

St. Agnes-St. William of York

Respect Life Newsletter - November and December 2019

Hello everyone... Until fairly recently, it was quite easy for me to immerse myself in the hectic commercialism of the holidays and to overlook Advent as a unique season. In spite of the Advent wreath on my dining room table, Advent was often merely a countdown to Christmas. In 2018, I bought a book of daily Advent meditations. The meditations, in conjunction with the daily mass readings, were thought provoking and often quite sobering. Yes, during Advent we joyfully anticipate celebrating Christ's advent, or 'coming', as a tiny infant, born of the Virgin Mary, 2000 years ago; however, we are also asked to reflect on a more sobering, second advent, or 'coming', of Christ at the end of time, when He will judge the living and the dead. That is a sobering thought, indeed.

This year in a series of Advent homilies, Father James Boric, rector of the Baltimore Basilica, reminded us that we don't have to wait until the end of time to encounter the living Christ, for there is a third advent, a perpetual advent, or 'coming', of Christ. At the mass, the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ is miraculously made present to us in the Eucharist! This advent of Christ is perpetual because there is a mass being said somewhere in the world every hour of every day. Even more mind-boggling is the fact that, not only does He become physically present to us in the Eucharist, but that we are able to consume Him! That is something to celebrate!!! Here is a link to the first of Father Boric's four Advent homilies on the coming of Christ in the Mass - <https://frjamesboric.podbean.com/e/preparing-for-christ-the-mass-explained-part-1/>

Wishing you a Christ-filled New Year...

ST. AGNES-ST. WILLIAM OF YORK RESPECT LIFE NEWS & EVENTS:

- **St. Agnes/St. William of York Respect Life News:**

- ✓ **Notes from Our November 15, 2019 Respect Life Meeting:** The St. Agnes and St. William of York Respect Life Committee held a quarterly meeting on November 15, 2019. We had an extra special surprise when Father Isaac joined us. Thank you, Father Isaac.

Winter is a busy time of the year for those who are active in the pro-life cause. There is the Women's Center West Baby Bottle campaign, the Annual March for Life in DC, the Maryland State Legislative Session in Annapolis, the Maryland March for Life, and the beginning of the Spring 40 Days for Life Catonsville campaign. In addition to discussing our involvement in these events, we discussed potential new ways in which we can raise awareness of the dignity of the human person and threats to that dignity. Much of what we discussed can be found in the articles in this newsletter. Thank you to everyone who attended the meeting and provided input.

- ✓ **St. Agnes Students Again Reach Out to Mary's Home Maryland Residents:** For a second year in a row, St. Agnes School students acknowledged Respect Life Month by sending age appropriate prayers, notes and hand-made cards to encourage the residents of Mary's Home Maryland. Many of the cards became a part of MHM's Advent and Christmas decorations.



Cards and Letters Sent by St. Agnes School Students

- ✓ **Women's Center West Baby Bottle Campaign:** The St. Agnes and St. William of York 2019 Baby Bottle Campaign resulted in a \$1928.00 donation being made to Woman's Center West. Thank you to everyone who participated in the campaign.

- **St. Agnes/St. William of York Respect Life Events:**

- ✓ **Tuesday, January 7, 2020 - Respect Life Holy Hour:** Our monthly Respect Life Holy Hour is held on the first Tuesday of every month at St. Agnes Church. The monthly Holy Hour begins at 5:45 pm and ends with Benediction at 6:45 pm. The Holy Hour includes praise and worship music, the Angelus, time to pray for private and special intentions and the respect life rosary. Now more than ever it is necessary that we pray for life and for our nation. We hope to see you there.

When: Tues, Jan. 7, 2020 5:45 - 6:45 pm

Where: St. Agnes Church

- ✓ **Friday, January 24, 2020 - 47th Annual March for Life in Washington, DC:**



2019 Participants in the 46th Annual March for Life in DC

Mark your calendars!!! The upcoming Annual March for Life in DC (<https://marchforlife.org>) is fast approaching. For the past 46 years, young and old pro-lifers from across the country have converged on Washington, DC to participate in the largest human rights demonstration in the world.

The first March for Life was held on January 22, 1974 on the one year anniversary of the US Supreme Court's Roe vs Wade decision. In that landmark decision, the US Supreme Court opened the door to the legalization of abortion on a state by state basis. Initially the motto associated with abortion was "Safe, Legal and Rare". However, over time and in many states that motto has been replaced by the motto "Anytime, Anywhere and Anyhow". In 2019, Governor Cuomo of New York celebrated the passage of legislation that allows a baby to be aborted up until the time of birth. As of February, 2019, 19 states lacked legislation requiring basic medical care be provided to abortion survivors. Maryland is one of those states. It boggles the mind that one needs legislation to guarantee medical care to a human being in the first place!!! The National Right to Life Committee, using data provided by the Center for Disease Control and the Guttmacher Institute, estimates that over 60,000,000 babies' lives have been lost to



Members of Our Youth Group

abortion since 1973.

Since the first march in 1974, the March for Life has grown both nationally and internationally. According to the March for Life website, this year Marches for Life will be held in 39 cities throughout the US - (<https://marchforlife.org/state-marches-near-you/>). In 2019, Mexico, Poland, Nigeria, France, the UK, Ireland, Germany, Belgium, Australia, Peru, Korea, Nigeria, and Japan were among the many countries that hosted a March for Life - (<https://www.kofc.org/en/columbia/detail/marches-for-life-go-global.html>).

The theme for this year's March for Life is "Life Empowers: Pro-Life is Pro-Woman". March for Life President, Jeannie Mancini explained the reasoning behind this year's theme in a recent interview (<https://youtu.be/46aggNt5ASY>).

This year our parish community has again reserved two buses to transport marchers to the Mall in DC. There we will unite with marchers from all over the country to march for life. We will attend the rally on the Mall and afterward walk up Constitution Avenue toward the Supreme Court. If you have never attended the March for Life, this year would be a great time to do so. Here is a link to a slideshow of some of the sights and sounds of the 2019 March for Life - <https://www.icloud.com/sharedalbum/#B0R5cLqfNiILw7>.

Note: The March for Life in DC has turned into a multi-day series of events and activities. Our group participates in the rally on the Mall and the march. Typically we leave after the 9:00 am mass at St. Agnes and return at 4:00 pm. See the flyer on page 9 for details of the day's schedule, instructions on how to reserve a seat on the bus and preparations for the trip (including a bag lunch). You do not have to be a St. Agnes or St. William of York parishioner to reserve a seat! Members of parishes throughout the area are welcome to join us!

If you are unable to join us in DC, there are a number of ways in which you and family members can support those who do march. For example, Eucharistic Adoration at St. Agnes Church will be available after the 9:00 am mass until 5:00 pm. Check out the flyer on page 9 for details and a list of alternative activities.



Some of Our 2019 Marchers at the Mall in DC



Members of Our Youth Group in DC



Parishioners from Our Lady Of Victory Regularly Join Us on the March

LOCAL AND REGIONAL RESPECT LIFE NEWS & EVENTS:

- **Local and Regional Respect Life News:**

- ✓ **Mary's Home Maryland Update by Jim**

Armshaw: On November 8, 2019, Mary's Home Maryland (MHM) held its 2nd Annual Anniversary Gala. 240 old and new friends, volunteers, supporters and sponsors joined the leadership and staff of Mary's Home Maryland for an evening marked by joyful fellowship and celebration. It provided an opportunity for everyone to look back at MHM's brief but impressive history of providing assistance to pregnant women in crisis.



Mary's Home Gala at the Ten Oaks Ballroom in Clarksville, MD.

A high point of the evening was the testimony of a young mother-in-residence. Miah (a pseudonym) shared her journey from being a struggling young, pregnant, homeless woman to being accepted into Mary's Home Maryland's program and making MHM her home. The authenticity of Miah's story and the hope it conveyed struck a chord with everyone. It was rewarded with a standing ovation.

Executive Director Kim Roche described the day-to-day operations of MHM and gave an overview of some of the services and courses it provides its mothers. Among its course offerings are courses in parenting, domestic violence, and a variety of life skills, including budgeting, credit repair, identifying and accessing community resources, and driving lessons. Hand-made jewelry, tie-dyed shirts, and other items made by MHM's residents were on sale in the ballroom lobby.

MHM takes a creative and holistic approach to addressing the needs of its residents. For example, its current house mother is a former resident mom. Among its many volunteers is a seamstress, a child development and speech therapy professional, a GED coach, and a Catholic deacon who heads a "Faith, Hope and Love" catechetical and spiritual study program. Pastoral counselors are also on call. A partnership with Allstate's Purple Purse Foundation has resulted in the creation of a manual on financial planning. Another partnership with five local health systems provides the services of pediatricians, OB teams, dentists, and other physicians. Representatives from the county health department and the WIC program visit MHM on site.

A number of volunteers and supporters were acknowledged for their contributions. Dan Ryan of Ryan Homes, a Howard County resident and a longtime supporter of MHM, was the recipient of the MHM Saint Teresa of Calcutta Award. Julia Stamerro of Catonsville received the MHM Volunteer of the Year Award.



Julia Stamerro of Catonsville Received the Volunteer of the Year Award

MHM can proudly affirm that it has made significant progress in providing a safe environment for moms who often come from troubled and threatening situations and have nowhere to go. There is much evidence that good choices are being made, and that the program is working. Since its dedication in 2017, MHM has supported more than 26 women. One MHM mom has successfully completed an auto driving course and received her license. A second woman has been given a donated car which she will use to get to her new job, having arranged for child care. A third woman, having completed her GED, has received a 2020 scholarship to Howard Community College. On December 28th she celebrated the birth of a baby girl! Finally, MHM has shared that one of its residents has started RCIA; a baby

has been baptized; another resident will be confirmed this coming Easter; and two women attend weekly Sunday mass. Congratulations to all of these women!

✓ **40 Days for Life Catonsville Closing Event:**

The closing event for the Fall 40 Days for Life Catonsville campaign was enticingly entitled, **"Song and Scripture on the Sidewalk"**. Approximately 30 people braved high winds and a 21 degree wind chill to participate in the event. Those in attendance participated in a program of songs and scripture readings arranged by Maria Hayden of St. Paul's parish in Ellicott. City. The program was eventually moved across the street to West Baltimore Pregnancy Choices. A period of fellowship followed the program. Thank you to everyone who participated in the Fall 40 Days for Life Catonsville campaign. The 2020 Spring campaign will begin on February 26, 2020.



2019 Fall 40 Days for Life Closing Event

✓ **Archdiocesan Respect Life Office Webinar on Opposing Physician-Assisted Suicide: Medical and Legislative Viewpoints:**

On November 9, 2019, the Archdiocesan Office of Respect Life offered a webinar entitled "Opposing Physician-Assisted Suicide: Medical and Legislative Viewpoints". The panel discussion, moderated by Dr. Natasha Wilson, included Dr. Marie-Alberte Boursiquot, an internist and member of the Catholic Medical Association - Baltimore Guild, Dr. Joseph Marine, a cardiologist at Johns Hopkins and member of the Catholic Medical Association - Baltimore Guild, and Therese Hessler, CEO and founder of Ashlar Government Relations. Here is a link to the video recording of the webinar, (https://youtu.be/G4myDKh_2AE). It is very informative.



2019 Fall 40 Days for Life Closing Event

In opening statements, the three panelists provided background information on physician-assisted suicide legislation and the negative impact that such legislation has on society, the culture, the medical establishment and the healthcare system. After making their introductory statements, the panelists addressed questions posed by Natasha. They addressed the history of attempts to pass legislation in Maryland and ways you can make your voices heard during the 2020 legislative session. At the 45 minute mark, the panel discussion was opened to questions by online attendees. The panelist's responses to questions posed by online attendees were particularly interesting and informative.

In the past 4 out of 5 years, Maryland has been able to resist the push by out-of-state lobbyists to get physician-assisted (PAS) legislation passed. In 2019 the legislation failed on the floor of the Senate in a tie vote with one abstention!! PAS legislation has much in common with abortion legislation. Like the drive to legalize abortion, the drive to get PAS legislation passed is not a grass-roots effort, but an initiative driven by a few well-organized and well-financed national organizations. Compassion and Choices (formerly the Hemlock Society) is one of the organizations pushing this legislation in states across the US. Like abortion legislation, physician-assisted suicide legislation attacks the most vulnerable members of society by using language of compassion and choice to promote the killing of the weakest members of society. It threatens members of the healthcare profession and distorts the meaning of the word "healthcare". Economics is also a driving force promoting this legislation. It is essential that people inform themselves of the threats that this legislation poses to Marylanders and ways in which you can make your voices heard. The Maryland legislative session is only three months long (January 8 - April 6) so it is important to get informed and make your voices heard.

- ✓ **Pro-Life Pilgrimage to the St. John Paul II National Shrine:** On December 7, 2019, the Archdiocesan Office of Respect Life sponsored a pro-life pilgrimage to the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in DC. The day began with a 10:00 am mass and ended with an hour of Eucharistic Adoration and the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00 pm. The celebrant at the morning mass was Fr. James Brent, O.P., a Dominican priest from the Dominican House of Studies. Fr. Brent has served as a spiritual leader for USCCB Pro-Life Activities conferences. Following the mass, Fr. Brent provided us with a pro-life reflection. After the reflection we had the opportunity to go to confession. After lunch we had free time which many of us used to take a self-guided tour of the Saint John Paul II exhibit, to venerate a relic of St. John Paul II and to pray. At 3:00 pm, the Hour of Mercy, we joined members of the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy for an hour of Eucharistic Adoration and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. The entire day had the quality of a retreat. It was particularly special for me since it was my first time visiting the shrine. Here is a link to a slideshow of the day, the beautiful shrine and its magnificent mosaics - <https://www.icloud.com/sharedalbum/#B0RGq6kMgG1WWbH>. Thank you, Natasha, for organizing the pilgrimage. I hope it will become an annual event.



The Luminous Mysteries Chapel at the St. John Paul II Shrine

- **Upcoming Local and Regional Respect Life Events:**

- ✓ **Saturday, January 19, 2020, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Life is Beautiful Mass and Reception:** This year's 'Life is Beautiful Mass and Reception' will take place at St. Joseph Church in Fullerton (8420 Belair Rd. Baltimore, MD). The Mass celebrant and homilist will be the Most Reverend William E. Lori, Archbishop of Baltimore. The guest speakers and 'Life is Beautiful' award recipients are Julie and Derrick Tennant, a brother and sister comedy duo, who promote the love of life across all abilities. You can visit their website, *The Love Chromosome*, at <http://www.thelovechromosome.com>. Theirs is a remarkable and thought provoking story. This year's 'The Culture of Life' award recipient is Deacon William "Bill" Fleming, Director of Camp Glow and former director of the Office of Special Needs and Deaf Ministry for the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Camp Glow (<https://www.archbalt.org/disabilities-ministry/camp-glow/>) is a residential summer camp for adults with disabilities. After mass, Archbishop Lori will bless pilgrims planning to attend the March for Life in DC on the 24th. Check out the flyer on page 10. You are requested to RSVP if you plan to attend.

When: Saturday, January 19, 2020,
8:30 am - 4:30 pm.

Where: St. Joseph Church,
8420 Belair Rd. Baltimore, MD

- ✓ **Saturday, February 1, 2020, 7:00 - 11:00 pm, MHM Fundraiser - "MidWinter Blues to Rock and Roll: Saving Two Lives at a Time":** Mary's Home Maryland needs your help. MHM is a non-profit program that relies on private donations to provide the women and children in its program its broad range of services. The article on page 4 provides a brief description of its unique and integrated approach to serving women in a crisis pregnancy. To meet an ever-growing need for its services, MHM is sponsoring a major fundraiser on February 1, 2020 at *Michael's Eighth Avenue* (<https://michaels8th.com>) in Glen Burnie. Live music will be provided by *Oracle* (<http://oracleband.net>), a local band. The cost of the ticket covers the venue, food and band. Help MHM continue to serve the most vulnerable members of society, the pre-born and their mothers. Check out the flyer on page 11 for details.

When: Saturday, February 1, 2020,
7:00 - 11:00 pm.

Where: Michael's Eighth Avenue,
7220 Grayburn Drive, Glen Burnie, MD
21061

- ✓ **Monday, February 24, 2020, Maryland March for Life:** The Maryland March for Life takes place during the legislative session in Annapolis. As a result, many marchers use the opportunity to voice their opinions of proposed legislation. Last year many marchers carried signs opposing the physician-assisted legislation that was being debated. The legislation failed to pass in a tie vote with one abstention! The close vote demonstrates how important it is that you stay informed and make your voice heard!



2018 Maryland March for Life

The march begins with a 4:30 pm Youth Rally at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Annapolis. Following the Youth Rally there is a mass and a non-denominational service. The march begins after mass in St. Mary's parking lot and makes its way to Lawyer's Mall in front of the Statehouse. After a rally at the Statehouse, marchers are invited to gather at St. Mary's for an informal reception and a free Chik-Fil-A sandwich. Here is a link to the schedule of activities - <https://www.mdmonthforlife.com/march>.

The St. Agnes/St. William of York parish community does not generally provide transportation to the march. I plan to attend if anyone wants to carpool. Here is a link to a slideshow of last year's march - <https://www.icloud.com/sharedalbum/#B0RJq4WnLJpzwgd>.

When: Monday, February 24, 2020 Rally starts at 4:30 pm. Schedule is available here - <https://www.mdmonthforlife.com/march>

Where: St. Mary's Catholic Church in Annapolis

NATIONAL RESPECT LIFE NEWS & EVENTS:

- **Upcoming National Respect Life Events:**

- ✓ **Wednesday, January 15, 2020, 8:00 - 9:00 pm, "EWTN Live" on the EWTN Television Network:** Father Mitch Pacwa interviews filmmaker Kevin Dunn on his most recent documentary, "Fatal Flaws - Legalizing Assisted Suicide". You can identify your local EWTN and EWTN Espanol cable channel here - <https://www.ewtn.com/tv/channel-finder>.
- ✓ **Wednesday, January 15, 2020, 9:30 - 11:00 pm, "Fatal Flaws-Legalizing Assisted Death" on the EWTN Television Network:** For his second documentary on euthanasia and assisted suicide, Kevin Dunn traveled through Europe and North America gathering testimonies and expert opinion on euthanasia and assisted suicide policies, and the effects they have over time on societies that adopt them. Trends in Europe present a terrifying picture of what the future may hold for countries that adopt such policies. Viewer discretion is advised. You can identify your local EWTN and EWTN Espanol cable channels here - <https://www.ewtn.com/tv/channel-finder>.

When: Wednesday, January 15, 2020, 8:00 - 9:00 pm and 9:30 - 11:00 pm

Where: The EWTN Television Network

REFLECTION - A Season Full of Surprises and Hope by Father Isaac Makovo

From the time the angel Gabriel announced the incarnation of our Savior, Mary and Joseph experienced nothing but surprise after surprise. Upon Mary's visit to her cousin, Elizabeth's child in her own womb leaped for joy. And upon the birth of the Christ Child, the angels sang to the highest glory of God a message of peace on earth to people of good will. The angels shared the good news with the shepherds, who came to pay homage to the newborn King. Meanwhile, the Magi followed a star to find the newborn King. They probably had expectations of finding the King in a palace, which may explain why they first made the journey to Herod's Palace. What they discovered did not in any way match their expectations - yet, to their surprise again, their lives were changed forever. They returned to their homelands praising God. It was surprise after surprise!



Mosaic of the Birth of Jesus in the St. John Paul II National Shrine in DC

So, who is this Child, and how does His story speak to each of us today? It was not easy for Jesus' parents. In fact, Joseph wanted to divorce the Blessed Mother quietly. But the angel of the Lord visited Joseph in a dream and spoke to him. Joseph came to realize that trust in God was more important than his worries about his relationship with Mary.

From the moment of His conception in the womb of Mary, Christ speaks to us. He is a reminder to those experiencing difficult pregnancies or an unexpected pregnancy that the Holy Family of Jesus can relate to their challenges. He is a reminder that life is precious, and that we have an obligation to God. Every life is a gift from God and must be protected at every stage of life. The Holy Family's flight into Egypt is a reminder to immigrants today that Jesus knows and understands their struggles. Jesus identifies with the poor who may be experiencing unjust governments like that of Herod who sought to destroy the Christ Child. Christ came to give us hope; he came to teach us of God's love; he came to restore our dignity. May we be one with Him in restoring human dignity by first and foremost protecting the gift of life, by living God's love, and by sharing hope with one another.

Prayer for Our Nation

God our Father, Giver of life, we entrust the United States of America to Your loving care. You are the rock on which this nation was founded. You alone are the true source of our cherished rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Reclaim this land for Your glory and dwell among Your people.

Send Your Spirit to touch the hearts of our nation's leaders. Open their minds to the great worth of human life and the responsibilities that accompany human freedom. Remind Your people that true happiness is rooted in seeking and doing Your will.

Through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, Patroness of our land, grant us the courage to reject the "culture of death." Lead us into a new millennium of life. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

If you have a printed copy of the newsletter, you can access links to slideshows, websites and other linked resources by going to <https://www.stagnescatholicchurch.org/respectlife>. There you will find archived copies of the newsletter from which you can access the links.

To subscribe to the monthly St. Agnes-St. William of York Respect Life Newsletter, please email Paula Noeller at pnoeller@comcast.net. In the subject field enter 'Newsletter'.

St. Agnes & St. William of York March for Life Pilgrimage 2020

MARCH FOR LIFE 2020



To Reserve your Seat:

- Contact Leslie Mohler at (410) 744-2900

What to Wear and Bring:

- Check the weather the night before the March and dress appropriately.
- Bring a bag “brunch” and drink. We will eat on the bus on our way to DC. There will be no snacks or drinks provided.
- Bring a cell phone if you own one. Each participant will receive a contact cell phone number the day of the March. Stay with the group at all times. Buses will leave Stanton Park promptly at 2:45pm. A free will offering to help us offset our costs will be taken on the bus.

Schedule:

- 9:00am - Mass at St. Agnes Church
- 10:15am - Depart from St. Agnes - participants may eat on the bus ride to Washington
- 11:30am - Arrival in Washington - we will go directly to the Mall this year for the Rally
- 1:00pm - March begins on Constitution Avenue (maps will be provided day of the March)
- 2:00pm - Gather at St. Joseph’s Church (313 2nd St, NE) for snack and bathroom break
- 2:45pm - Arrive at Stanton Park for 3:00pm departure
- 3:00pm - Depart for Baltimore
- 4:00pm - Arrive at St. Agnes

Additional Information:

- On the Internet visit <http://marchforlife.org/>. You can sign up for updates, download the 2020 March for Life mobile app, or make a donation.

If you cannot attend the March for Life:

- Eucharistic Adoration will be available at St. Agnes Church throughout the day following the 9:00am Mass and concluding at 5:00pm.
- Take time to Pray for Life during the day.
- The March will be aired on EWTN. Comcast cable channels are: 291, 597 (Spanish) and 945 (HD). EWTN channels on Verizon Fios are: 285 and 1741 (Spanish).



Life is Beautiful

Mass & Reception

Celebrating Life at All Stages

Celebrant & Homilist: Most Reverend William E. Lori,
Archbishop of Baltimore

Special guest speakers & Life is Beautiful Award recipients:

Julie and Derrick Tennant of "The Love Chromosome"

Culture of Life recipient: Dcn. Bill Fleming, III

January 19, 2020 | 8:30 am - 4:30pm

St. Joseph Church | 8416 Belair Rd. Baltimore, MD 21236

RSVP: www.archbalt.org/respect-life/life-is-beautiful

WE NEED YOU TO HELP MARY'S HOME!
HELP OUR MOMS AND BABIES!

**MIDWINTER BLUES TO
ROCK AND ROLL
SAVING TWO LIVES AT
ONCE**

FEBRUARY 1, 2020
7 PM TO 11 PM
Michael's 8th Ave
7220 Grayburn Drive



Live music and dancing
featuring local band, Oracle
Oracleband.net

Bull Roast Buffet

\$55 per ticket

Tickets can be purchased
through our website:
www.maryshomemaryland.org

Go to donation page and
designate for 2020 Concert