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D.C. Archdiocese bars devout priest from visiting Md. school

Father Larry Swink tops the list of staff members on the website for Archbishop Neale School in Maryland.

Father Swink gets head billing because he is the School Administrator.

Oddly, however, he's the only one of 26 staff members with a blank, shadow profile instead of a color photo of himself—and the only one with no posted email address.

This anomaly might be because the Archdiocese of Washington recently barred Father Swink from visiting the school.

A recent petition on Change.org, "Support Father Larry Swink," explains why.

"Please join us in support of our wonderful Pastor Father Larry Swink of Sacred Heart Parish in La Plata, Md.," reads the petition, started by parishioner Nkiru Lemke.

"Fr. Swink heroically came to the defense of a student who was being bullied for his Pro-Life stance at Archbishop Neale in Port Tobacco, Md.," explains Lemke.

"At the urging of the handful of families whose children were involved in the bullying of their classmate, the Archdiocese of Washington has decided, without hearing from both sides, to censure Fr. Larry instead, barring him from coming



The Archdiocese of Washington has barred Father Larry Swink from visiting students at Archbishop Neale School.

into the classrooms and giving his Catholic faith-affirming messages to the kids.

"Let's send a clear message to the Archdiocese of Washington that Catholic priests are wanted and needed in our Catholic schools, and that Catholic faith and values should be presented in their entirety," the petition concludes.

"Rock-solid, Holy Priest"

One thousand, five hundred and ninety-seven people agreed with Lemke and signed the petition,

which was sent to Father Anthony Lickteig, the Archdiocese's Vicar for Clergy.

Nearly 150 of them took an extra step, adding, as part of the petition, their reasons for signing.

"Father Larry is a rock-solid, Holy Priest who never fails to shepherd his sheep. Life begins at conception and ends at natural death. Does the ADW [Archdiocese of Washington] teach something different?" wrote one angry signer.

"Priests should be able to stand up for life in a Catholic school and to speak up against bullying. Both sides should be heard. This is outrageous!" wrote another.

Perhaps the most heartfelt and poignant comment came from Deacon Bil Carter, a Permanent Deacon assigned to Sacred Heart Parish since 2017.

"I have three of my own children enrolled at Archbishop Neale School," wrote Deacon Carter. I am also active at the school in ministry.

"One of my children was in the room when this event occurred, as well as in the weeks and months before it occurred.

"During that time, accounts of disrespect from some of his fellow students who were involved in this situation towards the staff and

See PETITION, page 14

St. Matthew pro-LGBT pastor out July 1, supporters angry

Valentine's Day was not a happy day for the members of LEAD, a pro-LGBT group at St. Matthew Catholic Church in Baltimore.

They had just learned, prior to their February 14 meeting, that despite their efforts to dissuade Archbishop William Lori, he was still sticking to his guns: Father Joseph Muth would be retired and leave St. Matthew as scheduled.

The archbishop had named Father Matthew Buening as the new pastor, effective July 1.

Father Muth, who was ordained in the Archdiocese of Baltimore in 1974, has labored indefatigably for years to promote not just acceptance but downright approval of active homosexual and other LGBT behavior by both St. Matthew Church and the Catholic Church in general.

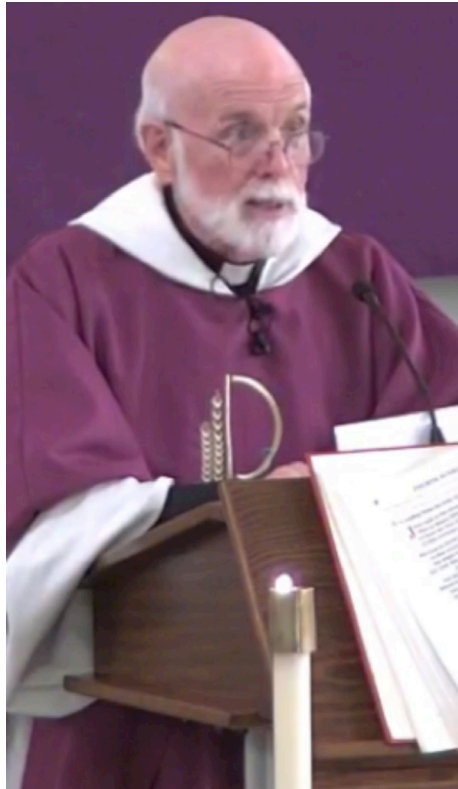
Muth has been an active member of New Ways Ministry, a Maryland-based national organization founded in 1977 to push for acceptance of active gay and lesbian Catholics within the Catholic Church.

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith condemned the group's positions on homosexuality in 1999.

Muth founded LEAD (LGBT Educating and Affirming Diversity) at St. Matthew in 2010.

He led the group to national as well as local recognition and influence, with favorable coverage in Newsweek.com in 2015 and a major exhibit at the Baltimore Museum of Art featuring his pro-LGBT work.

“Anger, hurt, frustration”



Father Joseph Muth, above, preaching at St. Matthew's March 14 livestream Mass, is retiring under protest.

Archdiocesan policy calls for a priest to notify the archbishop when he turns 70.

Muth wrote to the archbishop that he would be 70 in 2018. He asked for permission to remain until 2023, when he would be 75.

But in a January 2020 letter to the priest, Lori denied his request and scheduled his retirement for September 2020.

About 50 of Muth's supporters met at St. Matthew on February 18, 2020, to launch a campaign opposing Archbishop Lori's retirement dictum.

After several such “town hall” meetings, they wrote a letter to

Archbishop Lori, asking to meet with him.

Lori met with the group's leaders and agreed to let Muth stay on past the September 2020 deadline, until June 30.

Not content with the 10-month extension of Muth's pastorate, however, his advocates are continuing to hold monthly “town halls” this year.

“We had about two hundred people at our town hall meeting last weekend,” one of the leaders announced at St. Matthew's livestream Mass on February 21.

“We heard the anger, hurt and frustration, but above all we heard of our love for Father Joe and how much he has done and been for us.

“As a parish community, we will meet with Father Matt when the time comes, but in the meantime, we are looking for some healing.”

The leadership team will write another letter to the archbishop, he said, “to express our feelings about the [retirement] process and ask that he listen to us and help us heal.”

“My fantasy world”

Father Muth has continued to encourage his supporters' opposition to his retirement.

“I want to thank you for your participation in the town hall last weekend,” he told those at the February 21 livestream Mass.

“I've heard many comments this week from people's anger and frustration of the way this whole thing has happened, with little recognition or respect for the parish.

“In my fantasy world, I see all of

us who wish to take this step a little further, meeting at the Washington Monument downtown and marching to the Catholic Center, singing the song from ‘Les Miserables,’ ‘Do you hear the people sing?’ he said with a smile.

“However, I think that the Archdiocese thinks that this is over and done. But we are in a community of the Church of Catholic men and women who want a *say* in their Church!” he added more seriously.

Father Joe also continues to preach in support of the LGBT agenda.

At the February 21 Mass, he spoke of an African-American nun who, objecting to the racial discrimination in the Catholic Church, told some bishops, “I’ve been on the outside for too long, and I’m not going to stay on the outside any longer!”

“This is a similar thing that can be said by gay people,” said Muth; “they can respond in a similar way: ‘I bring myself, my gay self, my history, my traditions, my experience, my culture, my song and dance, my gestures and movement, my teaching and healing and responsibility as a gift to the Church!’”

“This is also saying with boldness, ‘This is where I fit in; this Church is where I belong.’”

“‘I’ve been on the outside for too long, and I’m not going to stay there any longer!’”

Systemic racism

Father Muth has also continued to stress liberal concepts on “systemic racism” and preached about alleged “murders” of blacks by racist police officers.

“We have been locked down in the corona virus wasteland for a year,” he noted in his homily at the February 21 Mass.

“However, we have been locked down in a *racist* wasteland for *four hundred years!*”

After the Consecration at the February 14 online Mass, during the Eucharistic Prayer, the priest inserted, “We pray for all those mur-



On July 1, Father Matt Buening will replace Father Muth as pastor of St. Matthew Church.

dered in Baltimore in the first week of February.”

He then named four people, along with their ages, beginning with “Dante Green, 40 years old.”

“Murder” is defined as “the unlawful and malicious or premeditated killing of one human being by another.”

Dante Green was not, in fact, murdered. He was fatally shot while U.S. Marshals were serving an arrest warrant on him for attempted murder and armed robbery.

Green, hiding in a closet, fired on the marshals, hitting one of them in the stomach. The marshal was

taken to Shock Trauma and placed on life support.

The U.S. Marshals returned fire, killing Green (baltimore.cbslocal.com/2021/02/04/us-marshals-shot-serving-arrest-warrant-west-baltimore-latest/).

Impeach ex-president?

In the February 21 Mass, Father Muth also used some head-scratching logic to assert that, as part of Lent, we have to change our way of thinking about the impeachment of a president.

Article II, Section 4 of the Constitution states: “The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.”

“Many people have been saying that we should not have a second impeachment trial because the former president is already out of office, and what difference does it make?” said Muth.

“But remember,” he argued, “that’s the way we do everything in the world, the nation, and the Church: We wait ‘til things are over and then we begin to look at them, and see what we need to do.”

A criminal trial happens *after* the crime has been committed, he pointed out.

“And even in the Church, people do the exact same thing; when people go to Confession, they go to Confession *after* they’ve sinned!” he added.

“A solid young priest”

Father Muth’s replacement,

See RETIRE, page 4

Our Lady of Guadalupe image to visit D.C./Md. in May

By Marco Columbini

A Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe is coming to the Washington DC/Maryland area on the last two weeks of May.

The event is called “The Triumph of Mary Tour.” It will consist of a collection of visitation events at various parishes in the area and appearances at abortion sites.

In addition to the veneration of Mary and her Image, these events will include Eucharistic Adoration, inspirational talks, the Holy Mass, or other devotions, depending on the preference of the parish.

For details on the itinerary, see <http://bit.ly/TriumhofMary>.

This Missionary Image was made from the original Miraculous Image produced by the Blessed Vir-



gin Mary on the tilma (cloak) of Saint Juan Diego.

These full-size images (4-by-6 feet) were blessed at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico by the rector of the basilica.

The mission of these images is to end abortion and to bring conversions. Since 1991, the images have traveled all over the world to thousands of parishes and are associated with some reportedly miraculous events.

In Wichita, Kansas, for example, the Missionary Image visited an abortion center.

As the Image was processed around the center, people smelled a strong fragrance of roses. Then, they saw rose petals miraculously flaking from the Image in all directions.

In 1992 a 4-year-old girl named Alex lay dying in a Kentucky hospital from a rare lung disease, bronchiolitis obliterans.

A Missionary Image was brought into her room on the day that the doctors predicted she would die.

Alex was lifted up to the Image. She tenderly touched and kissed Our Lady.

The next day, when the doctors went to Alex’s room, they were shocked to find the little girl playing and eating a hamburger.

Our goal for this tour is to advance the pro-life cause through the powerful assistance of Our Lady.

Please consider participating in one or more of the events on the schedule. It will be an experience to remember.

For more information on the D.C./Maryland tour contact Marco Colombini, inibmoloc@gmail.com.

RETIRE, from page 3

Father Matthew Buening, was ordained a priest in 2003. He has been serving as the full-time Catholic

chaplain for Towson University since 2015.

Prior to that, he was an associate pastor at The Church of the Immaculate Conception in Towson, Md., and St. John’s Catholic Church of Columbia, Md.

He was pastor of St. Paul’s Church in Ellicott City, Md., for seven years.

Father Matt went to James Madison University, where he discovered his vocation, then to Pius X Seminary at the University of Scranton.

He received his License in Sacred Theology at the North American College in Rome.

Defend Life Director Jack Ames describes Father Matt, whom he has known for years, as “very good, very holy—a solid young priest!”

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**FIGHT
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40 Days for Lifers brave the cold in Catonsville



Pro-lifers pray at the 40 Days for Life campaign across from Hillcrest abortion clinic on March 6.

In case any of the roughly forty people huddled together in the freezing cold along Johnnycake Road in Catonsville, Md., early in the morning of March 6, were wondering why they were there, 40 Days for Life's Matt Britton was there to remind them.

"What we're doing here is evangelizing!" Britton told his shivering listeners.

Pointing across the road to the brown seven-story office complex that houses the Hillcrest abortion clinic, he exclaimed, "We're here to love the people over there!"

"Don't just pray for the woman who is walking in there for an abortion," urged the 40 Days' general counsel and board member; "I know it's hard, but pray for the abortionists!"

"One day," he predicted, "one of them is going to look down on you praying here and say, just like [ex-abortionist] Jules Green did in Philadelphia, 'Why are you people out here?'"

"And you'll say, 'Let me tell you about the Gospel of Life: we're here against the slaughter of the innocent. And we're here to love you

and pray for you.'"

"You win on your knees"

40 Days for Life began in Bryan, Texas, in 1998, when four pro-lifers began a prayer campaign 24 hours a day for 40 days with the goal of closing the town's Planned

"Don't just pray for the woman walking in there for an abortion; I know it's hard, but pray for the abortionists!"

Parenthood abortion facility.

They named their campaign after the Biblical events such as Jesus' 40 days in the desert, Noah's 40 days in the Ark, and Moses' 40 days on Mt. Sinai.

Over the years, their campaign spread to other cities, with spring and fall campaigns each year, the spring campaigns coordinating with the Lenten period.

By 2007, 40 Days had vigils in

89 cities in 33 U.S. states.

In 2013, the Brian Planned Parenthood closed. The building is now operated by 40 Days for Life.

"We're in 63 countries now," Britton told his listeners. "Right now, there are 567 cities all over the world doing exactly what you're doing!"

Pro-lifers might be disheartened because President Trump, the most pro-life president ever, lost the election, he admitted; but we have to keep on fighting.

"So you fight in the courts—I believe that *Roe v. Wade* will be overturned this year!" he predicted optimistically.

And we need to fight by supporting pro-life legislators and fighting for pro-life laws, he said.

"But you *win* on your *knees*, in prayer," he emphasized.

"We're doing this so every single person on earth, starting with ourselves, can go to heaven and be with our Lord.

"I know it's cold, I know it's tough, but please, don't give up!"

John "Skip" Comegna, a deacon at the Church of the Resurrection in nearby Ellicott City, followed Brit-



Matt Britton urges pro-lifers to pray not just for unborn babies and women but for abortionists.

ton's talk with a few thoughts of his own.

"In my high school days, my family moved from the inner city of Baltimore out here, and our house was right over there, on McAdoo Avenue," recalled Deacon Skip, pointing across the roadway.

Gesturing toward the office complex, he said, "I drove by this place thousands of times, but I never knew there was an abortion clinic up there!"

"Never despair"

During this Lenten season, pondering the events of Jesus' Passion, the deacon reflected, "I was thinking about Judas and how he turned on the Lord, for whatever reasons.

"After his betrayal, he did what I pray no one ever does, and that is, despair. We should *never* despair—no matter what the odds, challenges, or obstacles are!"

Deacon Skip's wife is a volunteer minister at the Columbia Pregnancy Center, where a lot of the cli-

ents are young, often Hispanic, and vulnerable.

"They tell them they're not alone—that God loves them and they love them; they give them a sense of hope.

"In *our* witness to God's love and the gift of life, the one thing we need to do in these situations is to make a friend," he advised.

"Tell them that you love them and want to help them; and that not only does God love them, but He has given them a precious gift—and that all people are precious in God's eyes."

Before Deacon Skip blessed the pro-lifers, he prayed, "Lord, move the hearts of our government officials, especially our president, to fulfill their responsibility worthily, and to extend their mantle of protection to the most vulnerable, especially to the defenseless unborn."

Changed their minds

Kim Fraser, the director of 40 Days for Life Catonsville, says that participation by pro-lifers in this spring campaign was up 50 percent over their last campaign.

"Part of the reason is because, in addition to emailing our whole list, we made a lot of follow-up phone calls two or three weeks prior to the campaign," Kim speculates.

"Also, a lot of new people have signed up!" she adds. "I don't know if it's the new [pro-abortion Biden] administration that got them motivated."

Reaching out to abortion-minded women at the Hillcrest facility has always been hard, says Kim.

With the abortion clinic located on the sixth floor of the office building, there is no way pro-lifers can know which of the many women who enter the building may be go-

ing in for an abortion and talk to them personally, she explains.

But Kim, who has been an active pro-lifer there for 11 years, knows that their presence, their signs and their prayers have made a positive impact.

Although she isn't aware of any "saves" or "turnarounds" of abortion-minded women during this campaign, she says that a woman in December, and another in January, came out of the building and told the pro-lifers they had changed their minds and weren't going to have an abortion.

"And every so often, you see a couple in a car in the building parking lot, sitting there, arguing heatedly. Then they drive away."

The pro-lifers get the usual negative horn blasts as well as positive beeps from drivers.

"But we always have kind reactions from pedestrians," she notes.

"We get a friendly response from everyone who comes up and talks to us—the neighborhood people, and even other tenants in the building!"



Deacon Skip Comegna blesses the Catonsville 40 Days for Lifers as Kim Fraser watches.

Soldier, surgeon, sister: God's still in charge, keep fighting!

Sister Deirdre Byrne, retired U.S. Army colonel, skilled surgeon, and member of the Little Workers of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, was not your typical political speaker at last summer's Republican National Convention.

Her long and winding path to a religious vocation was far from typical too.

"I was one of eight kids," Sister "Dede" told about two hundred pro-lifers at her Defend Life-sponsored talk at Sacred Heart Church in La Plata, Md., February 19.

Her father, a thoracic surgeon, and her "stay-at-home" mom were both daily Mass-goers.

"That really had an influence on us kids," she recalled.

"Dad was very close to some medical mission sisters. We used to get magazines from Maryknoll; those images of missionary work really hit me to the core."

In grade school in Washington, D.C., Deirdre learned about Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

"I decided, this is what I want to do: free services to the poorest of the poor!"

As an undergraduate at Virginia Tech, "I prayed to God for advice" on a religious vocation—and, she admitted, she made a kind of deal with Him: "I told God that if I got into medical school, I would definitely go into religious life.

"God showed me only just enough of a light to move forward—not run fast!"

With the help of an Army scholarship, she went to Georgetown Medical School.

Following medical school, she worked for three years in family medicine. Then (as part of the Army



Sister Deirdre Byrne urges pro-lifers to pray for President Biden and other pro-abortion Catholics.

scholarship requirements), she was a full-time Army officer from 1982-1989, serving in the Sinai Peninsula and Korea.

During her Korean stint, she had to medivac a patient who had had a hemorrhage of the brain and was on a ventilator. It was a harrowing assignment.

"She was the sickest patient of about 50 patients on the military medivac," said Byrne, who was scared that the ventilator might jar loose on the many landings to drop off other patients.

Deirdre anointed her with holy water from Lourdes, and could muster only a very modest prayer, "Lord, don't let me kill her."

But by the time the plane got to the U.S., she was stunned to see the patient wide awake.

Ordinarily, if a patient has been on a ventilator for three or four weeks, you can't just take them off, she explained; they have to be weaned and strengthened first.

"I had witnessed a miracle," Byrne observed quietly.

"After I finished my Army commitment, I did a year of missionary work," said Byrne. I met Mother Teresa, and was totally in awe!"

During that time, at an Ignatian retreat in Canada, "I remembered my promise to God, if I got into medical school," she recalled.

By then, noted Deirdre, "I had pretty much admitted that this [religious life] was the direction to go."

But she wanted to join an order in which she could best use her medical skills.

"So my mantra now was, 'Lord, to whom shall I go?'"

"To delay that decision," she explained with a smile, "I did a seven-year detour which is called a surgical residency at Georgetown. I wanted to get more surgical training to be prepared to be a medical missionary.

"I was the chief resident there when Mother Teresa came; she prayed over me many times!"

In 2000, after she finished her residency, Deirdre rejoined the Army, serving at Walter Reed Hospital.

"To whom shall I turn?"

See SISTER, page 10



DEFEND LIFE

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

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*April 16, 2021 Anno Domini
Feast of St Bernadette of Lourdes*



Dear Friend of **DEFEND LIFE**,

The year was **2005**. I was attending the **31st** March for Life. The day before, **Nel-
lie Gray** always had a day-long conference featuring outstanding **PRO-LIFE** speak-
ers. Between talks, I was walking through the hallway of the conference area. Through
the closed doors, I could not help but overhear what sounded like a very animated
speaker. He was speaking in very exciting language about the very first 40 Days for Life
Vigil that had occurred at Planned Parenthood's Abortuary in College Station, Texas.
He talked about how the organizers were able to have a 24/7 presence at that death
camp. He talked about how they had reached out to the community including going
door-to-door to enlist support. He mentioned how one of the organizers and volunteers
had taken **11PM – 7AM** shifts each of the 40-days before going to his day job.

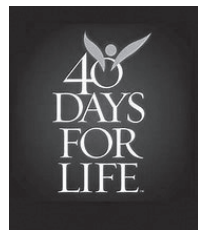
It turned out that this meeting was sponsored by American Life League, founded
by the great **Judy Brown**. I eavesdropped for a good ten minutes and was tempted to
crash the meeting.

Soon thereafter, I learned the on-fire speaker was **David Bereit**, the orga-
nizer of this fabulous event. Little did I know that David, on the board of the lo-
cal Pro-Life group in College Station, had been challenged in 2001 by my best
friend, **Joe Scheidler** to go fulltime in our movement at a banquet three years
before the first 40 Days for Life Vigil.



That challenge also led Dave to relocate from Texas to Fredericksburg, Virginia to
become the Executive Director of American Life League reporting to Judy Brown while
simultaneously leading 40 Days for Life in his spare time that was then expanding to
other states. Ultimately it went **worldwide** and there are now 40 Days for Life groups
in all 50 states and more than 30 foreign countries.

David became a frequent speaker for us and helped us organize the very
first **40 Days for Life Vigil** in Maryland at Hillcrest in Catonsville. I can still
remember the excitement of Jon Shoemaker, our first webmaster, and Joe
Healy who went there daily. I was still wet behind the ears at that point as
David explained such organizing strategy as telethons, blanket Emails, and
conference calling. **40 Days for Life** has grown tremendously in Maryland
since then. There are now 7 vigils in Maryland and 3 in the Baltimore Area.



Let me tell you about the latest one in Owings Mills, Maryland at Femi-Care,
an abortion mill operated by long-time abortionist Sheo Sharma. **Dr. Jay Wal-
ton**, who has degrees in Music Education from three colleges including the fa-
mous Peabody Institute here in Baltimore, teaches Tuba at local colleges, as
well as tuning pianos and other stringed instruments. Before he heard about 40
Days for Life, he did a Google search for the nearest abortion mill to where he lives in
Northern Baltimore County and discovered Femi-Care in nearby Owings Mills where
Sheo Sharma dismembers pre-born babies. They had never had a 40 Days for Life
Vigil at this location. So, they gladly signed up Jay to begin one. Jay had been attend-
ing the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen in North Baltimore for several years because he
thought he would be better spiritually fed there than other Catholic churches he at-



tended where he had lived previously. At a virtual welcoming event for new parishioners, he was disappointed to learn they did not really have a Pro-Life ministry there other than sending a few carloads of persons to the annual March for Life in Washington. Jay thought to himself, ***That's nice but what about the rest of the year?*** He was offered no encouragement except for Father Kevin Ewing, the Parochial Vicar, who gave him 10 rosaries for his campaign.

Not to be discouraged, Jay plodded onward. He sent out news releases to various Catholic Churches enlisting support. Some days he was there in Owings Mills all by himself. He was given permission by a tenant to park next to their business, but this was revoked by the property manager. He and other participants had to park at the Metro Station one-quarter mile away. But there were signs of encouragement. Jay wrote a daily post on the 40 Days Owings Maryland Facebook page as well as his own Facebook page. The numbers started to grow. Even the **Catholic Review**, not known for coverage of pro-life events, ran a story. One day, when Jay was taking a break, a passerby stopped to give fellow participants from Saint John's Catholic Church in Westminster **\$100**. At the mid-point of their 40 Days for Life Vigil, **Father Brendan Fitzgerald** of Sacred Heart Church in Glyndon, gave a rousing talk. Father Brendan has been on our **DEFEND LIFE** list since his seminary days. On some days when Jay needed a break, he would simply pick up trash that had *mysteriously flown out* of vehicles passing by, some of which might have been aimed at him. However, based on honks and waves, Jay estimated that 90% of responses were positive and only 10% were negative.

Almost daily Howard Brown, chairman of Davis S. Brown Enterprises who owns this complex and has its headquarters there, passed by Jay in his swanky car. They would typically have a short polite conversation. Soon many of the tenants in this large complex learned that their neighbor Femi-Care Surgery Center **was really an abortion mill**. Most were horrified. Many thought since there was a day care center for children in this same complex, ***how in the world could there be an abortion mill?***

The number of participants continued to grow. All told there were **130** direct participants. One lady came all the way from the Eastern Shore traveling **80** miles in each direction. Jay's parents drove **106** miles in each direction all the way from Berkeley Springs, West Virginia! Towards the end of the campaign, Jay told his participants to begin calling the property management company, asking for the chairman Howard Brown mentioned earlier. It was hard to get past the receptionist who was obviously pro-abortion. But Howard Brown got the message. Several days before the 40 Days campaign ended, Howard Brown pulled up again in his swanky car and promised Jay he would not renew abortionist **Femi-Care's** lease.

To make sure that really happens, please call Howard Brown at **410-363-3434**, navigate around the pro-abortion receptionist and leave a message with Howard Brown's personal secretary (remember screeners!) or better yet write a letter to Howard Brown telling him to find possible legal grounds to terminate their lease **NOW!**

Mr. Howard Brown, Chairman
David S. Brown Enterprises
 100 Painters Mill Road
 Owings Mills, Maryland 21171

Enclosure

P.S. Dr. Jay Walton wants to tell you about his plans to retire **Sheo Sharma**. Email your contact info to Jay at:
OwingsMills40DaysForLife@gmail.com

Long Live Christ Our King!

Jack Ames

Jack Ames, P.E., Director

SISTER, from page 7

There, through a priest who was a Vietnam vet, she met the Little Workers of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, an Italian order with teaching and medical care apostolates. She knew that this was the right fit for her.

On the morning of September 11, 2001, she was in Manhattan with Mother Teresa and several of the Little Workers.

“Here I was, pretty much in the military, back as a reservist; and I was about to enter the Little Workers—when the towers fell,” she recalled.

Byrne and two sisters raced to Ground Zero, through smoke and debris, where they administered first aid and comfort.

“I saw firsthand the evil that that Devil can do,” she said.

Byrne entered formation with the Little Workers in 2002, and professed her first vows in 2004.

While in formation, she said, “I had one foot in the military and one foot in the religious order; I got special permission to be both a sister and soldier!

“The sisters are Italian,” she explained; “they remember in World War II, when the Germans came and the Americans bombed them. So the Italians have a special love for the American military.”

Byrne’s “final hurrah” in the military was in Afghanistan. She retired from the Army in 2009, and professed her final vows in 2011.

As a Little Worker, Sister Byrne has served the poor and sick in Haiti, Sudan, Kenya, and Iraq.

“Now I work in D.C. and do mission work: I’m a general surgeon, and I take care of the poor and uninsured.”

Sister Byrne also does ministry with abortion pill reversal.

“Forty percent of first-trimester abortions are done with the abortion pill, RU-486,” she pointed out.

If a young woman takes the pill, and decides she doesn’t want to go through with the abortion, there’s a website, abortionpillreversal.com, where she can call and get connected with a doctor.

“I’m on the docket for the D.C. area,” said Sister. “We have a small clinic at the convent.

“I ultrasound them and we talk to them. Many of them come in upset and guilt-ridden. We tell them that

‘I had one foot in the military and one foot in the religious order; I got special permission to be both a religious and a soldier!’

the Lord is pleased with them now!”

A call from the White House

Last August, as the Democrat and Republican conventions loomed ahead, said Sister, “I was so distraught, because they were talking about Vice-President Biden being such a good Catholic, and they were showing footage of him meeting with the Pope. And [pro-LGBT Jesuit] Father James Martin was going to speak at the DNC.

“I prayed really hard, ‘Lord we need to do something, and we’re not hearing from the bishops; so whatever you want me to do, I’m here for you; I’m your girl.’

“About two hours later, I received a phone call from the White House, asking if I’d be willing to speak at the Republican National Convention.”

At the convention, Sister Byrne

declared, “As followers of Christ . . . we must fight against a legislative agenda that supports and even celebrates destroying life in the womb.

“Donald Trump is the most pro-life president this nation has ever had . . . President Trump will stand up against Biden/Harris, who are the most anti-life presidential ticket ever.”

After Biden’s election, “I was really down,” Sister told her listeners at Sacred Heart. “But we have to remember that God is in charge.

“What I believe we need to do, as soldiers of Christ, is to be as much in a state of grace as we possibly can,” she urged; “we can’t give what we don’t have.

“That’s why Confession, the Eucharist, the Rosary are really important, so we can see as Christ sees—because right now, we have some Catholics who are not seeing as Christ sees.”

“So what we have to do is pray hard for these people that are undoing all the pro-life work that President Trump did.”

Sister Byrne’s Little Workers community prays the Rosary several times a day, she said.

“But the very first one we pray is called the ‘patriotic Rosary’; we pray for President Biden that he converts to a ‘big C’ Catholic.”

Sister also called on pro-lifers to pray for New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, Nancy Pelosi, and other Catholics who are working against the pro-life movement.

For Sister Byrne’s full talk, go to [Facebook.com/sacredheartlaplata](https://www.facebook.com/sacredheartlaplata).

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Book Review

We must start fighting Humanist lies with 21st century science

By Diane Levero

Catholics are leaving the Catholic Church in droves.

Is there any still-practicing Catholic who doesn't know this, from seeing it play out in his own family, or from recent poll results on religious affiliation?

"According to Pew Research, nearly half of U.S. adults under 30 don't believe in Christianity's God," Thomas McFadden notes in his new book, *Intellectual Combat: Resistance to Religious Atheism*.

"Half the kids we baptized and confirmed in the last 30 years are now ex-Catholics or unaffiliated," Bishop Robert Barron told the U.S. Bishops' Conference in 2019.

How has our increasingly secular culture fared without God and His Church?

We need only look at the wreckage all around us: the collapse of the family and the rise of single-parent households (usually without a father); the prevalence of pornography and filth in all public media; and the accelerated push for abortion and all aspects of the LGBT agenda by the Biden administration and their allies—Big Tech, corporate CEOs and the mainstream media.

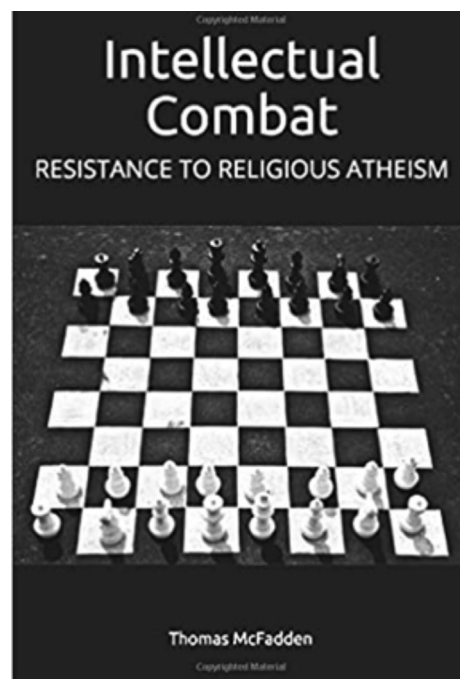
None of this is an accident, says McFadden.

What we're seeing is a war between two conflicting ideologies, or systematic bodies of concepts, beliefs, or assertions about human life or culture: that of Catholicism and that of Humanism.

The Humanist ideology claims that man can, and should, lead ethi-

cal and fulfilling lives without God; as the American Humanist Association slogan succinctly puts it: "Good without a God."

Humanists spelled out their core beliefs in the first Humanist Manifesto, signed by 34 religious liberals



in 1933, who asserted that "The time has come for a widespread recognition of the radical changes in religious beliefs throughout the world."

The manifesto declares that:

1. Religious humanists regard the universe as self-existing and not created.
2. Humanism believes that man is part of nature and that he has emerged as a continuous process.
3. Holding an organic view of life, humanists find that the traditional dualism of mind and body must be rejected.

"In plain language, Humanists believe, and teach others to believe, that cosmic and biological evolution produced the universe and its soulless inhabitants from eternally-existing inert matter," says McFadden.

They can't prove that this is true, he points out; they just assert it as an axiom—a statement or proposition that is established, accepted, and self-evidently true.

In 1973, Humanist Manifest II went into much more detail about their beliefs. Here are just a few of its disturbing highlights:

- Traditional dogmatic or authoritarian religions do a disservice to the human species.
- Promises of immortal salvation or fear of eternal damnation are both illusory and harmful.
- Ethics is autonomous and situational, needing no theological sanction.
- Intolerant attitudes, often cultivated by orthodox religions, unduly repress sexual conduct. The right to birth control, abortion and divorce should be recognized.
- Consenting adults should be free to express their sexual proclivities and lifestyles as they desire.
- Individuals have a right to die with dignity, euthanasia, and the right to suicide.

Humanist Manifesto II also calls for the end of national sovereignty and "One world" government.

Clearly, many of the Humanists' teachings and beliefs have been accepted by the general public.

“Humanists have no problem with imposing the social and political aspects of their religion on Christians; in fact, they insist on it,” McFadden points out.

One need only observe how those publicly opposing any aspect of the LGBT agenda have been publicly condemned and lost their jobs.

“Christians must combat [Humanism] across a broad front as a false religion,” declares McFadden.

But many believing Catholics—including much of the clergy—have fought back against Humanism, not with a frontal attack, but with accommodation.

The building stone of the Humanist ideology is the acceptance of the theory of evolution.

If you accept evolution as a “scientific” fact, it follows that you must concede that the story of Creation in Genesis is not true, but merely figurative or spiritual.

Unfortunately, says McFadden, “the idea that evolution happened as the Humanists teach, but at some point God jumped in and had something to do with it—is believed by a vast majority of faithful, committed, and otherwise believing Catholics as ‘theistic evolution.’”

Sadly, theistic evolution is taught to trusting children in Catholic schools without question. And by the time they’ve finished high

school, they are no longer believing or practicing Catholics.

Accommodation to the theory of evolution has failed.

“What is needed at this time is a new apologetics based on embracing 21st century natural science to show the Humanist premise is more likely

**The smooth stories
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humans descending
from other life forms are
riddled with unstated
assumptions and
plain falsehoods.**

to be false than true,” says McFadden.

“The smooth stories about the Big Bang [the theory that the universe began billions of years ago with a giant explosion] and humans descending from other life forms, that are absorbed as truth by Catholics, are riddled with unstated assumptions and plain falsehoods, easily-disprovable to anyone interested in the truth,” he adds.

Evolutionary cosmology (the branch of science that deals with the study of the universe as a whole) is

not “settled science,” but rather “a theoretical framework riddled with inconsistencies that scientists working in that field discuss and disagree upon among themselves,” and in peer-reviewed journals, the author observes.

McFadden goes on to detail some of the intriguing problems plaguing the Big Bang Theory, which contains features that are contrary to known physical laws.

The Catholic Church teaches that the Bible is inerrant, written by men inspired by God.

Intellectual Combat gives the reader eye-opening facts that support the account of “fiat” Creation in Genesis and poke big holes in the theory of evolution, without which, Humanism collapses.

McFadden thoroughly footnotes his material, mostly with easy to access online sources.

He also provides a generous list of books and other resources supporting intelligent design and debunking evolution.

Catholics need to have the fortitude to stand up to the tyranny of our Humanist culture that promotes falsehood as truth, and truth as fairy tale, McFadden urges.

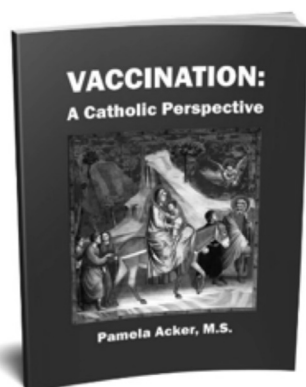
In doing so, we can go a long way to combatting the apostasy of our children.

Thomas McFadden is retired from the U.S. Civil Service. He lives in Front Royal, Va., where he researches the causes of, and possible solutions to, the loss of Faith by young Catholics. He has a degree in electrical engineering and a graduate degree in engineering administration. He is the founder and director of the Institute for Science and Catholicism.

Intellectual Combat may be purchased at amazon.com or scienceandcatholicism.org.

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In My Humble Opinion

We, the laity, must demand restoring of sacramental life

By Janet Baker

On Laetare Sunday, the priest at the Mass I attended gave a homily regarding the link between the Eucharist and the priesthood.

He recalled to our memories that Our Lord instituted both the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Holy Orders on the first Holy Thursday.

The Holy Thursday Mass commemorates both those realities. That is why it is an abomination that women have their feet washed along with men during the Novus Ordo version of that Mass, but I digress.

Father went on to point out that the Church would cease to exist without these two sacraments.

Whether or not Father intended to shed some additional light upon the current state of sacramental life in the churches throughout the world, I don't know, but he did.

The shutdowns inflicted upon the Catholic churches are an attempt to strangle the Church to death and to choke off a necessary avenue of grace for our world that is obviously in dire straits.

I think it could very well be a deliberate goal on the part of some corrupt clergy, but it clearly is of the devils.

There are, of course, the clergy who really have no faith in God nor belief in the spiritual realm, so they play right into the hands of the other masterminds.

The immediate dissembling and capitulation of our bishops in the face of immoral and unconstitutional intrusion by civil officials is

nothing short of sinful. Indeed, in many cases, the bishops outdid the government in choking off the sacraments, and the graces that would flow from them.

Now that some of the local governments are backing off the restrictions, some bishops are moving to retain them.

In many cases, the bishops outdid the government in choking off the sacraments, and the graces that would flow from them.

The situation in Texas comes to mind. Governor Abbott has done away with most restrictions, but that state's bishops, with the exception of Bishop Strickland, are keeping the sacraments from their flocks.

We are now beholding the sorry spectacle at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. For centuries, the side altars were used for private Masses, and one could (at most times) be present when a Mass was being celebrated.

The Vatican recently forbade the use of the side altars for private Mass. So now the Basilica is vacant—and devoid of all Masses. I am not exaggerating when I opine that this decision was satanic.

We now have a situation in which the world is spiritually and physically dying for lack of Masses being offered and other Sacraments

being conferred.

The ramifications for pro-life activists and the babies whom we strive to help should be painfully obvious. Consider the saying “lex orandi, lex credendi, lex vivendi.” Holy Mass is the supreme prayer we offer, as we assist at the Unbloody Sacrifice of the Body and Blood of Christ.

The Eucharist is the Source and Summit of Christian life. Anyone who has read *John 6* understands that Holy Communion is the greatest source of graces that we need to attain our salvation and to carry out His will for us—including involvement in the pro-life apostolate.

It is up to us, the laity, to insist that sacramental life be restored immediately, with or without the permission of increasingly rogue civil governments.

No more can we just suffer this situation in silence. If ever there was a time when “offering up” was simply a sanctimonious excuse for cowardice, now is that time.

While we laity must take the lead, we must hold to the feet of our priests and bishops, for it is they who must open the churches and the sacraments and be men of God versus lackeys of the state.

We must insist that our clergy grow their backbones. Persistent calls, emails, visits to our chanceries and parishes must happen.

A post dated March 21, 2021, at restore-dc-catholicism.blogspot.com contains a downloadable and printable letter that can be used for that purpose.

COVID-19 vaccines might affect fertility

Women of childbearing age who hope to have children might want to think twice before getting a COVID-19 vaccine, according to two medical doctors.

Dr. Wolfgang Wodarg and Dr. Michael Yeadon filed a petition with the European Medicines Agency on December 1 asking the agency to stop human trials in the European Union of the Pfizer COVID-19 mRNA vaccine and all COVID-19 vaccines because they have not been properly tested.

The two doctors stated that several of the vaccines could prevent the formation of a placenta in a pregnant woman, “which would result in vaccinated women essentially becoming infertile,” since the newly conceived child could not live without receiving nutrients and oxygen from the placenta.

Dr. Wodarg, the Lead Petitioner, is a German physician and Health Policy Advisor who has worked as a ship’s doctor, port authority, and in a hospital for tropical diseases, and served in the German Parliament from 1994-2009.

His reports and initiatives have brought public attention to issues such as “faked pandemics,” the role of media for democracy, and genetic testing.

In 2010, Wodarg, at a hearing by the Council of Europe’s Committee on Social, Health and Family Af-

fairs, voiced suspicions that the vaccine industry experts with the World Health Organization improperly assessed the H1N1 (Swine flu) pandemic threat to financially benefit pharmaceutical companies.

Wodarg charged that the change in the definition of a “pandemic” “made it possible to turn a run-of-the-mill flu into a pandemic and translate into millions for vaccines for no good reason.”

Regulators weren’t swayed by the doctors’ petition. Weeks later, the European Medicines Agency approved the European Union’s first COVID-19 vaccine, co-developed by Pfizer.

Dr. Yeadon is a former Vice-President and Chief Scientist for Pfizer, where he spent 17 years as an allergy and respiratory researcher in Sandwich, England.

A UK government guide for administering the COVID-19 mRNA vaccine, released in December, stated flatly that the vaccine “is not recommended during pregnancy.

“In addition, women of childbearing age should be advised to avoid pregnancy for at least 2 months after their second dose,” it adds.

The guide also recommended that the vaccine “should not be used during breast-feeding.”

In March 2021, however, the UK safety instructions were modified to allow *some* pregnant women to get the vaccine.

The revised guide states that administration of the COVID-19 mRNA vaccine “in pregnancy should only be considered when the potential benefits outweigh any potential risks for the mother and foetus.”

PETITION, from page 1

clergy were made known to me,” he said.

Carter went on to write that he has known Father Swink for over a decade.

“It is because of his example of priestly fatherhood that I answered the call to the diaconate,” he declared. “Father Swink, simply put, is among the finest priests I have ever known.”

Rejecting the accusation by some that Father Swink himself “bullied” the bullies in his talk to

See **BULLIES**, page 15

Our Readers Talk Back

Loves Baker’s columns

Editor:


I love Janet Baker’s essays, especially the one in the Jan/Feb. issue (“With pro-abortion President Biden, pro-lifers must ‘Ora et labora’”).

God’s response to our prayer is most often to motivate us to act. Remember that He gave all of us free will, even those who make their living by killing children and raping them of their organs.

He will not force them to stop. Thus it is up to us to both pray and act. We are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus. In doing so, we grow spiritually and show our love for God.

Marco Colombini
Emeritus Professor
University of Md., College Park

Defend Life welcomes letters, both positive and critical. Send your letter to Defendlifeeditor@gmail.com



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BULLIES, from page 14

them about their harassment of the pro-lifer, the deacon described Father Larry as “a man of limitless patience, and he enjoys a strong connection to teens and young adults precisely because of his approach and respect for them.

“Put Father Larry back in ANS [Archbishop Neale School] immediately,” he concluded. “Our children deserve the leadership and formation that he provides.”

Called “coon” and “incel”

Nkiru “Nikki” Lemke told *Defend Life* that the bullying of the pro-lifer began about September 30.

On “group chats” (group text messaging), the bullies called the pro-lifer, a seventh grader, a “coon” and an “incel,” said Nikki. They also left him a voicemail message “telling him to rot for his pro-life views.”

“Coon,” short for “raccoon,” is an extremely offensive term used to refer to a black person.

Occasionally, black people may use “coon” to refer to another black who, they believe, betrays the black community in favor of white people or white culture.

“Incel” is short for “Involuntary Celibate”—an insulting epithet for a male who is a “loser” because he can’t get a girlfriend or have sex, and thus is an unwilling virgin.

“The pro-lifer is mixed race, both black and white,” Lemke further explained, “and the bullying classmates were African-American.

“Father Swink is Caucasian; that is what gave the bullying classmates a ‘get out of jail free’ card to bully their classmate and blame Father Swink for their behaviors.”

A third of them are not Catholic,



Classmates reportedly bullied a pro-life seventh grader at Archbishop Neale School, calling him crude, racist names in group text messages.

she added.

When he learned of the bullying, Father Swink talked to the students “about Margaret Sanger’s relationship with Planned Parenthood and the targeting of minority communities for abortion services,” said Nikki.

“He was coerced to apologize to the offended families by ADW.”

Burst into tears

On February 23, Lemke permanently deleted the petition from Change.org, announcing “Victory!”

“We made an incredible impact by signaling to the Archdiocese of Washington how much the families at Sacred Heart care about fostering an environment that promotes the fullness of the Magisterium to our youth,” she explained.

“We have made our voices heard. Now is the time to wait and see the impact!”

Lemke told *Defend Life* on March 7 that she had not received a reply to the petition from the Archdiocese.

Defend Life contacted Father Lickteig on March 4, asking for his response to the petition mailed to him, but has not received a reply.

Defend Life has also not received a response to a March 8 email to Archbishop Neale School Principal Linda Bourne regarding the bullying of the student and the barring of Father Swink from the school.

Inquiries to several teachers at ANS on the matter have also been unsuccessful.

But reportedly, a teacher at the school burst into tears when she learned that Father Swink had been barred from visiting the students.

Father Swink, a priest of the Archdiocese of Washington, was ordained in 2006.

His first parish was St. Mary of the Mills Church in Laurel, Md. He also served as pastor at Jesus the Divine Word Church in Huntingtown, Md.

Born in Midway Island (in U.S. territory), Father Swink is the oldest of ten children. He is a graduate of the University of Dallas and earned his degree in Political Philosophy.

Before joining Immaculate Conception Seminary in 2001, he worked for Morgan Stanley as a financial advisor for two years.

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