.

However, the local government of the City of Richmond, from the mayor on down to the city council, are more committed to baby-slaughter than they are to the now-released prisoners trying to reform their lives. After the Dobbs decision in June 2022 that effectively scuttled Roe v Wade, the pro-abortion Richmond government doubled down on their promotion of baby-killing. They turned over control of the building to the local Planned Parenthood. This will be the *third* Planned Parenthood

location in Richmond. The fate of the Adult Alternative Program is unknown to us at this time; its website still gives the Chamberlayne address as its own.

On Monday July 22, the council literally gave the building away to Planned Parenthood. The building itself was valued at \$1.2 million, but the City of Richmond sold it to Planned Parenthood for ten dollars. That's right! Ten dollars! That is, one of those pieces of US currency bearing Alexander Hamilton's picture! Planned Parenthood will, in turn, transform the building into a giant abortion center; that is not only their intention, but that of the City of Richmond government. The entire City Council voted unanimously in favor of the transaction. The citizenry was, for the greater part, unaware of this transaction.

Ladies and gentlemen, at the very least, this is bald-faced embezzlement. No legal/constitutional protocols were followed in the conduct of this sale. By law, the proceeds were to be turned over to the school board, since the building was originally a school. That school was built with tax dollars, and the city council literally stole the building from the citizens of Richmond to give it away scot-free to the largest purveyor of

baby-slaughter in this county.

On account of the multiple legal violations being committed by the City of Richmond in the conduct of this immoral transaction, the Family Foundation (website familyfoundation.org) is filing suit against the City of Richmond. There may be time to stop the opening of this planned abortion center in Richmond; the sale just happened on July 22 and Planned Parenthood will have to make repairs and modifications to the building to suit their purposes. According to City of Richmond Ordinance # 2024-190, the Virginia League for Planned Parenthood anticipates capital expenditures of \$6,000,000 for the revamping of the building.

This whole debacle is occurring within the Diocese of Richmond, with Bishop Barry Knestout at the helm. So far we have heard of no statement regarding this waste of taxpayer dollars in favor of yet another baby-killing center in Richmond. There is no statement on the diocesan website, nor that of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. The Diocese of Richmond is a suffragan of the Baltimore Archdiocese.

We will keep the readership of *Defend Life* up to date with any developments.



Adult Alternative Program — what will become of this helpful outreach?

From Missy Smith, Founder and President of WAKEUP (Women Against the Killing and Exploitation of Unprotected Persons)

Dear Friend of Life, I need your help!

I am Missy Smith, founder of WAKEUP. I received an urgent phone call from an eyewitness reporting “the most horrific thing [she had] ever seen.”

On May 12, 2020 at 3:50 pm the Montgomery County, Maryland Fire and Rescue Service received a 911 call. The call came from an abortion mill owned and operated by infamous late term abortionist LeRoy Carhart in Bethesda, Maryland. A woman had been seriously injured in the course of a 3rd trimester abortion. She was examined, given care and transported to nearby Shady Grove Adventist Hospital.

Arriving at the emergency room, the woman was re-evaluated and found to be in critical condition. The woman was rushed into the operating room for emergency surgery. She was bleeding heavily from a ruptured uterus, and beginning to show signs of sepsis. Parts of her baby had been left inside her, including a severed leg that was intact from the hip down. Some of the baby parts had been pushed through the uterine tear and up into the abdominal cavity. The woman’s bowels had been so badly damaged that the surgeon had to redirect her large intestine to an external bag.

After the surgery, she was sent to the ICU to be monitored. The attending surgeon emailed hospital staff members acknowledging the trauma they may have suffered from the experience. Nine days after this woman’s near-fatal injuries, she was discharged from the hospital.



Missy Smith

That same day, another woman receiving Carhart’s “services” arrived by ambulance in even worse condition than the first woman. Her uterus had been so badly punctured it left a hole about nine inches wide. The body of her baby had been

Both women endured their injuries while undergoing D&E abortions at 25 weeks gestation.

shoved through this gaping hole and into her abdominal cavity. The baby was missing an arm and part of its spinal column. Its head was still attached to its body by a small strip of flesh. The woman hemorrhaged so badly that she needed a transfusion of four pints of blood to keep her alive. Life-saving measures per-

formed at the hospital included an operation that ended her ability to have any more children.

Both women endured their injuries while undergoing D&E abortions at 25 weeks gestation. At this age pre-born babies are able to feel pain, and can survive outside the womb. Since 2012, 22 serious injuries and one death have been reported at Carhart’s abortion facilities in Maryland and Nebraska. The abortion industry claims that abortion is safe but every abortion brutally kills a pre-born baby and harms a woman forever.

This horrific story continues:

On November 27, 2019, I received a phone call about a baby which was found in a toilet in the ladies’ room of a Ruby Tuesday’s in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. I contacted the medical examiner in Baltimore, who identified Baby Girl Doe and referred me to the detective assigned to the case. At that point, I named her Philomena Grace after the great Saint Philomena who lived around the turn of the 3rd Century. She is the patron Saint of infants, babies and youth.

I then signed papers to become the legal claimant assuming all legal responsibilities of Philomena Grace. On January 24, 2020, Philomena Grace’s remains were recovered and she was given a beautiful funeral Mass and burial by Bishop Joseph Coffey, Father Edward Meeks and Father William Kuchinsky.

Philomena Grace was a victim of an induced abortion committed by late term abortionist Cesare Santangelo in Washington D.C. San-

tangelo has been killing late-term babies for over three decades. On October 22, 2020, a group of pro-lifers held a traditional “lock and block” rescue at Santangelo’s abortuary located at 1011 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20037. These rescuers arrived from all over the country after seeing Live Action’s undercover videos revealing Santangelo’s confession about leaving babies to die if born alive during his abortion procedures. The pro-lifers were arrested and then released on the same day with no judicial repercussions.

On March 25, 2022 two sidewalk counselors, Lauren Handy and Terissa Bukovinac, retrieved a box from the medical waste company Curtis Bay. When they opened the box, they found 110 first-trimester babies and five late-term babies. They were turned over to the Washington DC Medical Examiner’s Office for autopsy to reveal if their deaths were in violation of the Born Alive Infant Protection Act of 2002 (BAIPA Pub. L. 107-207, 116 Stat.926, enacted August 5, 2002, 1 U.S.C. 8) or Partial Birth Abortion Act. (BPA from 18 USC 1531 (b) (1).

The 110 first trimester babies were buried in West Virginia. On April 5, 2022, Missy Smith of WAKEUP with Lauren Handy, Terissa Bukovinac, and Randall Terry held a press conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel calling for justice for the babies and for Santangelo to be investigated for committing crimes against humanity.

The nine rescuers were arrested, found guilty and sentenced. They are in jail serving sentences of 18 to 48 months. Four of these rescuers are grandmothers and one is a grandfather. Our streets in America run wild with violent criminals, these nine prayerful, pro-lifers have

been jailed since their guilty verdicts after their trials in the summer of 2023 due to their “violent” actions.

These stories need to be told and the time is NOW! Almost every mainstream news agency, news outlet has turned a blind eye to these crimes against humanity.

This is why I am writing to you today. WAKEUP needs to make a short five-minute video on the story behind these crimes against human-

These stories need to be told and the time is NOW!

ity, with the mission of having them reported by the likes of podcasters Tucker Carlson, Candace Owens and Steve Bannon. An excellent filmmaker has given us a proposal of \$7,000 to produce a first-class video for this purpose.

WAKEUP needs immediate donations help to get this message to the public. The present class action suit based on Crimes Against Humanity is named Blessed Are Those Who Mourn. Please go to WAKE-



Philomena Grace received a Christian burial.

UP.MOM, donate and sign the petition to become a plaintiff in this powerful, class action suit against the United States government, who have already admitted being complicit in these Crimes Against Humanity. The filmmakers’ deadline is tentatively set for August 2024. Feel free to call with any questions or to volunteer help of any kind in our joint effort to expose these CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY. To become a plaintiff in the class action suit called “Blessed are those Who Mourn”, visit our website (wakeup.mom) TODAY!

God Bless,
Missy Smith
Founder of WAKEUP



DefendLife.Org

DEFEND LIFE

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

P.O. Box 5427
Baltimore, Maryland 21285
www.DefendLife.Org
Jack Ames, Director
410-337-3721
Jack@DefendLife.Org

*August 15, 2024 Anno Domini
Feast of the Assumption*

Dear Friend of **DEFEND LIFE**,

Our **24th Annual Maryland Face the Truth** was quite possibly the best ever. Here are just a few of the reasons:

- Outstanding supporters like **YOU** who opened your homes for overnight housing, provided wonderful meals, joined us on the roads and streets, and gave **generously** to make this Tour a reality.

- Our **25-member** Core Team who were with us at all **15 STOPS** including **7 members** who were either college students or soon to be college students. Most if not all were **home-schooled**. I especially want to thank Natalie Sharpe (**Regent**) and Mary-Frances Huffer (**Franciscan**) who recruited other students.

- Holy Mass was celebrated each day by Father Timothy Grassi, Father Thomas Morrow, Author and Father Denis Wilde, OSA.

- Our **5** luncheon speakers were all outstanding: Laura Gies, Olga Fairfax, Terry Beatley, Senator Patricia Rucker and myself who was a stand-in for stalwart Barry Sullivan.

- On Tuesday, we were joined by **30 Survivors**, the majority of whom had come all the way from **California** to join us, a **Survivor** is any person who was born after January 22, 1973. Learn about this exceptional group by visiting **Survivors.La**.

Because of these wonderful 20-40 year-old activists, we were able to stretch our favorite Chevy Chase STOP from 1 mile to 2 miles. Afterwards, we all huddled at Rock Creek K of C for wonderful food and camaraderie. One of those Survivors is **Emma Craig**, a public school teacher from Northern California who devotes her summers to PRO-LIFE activism. Another was **Mason Des Champs** from Las Vegas, **aka** as **Pro-Life Spiderman** who has captured national attention befuddling authorities by climbing the outside of high-rise buildings.

If you do not believe me, please do a Google Search for him.

This may be the greatest example ever of thinking **Outside of the Box** I have



seen in my 52 years of fighting abortion. We PRO-LIFERS must strive to innovate **every day of our lives.**

• We did this year's Truth Tour the last week in June instead of the last week of July so as not to conflict with the **National Eucharistic Congress** in Indianapolis which would have been the week before our traditional last week in July dates. It was so successful that we have decided to do our 25th Truth Tour on **June 23-27, 2025.** Please record those dates in your phone **now.**

National Eucharistic Congress — Greatest 5 Days Ever!

Here are some of my very best memories of those days:

- The 55,000 vibrant on-fire vibrant Catholics who attended.
- Traveling to Indy with Father Denis Wilde, OSA, Associate Director of Priests for Life, quite possibly the greatest priest pianist in the world and fellow Villanovan.

- Joined by my dear friends Joan McKee, Grace Sims, Mary Sims, and Marylou Rizzo all proudly wearing our PRO-LIFE T-shirts. We explained to hundreds of interested attendees how they could get their own FREE T-shirt.

- The exhibit area which was massive where I learned about many dozens of Catholic apostolates that I never new existed. The Indy Convention Center is **2 1/2** times larger than our very large Baltimore Convention Center.

- The dozens of great speakers including Scott Hahn, Father Michael Schmitz, Jeff Cavins and **67** year old Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle from Manila who preached eloquently at the closing Mass at Lucas Oil Stadium. Fr. Denis Wilde thinks he would make a great Pope.

- The Eucharistic Procession along the main streets of Indy ending at the massive Indiana War Memorial where benediction was celebrated atop the terrace surrounding this 231 feet high structure, easily one of the most beautiful edifices in America,

- On Friday, there was a Congress within a Congress sponsored by **Life Site News.** It was held at beautiful nearby Victory Stadium, home of the Triple AAA Indianapolis **Indies.** Key events included a Latin Tridentine High Mass plus talks by John-Henry Westen and Fr. James Altman, one of the **150** noteworthy speakers we have hosted since 1987. This event was master-minded by Hoosier **Vicki Yamasacki** who met John-Henry Westen at a dinner we hosted concurrent with the U.S. Bishops meeting last November in Baltimore.

- If you were not able to attend the Congress in person, you can still relive this plethora of historic Catholic events by visiting **www.RelevantRadio.com** and then clicking **digital platform.**



Enclosure



NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Congress

Long Live Christ Our King!

Jack Ames

Jack Ames, P.E., Director

Confronting the Culture with the Truth about Abortion: Remember the Heroes for Life!

By Mary Ann Kreitzer

Every summer DEFEND LIFE of Baltimore, headed by pro-life hero Jack Ames, conducts what they call a “Face the Truth” tour in over a dozen locations in Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia. With giant signs revealing the horrifying truth about the murder of the innocent, they line major highways revealing the truth about abortion that government and media hide. It’s all exposing the lie that abortion is like clipping a toenail or removing a tick.

Their late afternoon stop yester-

early rescues from the ‘70s and 80s and about the heroes among the pro-life patriarchs.

Together, Jack and I remembered heroes like:

- Nellie Gray who founded the March for Life,
- Joe Scheidler who gave up a lucrative career to found The Pro-Life Action League in Chicago,
- Joan Andrews Bell who spent years in prison for saving babies and is currently in jail with a group of fellow rescuers,
- and martyrs of the culture of death like Hugh Finn and Terri Schiavo who were starved and dehydrated to death by their spouses.

We are in this fight *for life*: first, for the lives of our children and all victims of the death peddlers whatever their age, and second to be faithful to the end of our own lives following the biblical admonition to “rescue those being led to the slaughter.” The fight is from womb to tomb. During COVID we saw many people denied life-saving health care. Like abortionists in white coats, the COVID-compliant government lemmings ignored the science on effective protocols push remdesivir and the ventilator that killed most of those treated with it. It’s a sad thing when you can’t trust those with the initials M.D., but it’s long past time when patients need to interview their doctors and know who is behind the stethoscope. Does he respect life? Or is he

a death peddler? It’s wise to be your own advocate, getting second opinions and doing the research on any prescribed meds. If you get treated like an idiot for asking questions it’s time to go!

One of the most gratifying things about yesterday’s tour was the number of young people participating. Half of those standing on the lines were youngsters, probably college students. They are the future of the pro-life movement. I used to worry that when the heroes of the early days were gone, heroes like Nellie Gray, Joe Scheidler, Fr. Paul Marx,

**We are in this fight
for life.**

day was in Frederick, MD. we coordinated our weekly visit to Frederick so we could join the tour from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. For me it was a reunion with two of my pro-life allies, Jack, whom I’ve worked with for years and stalwart pro-life activist, Olga Fairfax who, in her 80s still weekly councils at an abortion business in suburban, MD.

A few months ago, Olga was brutally attacked by a raging young woman who, despite photos and much information, remains at large and scot-free. It’s not just about attacking the babies, but those who defend them!

After the tour stop, the group of about thirty pro-lifers picnicked on the grass. Jack asked me to share some of my experiences from the

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Fr. Baby Doe (Norman Weslin), etc. that the victory would be in the arms of the evil. I don’t worry about that any more. The Lord is calling a new generation to the front lines and abortion will end in His time. Pray the rosary and spend time in Eucharistic Adoration that the time may be sooner than later!

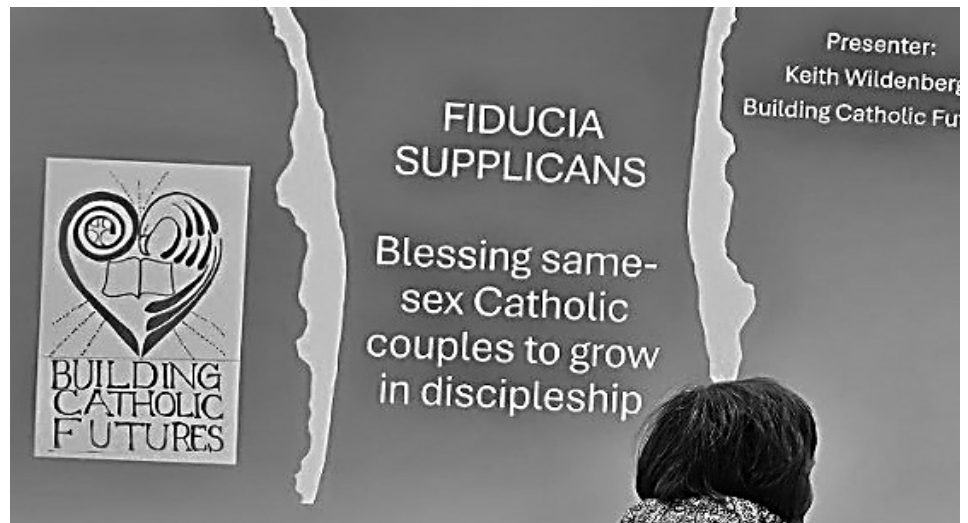
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Editor’s note: Mary Ann Kreitzer is a former Baltimore native and participated in several of the early rescues. With her permission, this article is taken from her blog, lesfemmes-thetruth.blogspot.com. It was posted on June 25, 2024.

Archdiocese of Baltimore VS Protection for Babies

We proceeded to the school cafeteria where lunch was served. Along the perimeters tables were set up, with various “social justice” organizations were hawking their wares and dissident mindsets. The only decent organization that I noted was the St. Vincent de Paul Society. As you can see, LEAD had a table there. They seemed to have learned one lesson from last year’s expose of their nonsense; they did not give away little “gay-pride” flags. However, their display table skirt was a gay-pride flag. I suppose the poor dears just couldn’t help themselves. Among the offerings on the table were several of Fr James Martin’s books. At the opposite end of the row was a table for Pax Christi. They seem to be having internal difficulties when it comes to being anti-baby-slaughter. With all the regular “seamless garment” stuff, they are all in lock-step with each other. Why do they seem to have difficulties decrying the evil of abortion? Keep that question in the back of your mind as I relate to you the contents of the afternoon workshop.

The workshop was entitled “Fiducia Supplicant: Putting It Into Perspective”. The presenter was Keith Wildenberg, founder of Building Catholic Futures. He’s also a partnered gay man. This organization ostensibly exists to facilitate the integration of LGBT persons into the Catholic Church. As I read the articles on the web about this, it seems that most of the LGBT people bristle at the idea that their inclinations are intrinsically disordered. The truth is that they are, given that sexuality is ordered by God for marriage and the procreation of children.



Afternoon workshop — Fiducia Supplicants: Putting It Into Perspective



LEAD table

One question that Wildenberg asked at the beginning is “what is the Church supposed to do with the gay couples among us?” Another was “what can we do to make our priests more comfortable with this?” “Blessing prayers” were interspersed throughout the presentation. These always invoked blessings upon the gay couple, asking that their homes be blessed, that they grow closer as a couple. I emphasize *as a couple* for one simply cannot ask blessing on a couple

without validating that which defines them *as a couple*, i.e. the disordered tendencies that drew them to each other.

Wildenberg tried to take the writings of various popes regarding friendship to justify the intrinsically disordered attraction found in same-sex couples. He opined ruefully that the “Church is clear about what we can’t do with our bodies; I wish it was clear about what we can do with our bodies.” This sounds a bit like randy, hormone-driven kids

asking “how far can we go?” Let’s face it. Anyone who asks that question already knows the answer in his/her conscience. Much effort was expended to twist Church writings to lend legitimacy to the existence of gay couples. That is, the talk was full of attempts to justify the objectively perverse attraction between people of the same sex. About halfway through the talk, he said, “you can’t bless their union but you can bless them as individuals. And if they happen to be standing next to each other and you have two hands..” Here the audience broke out in chuckles - and we know why.

So how much of that pow-wow session was smoke-and-mirrors? Well, consider this recent news. It was discovered that Father Joseph Williams, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul parish in the Archdiocese of Chicago, presided at a “same-sex blessing” with exchange of “vows” on April 22nd. It was first reported in Our Sunday Visitor. Fiducia Supplicans states that any “blessing” not be accompanied by any accouterments that might imply a sacramental event. Father Williams was vested for the confection of a sacrament. He recognized them as a couple, asking blessing on their perverted relationship. A faithful Catholic notified the Chicago chancery and was assured that “it will be addressed”. I’ll believe it when I see it. If Williams is not disciplined for this sacrilege, we may safely assume that such “blessings” as he attempted are indeed the goal of the authors of Fiducia Supplicans.

Throughout the presentation, various people read sample “blessings” for gay couples. Wildenberg had planned, as a closing activity, to have the audience break down into groups of 4-5 people so that we could compose our own “blessings”

for same-sex shack-ups. I prepared to leave at that point for there was no way I could morally pretend to engage in that sin and I wasn’t prepared to destroy my own cover. Fortunately, Wildenberg et al noticed that there would not be time for that activity before the closing event of the day.

There were quite a few other workshops, all having to do with various progressive causes: climate change, death penalty, labor organizing, racial matters, etc. There was only one that even mentioned pro-life concerns. Bear in mind that Maryland has on its ballot the question of whether or not the so-called “right” to baby-slaughter. It is the so-called “Right to Reproductive Freedom Act”. Was it mentioned, at

In forcing those boys to witness the progressives and deviants strutting through their school, the Archdiocese of Baltimore failed those boys miserably.

least once, in that “pro-life” workshop? By the way - as I was perusing the tables of different organizations during lunch, there was no pro-life display. Given that this was an ostensibly Catholic social justice convocation, I found such absence to be quite indicative of priorities being misplaced.

The title of that workshop was “Pro-Life, Social Justice, And Not Being Cringe”. In that description was not one mention of the word abortion, the method by which over 90 babies every day are murdered in Maryland. Moreover, when I recall that I sat through two workshops



Gay vows

in which gays lectured to us, in a Catholic school with permission of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, I find it rather backwards that the word “cringe” is being associated with pro-life activism.

To add to the authentically “cringe” factor of this convocation, I noticed that there were a number of Calvert Hall students were present, ushering people through the building and carrying materials to different locations. I presume that they were doing this for service points or other extracurricular credits. In forcing those boys to witness the progressives and deviants strutting through their school, the Archdiocese of Baltimore failed those boys miserably.

This year’s convocation was no different than last year’s debacle. These are unabashed attempts to normalize gay perversion (and other anomalies) within the Archdiocese of Baltimore. The fact that this is being done so openly and on Catholic property indicates that such twisting of Catholic teaching is done with the permission of the Archbishop of Baltimore - if not at his express direction. The directors responsible for inflicting these convocations on Baltimore should be dismissed - even if that includes the current archbishop.

I Found Jesus in a New Age Bookstore

By Sarah Quinn

My message is to never doubt God's power to find his lost sheep. I know this very personally. That is why I never give up on hope for others. You see, life is a journey. I truly believe that I have a stronger faith now because I got lost, took a look around, and ultimately circled back to Jesus.

I grew up during the 60's and 70's in Anne Arundel County, Maryland and am a product of Catholic schools. My parents whom I love and respect took seriously their obligation to pass on the Faith and provide their children with the best in quality education. They sacrificed greatly.

Those were tumultuous years after Vatican II and it impacted not only those in the pews but those in the schools. I was taught by a combination of religious sisters and lay teachers. Some of the religious sisters that taught in the school were quite strict (the ruler!) while the older sisters were kinder to the students. The younger sisters who taught me came across as unsettled and after graduation I was not surprised to hear that some had left their vocation. Priests also taught in the school and while some were very holy and traditional, unfortunately a few others would be confronted with unsavory accusations years later about inappropriate behavior. As a young adult I did not completely understand everything that was going on, but I found it to be an overall unsettling environment. This was one of the better schools academically in the area and I did understand that I was not going anywhere until graduation. I realized I needed to move things along quicker. As a good

student and by taking extra classes and attending summer school, I was able to finish high school in 3 years and graduate early. I started college at 16 and graduated with a BS in Business and continued on to complete a graduate program. I worked for many years in the field of corporate marketing in technology industries.

During my 20's and early 30's I stopped going to church. I had married and started searching for a deeper spiritual meaning to life. I wanted answers to life's questions and wanted to connect to God's power for my life. Perhaps there were hidden teachings that held the answers to life. My sense was that it had to be something more than what I had experienced up to this point.

As an avid reader, I zeroed in on the New Age Movement. And while this was not a structured religion, it encompassed many beliefs and experiences that were new to me – including the idea of reincarnation, channeling, astrology and tarot card readings, meditation and different traditions of mysticism. I was on a discovery path, until one sunny day when I was at my local new age bookstore looking to further broaden my horizons. For some reason, I found a Bible on a bookshelf, opened it and started flipping through the pages. The beautifully illustrated pictures captivated me. I started reading familiar passages. And right then, I heard these words interiorly – you know where you belong. It was clear and was like 'a whack to the side of the head.' I shut the book, put it down and never returned to that bookstore again. For me, it was that simple. I sensed that I had been given an opportunity to explore, but then Jesus had called me back. I sure was a lost

sheep at that point but He came looking for me and He was very patient with my dangerous detours along the way.

My husband and I visited many Christian churches as we looked for our church home. He was raised Anglican. He knew I was searching for something to fill a deep spiritual need and provided me with honest feedback as we both searched. For a few years we were members of a bible based independent Christian church. Part of what attracted me was the deep focus on the Bible, reading it and being very familiar with it and having a close fellowship with other believers. But I found that something was still missing here. It became clear to me that what was missing was the Eucharist. My upbringing told me that the Catholic Church, from St. Peter to today, had something very special, and it was Christ's Body and Blood. This is our true treasure.

Despite all of the major shortcomings of those in the hierarchy of the Catholic Church and the resulting turmoil, we are both here to stay. My husband completed RCIA and formally joined the Church. We appreciate the treasures and richness of our faith. I'm so glad we have a God who does go out to find those missing sheep! I trust Him to take care of the big picture!

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