

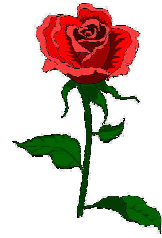


January 2017

Pro-Life News

A Maryland Perspective

Maryland State Council
Knights of Columbus



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Conditions in Germantown

On November 14, 2016, late-term abortionist LeRoy Carhart unexpectedly did not arrive at his facility in Germantown, in spite of several patients who were waiting. He did not come for the next five weeks, and it was rumored that he would not return, but that another late-term abortionist would replace him in January. Then, without notice, he resumed his practice in late December. It is not certain whether this is a temporary or a permanent change in plans. To read about the six-year struggle between Carhart and the pro-life forces in Germantown, see the article "Grassroots Resistance," in the January issue of *Columbia* magazine, pp. 12-15, at kofc.org/un/en/Columbia.

A Knight's Stand for His Religious Convictions

Bill Diss, who served as the Culture of Life Director for the Oregon State Council of the KofC, was also a high school teacher in Portland, Oregon public schools. After years of good performance reviews, Bill's troubles began in 2007, when he actively protested plans for a Planned Parenthood headquarters in Northeast Portland. The media contacted the school for comments, upsetting administrators. In September 2012, Planned Parenthood employees wanted to come into Diss' classroom to recruit students for the district-sanctioned "Teen Outreach Program," a federally-funded sex ed program that targets children as young as 10 years old. Diss asked to be excused from facilitating the program, as the content violated his religious convictions. The school refused. Diss was soon given a number of warnings and poor performance evaluations, and fired in 2013.

Attorneys from the Life Legal Defense Foundation, representing Diss, filed a \$390,000 suit against the school district claiming religious discrimination. School district lawyers argued that Diss wasn't fired for his religious beliefs, but for being a poor instructor. The case was scheduled to go to trial in October 2016, but a federal magistrate, siding with the school district, issued a summary judgement and dismissed the case. Diss' attorneys plan to appeal. Pray for his success in following his religious convictions.

March for Life

Donald Trump will be inaugurated as President on January 20. The national 44th March for Life will be held on January 27, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. So far, at least half of the people Trump has designated for his Cabinet and most senior positions are pro-life. In order to turn his campaign promises into political action, the President will need strong constituent support. We must continue to make it clear that issues affecting life from conception to natural death, traditional marriage and the family, and religious freedom are important and cannot be ignored. Mark your calendars and make plans to participate. More information can be found at marchforlife.org/mfl-2017

To march with the Maryland State Council, meet at 14th St. and Madison Dr., NW (on the Mall) between 11:00 and 11:30 am. (Nearest Metro stations: Federal Triangle or Smithsonian). Look for the Maryland Knights of Columbus big blue banner. At 11:30, the group will move to the stage area for the program.

40 Days for Life Spring 2017 Campaign

The 2017 spring campaign for 40 Days for Life will run from March 1 through April 9. There are four locations in Maryland where vigils will be held. Since 2007, this ministry has saved over 13,000 babies

and resulted in 75 abortion centers closing, as well as more than 150 numerous abortion workers quitting the business. Will you or your council pray at one of the abortion center sites for an hour or two a week?

Baltimore -- Hillcrest Clinic, 5602 Baltimore National Pike, Catonsville; local contact: Kim Frazer (410-456-9544, vigilbaltimore@gmail.com)

College Park -- Metropolitan Family Planning Clinic, 5915 Greenbelt Road, College Park; local contact: Tom Trunk (301-513-9738, 40daysforlifemd@gmail.com)

Fullerton -- Whole Women's Health, 7648 Belair Road, Baltimore; local contact: Tina B (443-695-0103, 40daysforlifefullerton@gmail.com)

Germantown -- Reproductive Health Services, 13233 Executive Park Terrace, Germantown; local contact: Andrew Glenn (301-202-40DL, prayforcarhart@gmail.com)

Training for Counselors

The 40 Days for Life group in College Park has organized their effort into three teams: prayer, sidewalk counseling, and crisis pregnancy intervention. They have arranged training for their volunteers at Holy Redeemer Parish in College Park. On Saturday, February 11, from 2 to 7 pm, St. Paul Street Evangelization will teach a Catholic, non-confrontational method of evangelizing (see <http://streetevangelization.com>). On February 18, Sidewalk Advocates for Life Training will be held from 2 to 7 pm. For more information, contact Katherine Hunter at spse.bh.md@gmail.com or (240) 444-3390.

Meet Your Legislators

As Catholics we have a responsibility to help shape issues and actions that may impact the general culture of life. Catholics in Annapolis (previously called Lobby Night) is an excellent opportunity to meet your state legislators and share your thoughts about the great work of the Church in Maryland lived out through the works of its ministries, charities, hospitals, schools, parishes and communities. How? Mingle with like-minded Catholics at the 33rd Catholics in Annapolis! On February 15, you will be briefed at St. John Neumann Mission Church (620 N. Bestgate Rd.) from 3-4:30 pm, on the relevant issues considered by the General Assembly from a faith perspective. Then, shuttles will be provided to your legislators' offices. A complimentary reception for members of the General Assembly, Church leaders and you follows. More information can be found at mdcathcon.org/library/public/17-Lobby-Night/17-LNFlyer.pdf.

Pro-Life Masses

If your council or church would like to host a pro-life Mass, the State Council is available to help with publicity, suggestions, and after-Mass speakers. Even if you do not need the State Council help, let us know of your activity. For more information, contact Mike Furst at MFurst1@yahoo.com.

Cemeteries of the Innocents

There are no Cemeteries standing in Maryland as of January 1, although an installation at St. Aloysius in Leonardtown (St. Mary's County) later this month. To schedule a Cemetery of the Innocents in your locale, contact Jim McFillin (jimmcfillin@cs.com).

Cemetery of the Innocents Scorecard: Number Installed in 2016 – 13 Since 2004 – 307
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The birth of every child changes the world – Pope Francis

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