

# St. Agnes-St. William of York

## Respect Life Newsletter - The 2020 We're Back Edition

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**We're Back!!!** The Respect Life newsletter is back in time to close out the fall 40 Days for Life - Catonsville Prayer Campaign and Respect Life month. Before diving into the present and the future, I would like to take a brief moment to thank Father Isaac, his staff and all of the parishioners who helped our parish community navigate the turbulent times through which we have been living. They did a wonderful job keeping our little portion of the Barque of St. Peter upright. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** On SOME Apple systems there is a bug in interpreting PDF links to slideshows and videos, causing the link to break. The problem appears to occur when PDFs are opened in the Apple Preview app. The bug might affect 3 slideshow links in this newsletter. You can view the slideshow if the link is broken by changing the characters %23 to #. For example, if the link to the video appears as <https://www.icloud.com/sharedalbum/%23B0R5qsTcwpSL5b>, the link will work if you edit the characters %23 to # so that it reads <https://www.icloud.com/sharedalbum/#B0R5qsTcwpSL5b>.

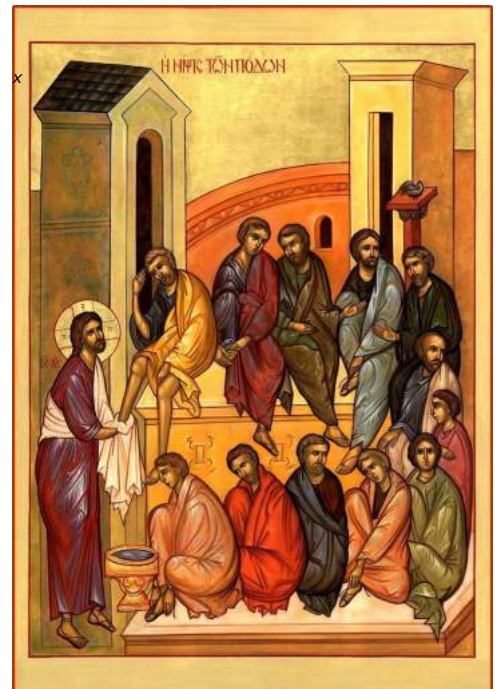
**OPENING REFLECTION - Washing Feet:** During the pandemic lockdown, I discovered the website, [Mass Online](#). What a find!!! Watching priests throughout the world pray the mass and tend a global flock demonstrated vividly the universality of the Church.

One of my favorite places to visit was Mount St. Alphonsus Church in Limerick, Ireland. The aging Redemptorist priests were so endearing in their efforts to engage their growing global flock. On Holy Thursday, a particularly elderly priest delivered a powerful homily on the Gospel story about Jesus washing the feet of the Apostle's feet at the Last Supper (John 13:1-15). In his homily, the priest drew a parallel between Christ washing the feet of His disciples and the carers (the Irish term for 'caregivers') serving victims of the pandemic. His homily was masterfully crafted and delivered in a beautiful Irish brogue.

The priest concluded his homily, saying, "Just as Jesus gave Himself, shared Himself, and broke Himself out of love for others, so also must we give ourselves, share ourselves, and break ourselves for others out of love.... We wash feet." In his concluding statement the priest described the Christian life. It is a life lived in Christ.

[Link to homily slideshow/video](#)

(If above link doesn't work, copy and paste this link into your browser: <https://www.icloud.com/sharedalbum/#B0R5qsTcwpSL5b>)



*Jesus Washing the Feet of His Apostle (Origin)*

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

### • **St. Agnes/St. William of York Events:**

- ✓ **September 23 - November 1, 2020, 40 Days for Life - Catonsville Campaign:** There is one week left in the 40 Days for Life - Catonsville fall campaign. The campaign takes place outside of the Hillcrest abortion facility, located in the Suburbia building. The Suburbia building is situated at the intersection of Rt. 40 and Johnnycake Road. There are 100s of feet of public sidewalk, making social distancing easy.

Pray-ers are asked to sign up on [the campaign website](#) so that pray-ers signing up know which time slots need coverage. First-time participants will be prompted to create an account. Many St. Agnes and St. William of York pray-ers pray on Thursday morning.

If you have questions about the campaign, problems creating an account or signing up for days and times, or are looking for a prayer partner, contact Paula Noeller at [pnoeller@comcast.net](mailto:pnoeller@comcast.net). **Note:** Another advantage of signing up is that you will receive announcements about local and regional pro-life events even when a campaign is not running.

The importance of the peaceful presence of pray-ers outside an abortion facility cannot be overstated. The no-show rate of women scheduled for an abortion can be as high as 75% when people are praying outside of an abortion facility.

Your physical presence can also provide the opportunity to dialogue with passersby. The first day of this year's campaign a person exiting the parking lot engaged Sabina Armshaw in conversation. On learning that there were options to abortion (pointing to one of our signs), the driver said, "Go for it!"

- ✓ **Tuesday, October 27, 2020, Rosary for Our Nation:** A number of parishioners have taken up praying a Rosary for Our Nation before the Blessed Sacrament every Tuesday, **except the first Tuesday** of the month. The rosary is prayed from 5:20 - 5:45 pm and is followed by Benediction. The next Rosary for Our Nation is on October 27. Bring the family to St. Agnes and spend 25 minutes praying the rosary and the [Prayer for Our Nation](#). [Instructions for praying the rosary can be accessed here.](#)

- ✓ **Tuesday, November 3, 2020, Adoration for Our Nation - A Nationwide Day of Prayer:** Our parish community will participate in a nationwide prayer event, 'Adoration for Our Nation - A Nationwide Day of Prayer' on November 3, Election Day. Check out the bulletin for details. Because this one-time event will take place on the first Tuesday of the month, the November Respect Life Holy Hour will be held on Friday, November 6. See details below.



John Krebs and the Armshaws Outside of Hillcrest



Sabina Dialoguing With a Person Exiting the Parking Lot



Kim Frazer, Our Amazing, Hands-on Coordinator

✓ **Friday, November 6, 2020, Respect Life Holy Hour:** Our monthly Respect Life Holy Hour is normally prayed on the first Tuesday of the month at St. Agnes. However, this November, it will be held on the First Friday of the month, the 6th, so that we can participate in the Adoration for Our Nation event on Tuesday, the 3rd. The monthly Respect Life Holy Hour begins at 4:45 pm and is followed by Benediction at 5:45 pm. The program includes a topic for reflection, the Angelus, time for private prayer, the Respect Life rosary and the Prayer for Our Nation. All are welcome. The program for the Holy Hour will be available at the entrance of the church.

✓ **October 1, 2020 - November 2, 2020, Women’s Center West Virtual Baby Bottle Campaign:** During Respect Life Month our parish community is once again participating in Women’s Center West’s annual Baby Bottle Campaign. Women’s Center West reaches out to teens, youth, women, and couples that are facing an unplanned pregnancy. Visit [www.womenscenterwest.com](http://www.womenscenterwest.com) or click the YouTube link to the right to learn about the many services and educational programs WCW provides. This year, it has been decided not to distribute baby bottles for you to fill. Instead we are suggesting people donate by sending a check to Women’s Center West, 5411 Old Frederick Road, Suite 1, Baltimore, MD 21229 or by dropping off a check at the Parish Office by November 2. Information on its Movie Night Benefit is on page 5.



[Play this YouTube video link](#) and learn more about WCW.

Women’s Center West also urgently needs size 0 and size 4 diapers, onesies, other baby clothes and new car seats. Contact information is provided below. Thank you for your generosity!

**Location:** 5411 Old Frederick Rd, #1, Baltimore, MD 21229

**Website:** <https://www.womenscenterwest.com/>

**Phone:** (410) 788-4433

**Contact:** Gwen Eppard

### **LOCAL AND REGIONAL RESPECT LIFE NEWS & EVENTS:**

- **Local and Regional News:**

✓ **40 Days for Life - Catonsville Fall 2020 Campaign:** The kick-off event for the fall campaign was a morning of Eucharistic Adoration held at West Baltimore Pregnancy Choices (WBPC) ([Link to slideshow of Adoration event](#)). Approximately 20 pray-ers participated in four hours of Eucharistic Adoration. Deacon Ed Whitesell presided over the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. (If broken edit link to <https://www.icloud.com/sharedalbum/#B0R5epZ6a7Iz9K>)

The ‘mid-point’ event was held on Saturday, October 17. What a unique event it was! Bishop Joseph Coffey, Auxiliary Bishop for the Military Services, USA gave a heart-felt talk about his history as an advocate for life. After his talk he joined us in praying the rosary -



Adoration at West Baltimore Pregnancy Choices

[Slideshow of Bishop Coffey’s Visit](#) (If broken, edit link to <https://www.icloud.com/sharedalbum/#B0RGtue8VhmnAJ>)

In his talk, Bishop Coffey shared with us how he became an advocate for life at the age of 12 1/2. He said that he was 12 1/2 in 1973 when the Supreme Court’s Roe v Wade decision legalized abortion in the US. When the decision came down, his father, who was a doctor, sat

him down and told him what the law meant. He said that that talk led him to become pro-life; and he has been an advocate for life ever since.

Bishop Coffey also reiterated the well-known fact that women who seek an abortion generally do so out of fear that they have no other option. He reminded us that on those cold or wet mornings when we are out there, sometimes praying alone, we are there for a purpose. We are there so that the babies scheduled to be aborted do not die alone. Wow!!! Thank you Bishop Coffey for your advocacy!!! Approximately 40 people attended the event.

After Bishop Coffey spoke, Kim Frazer, the Catonsville campaign coordinator, shared a fantastic story! According to Kim, a few weeks ago, a woman pulled up next to a group of pray-ers. She told them that several years ago she was inside Hillcrest, scheduled for an abortion. Knowing that there were pray-ers outside encouraged her to change her mind and leave. She told the pray-ers that her child was with her in the car. What great news!!! So often we ask ourselves if our prayers make a difference. Well, we now know the answer. Indeed, they do!!!

Kim recently shared another story. A woman pulled over and called out to one of the pray-ers, asking what they were doing. Seeing the signs with pictures of babies on them, she asked for information about a baby doctor. Because the woman was new in the US and didn't know what an abortion was, the pray-er explained what an abortion was, not wanting the woman to look for a baby doctor at Hillcrest. The pray-er directed her to a pro-life ob/gyn instead.

The fall campaign will end with a screening of the pro-life, full-length feature film, "**Order of Rights**", to benefit [Women's Center West](#), a medical pregnancy center in Catonsville. It will be held November 6. It sounds like it will a great event. Check out the Local and Regional Events section on page 5 for details..

Although the campaign ends on November 1, there are pray-ers who pray throughout the year.

- ✓ **Mary's Home Maryland Update:** Mary's Home Maryland is a lifeline for women facing an unplanned pregnancy and their babies. It provides a safe, pro-life, home environment along with a holistic program of services. You can read about its awesome work at <https://www.maryshomemaryland.org>. There is also an informative two page flyer on pages 13 and 14.

Parishioners Jim and Sabina Armshaw were the first two members of the Founders Team that helped get MHM started. They were also the first recipients of the St. Theresa of Calcutta Award. According to Jim, "moms and babies are healthy and well". Despite the virus and strict COVID-19 protocols, both homes are nearing capacity. Moms are currently enrolled in college classes, GED programs, and Driver's Education classes. Volunteers are being slowly reintroduced into the



Bishop Coffey, Auxiliary Bishop for the Military Services, USA With Campaign Coordinator, Kim Frazer



Praying the Rosary with Bishop Coffey Outside of Hillcrest



The Armshaws receiving the St. Theresa of Calcutta Award

homes. Volunteers take moms and babies to and from appointments, share life skills, teach virtual and in-person classes, and help organize the homes, etc. According to Sabina, "MHM needs many items, especially diapers (newborn and size 5-6), wipes, children's clothes of all sizes and in good condition (size 4T+ clothes are especially needed), clothes for moms (maternity and regular), grocery gift cards, and rideshare gift cards.

Monetary donations can be made by using the *Donate* button on MHM's homepage ([www.maryshomemaryland.org](http://www.maryshomemaryland.org)), or by mailing a donation to the MHM business office, 3675 Park Ave., #301, Ellicott City, MD 21043.

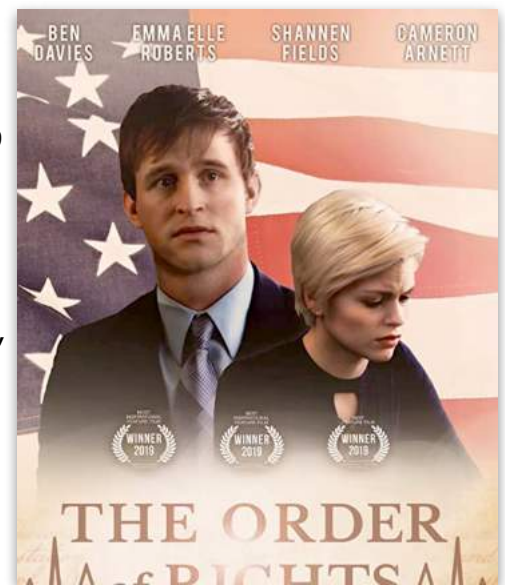
On November 13, 2020, Mary's Home Maryland will celebrate its Third Annual Gala. See page 6 for details.

- **Local and Regional Events:**

- ✓ **Sunday, November 1, 2020 - Memorial Vespers Service:** The Archdiocesan Holy Innocents Ministry serves families who have lost children to miscarriage. On November 1, a vesper service will be held at Our Lady of Victory Church. It will give families the opportunity to pray for the soul of their baby and to begin the healing process. See page 11 for details.
- ✓ **Friday, November 6, 2020, 7PM - Screening of the Pro-life Full Length Feature Film, 'Order of Rights' to Benefit Women's Center West:** West Baltimore Pregnancy Choices has partnered with [Women's Center West](#) to host a movie night fundraiser for WCW. Covid-19 protocols will be in place. Bring your friends!

[ORDER OF RIGHTS](#) is a pro-life, full-length feature film about a young pregnant woman advised to have an abortion, and the father who is fighting for his rights as father. Father Jim Ball, the writer and director of the film, will be available for a Question and Answer session after the showing. [Here is a link to the movie's website](#) where you can watch the trailer. It looks like the movie has received several awards.

A free will offering to support Women's Center West will be taken. Due to Covid 19 and seating restrictions, you must reserve a ticket in advance. **NOTE:** The movie will be shown in the sanctuary of Chin Baptist Mission Church so that more people can be accommodated.



*Order of Rights: A Pro-Life Movie about the Rights of a Father*

**RESERVE YOUR TICKETS HERE:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/womens-center-west-movie-night-tickets-124827124289>

**Date:** November 6, 2020  
**Time:** 7:00 PM  
**Location:** Chin Baptist Church:  
5604 Johnnycake Rd, Gwynn Oak, MD  
21207

**Parking:** Parking is available in the church parking lot in the back of the building. The back doors of the church will be open.

- ✓ **Friday, November 13, 2020 - 3rd Annual "Hold on to Love" Mary's Home Maryland Gala:** Join supporters of Mary's Home Maryland for dinner and an evening of fellowship and celebration as Mary's Home Maryland begins its fourth year helping pregnant moms in crisis and their children. The Gala will follow Covid-19 protocols.

Over the past three years, Mary's Home Maryland has supported more than 28 women in their decision to choose life. Twenty-eight babies have been born, and currently, five moms and six children are in the program.



*"Hold on to Love" is the Theme of MHM's 3rd Annual Gala*

To learn more about this major fundraising event, the safety protocols that will be in place and how to reserve a table, go to <https://www.maryshomemaryland.org/gala-2020> or contact Abigail Pfau, Mary's Home Director of Development/Media Coordinator, at [apfau@maryshomemaryland.org](mailto:apfau@maryshomemaryland.org) or 410.660.7449.

### **CLOSING REFLECTION - "Render Unto God"**

In the Gospel for the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, ([Matthew 22:15-21](#)), we heard the story of the Pharisees and Herodians who tried to entrap Jesus by asking whether it was lawful to pay a census tax to Caesar. Jesus, recognizing their motive, asked them to show him a Roman coin and to identify the image that was on it. Of course, they identified the image on the coin as that of Caesar, to which Jesus responded, "then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."



*Render to Caesar the Things that are Caesars, and to God the Things that are Gods*

On reading a Greek commentary on the Gospel, I learned that the word for "image" used in Matthew's Gospel is the Greek word for "icon". It is the same word that appears in [Genesis 1:26](#) where we read, "Then God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the tame animals, all the wild animals, and all the creatures that crawl on the earth." According to the commentary, when Jesus said to the Pharisees and Herodians, "repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God", he was telling them that, although they had legitimate civil obligations to Caesar, their ultimate allegiance was to God, in whose image Caesar was created, and by whom everything was brought into being.

That our uncreated Creator is due our trust and allegiance is proclaimed throughout the Bible. In [Isaiah 55:8-9](#), we are reminded, "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, my thoughts higher than your thoughts." The Ten Commandments ([Exodus 20](#)) describe our relationship to our God even more clearly. "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall not have other gods beside me."

On March 30, 2006. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, then Pope Benedict XVI, addressed members of the European People's Party, a party that played a significant role in shaping the European Union a mere 13 years prior to his speech. In his address, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI made reference to "negotiable" and "non-negotiable" principles. He said:

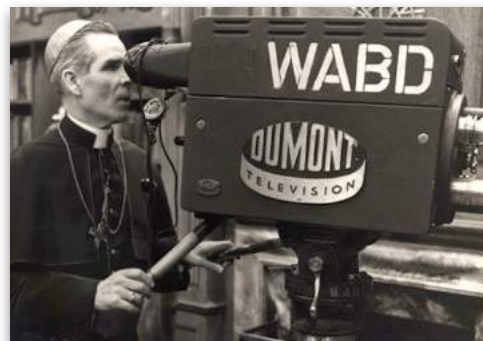
"As far as the Catholic Church is concerned, the principal focus of her interventions in the public arena is the protection and promotion of the dignity of the person, and she is thereby consciously drawing particular attention to principles which are **not negotiable**. Among these the following emerge clearly today:

- protection of life in all its stages, from the first moment of conception until natural death;
- recognition and promotion of the natural structure of the family - as a union between a man and a woman based on marriage - and its defence from attempts to make it juridically equivalent to

radically different forms of union which in reality harm it and contribute to its destabilization, obscuring its particular character and its irreplaceable social role  
- the protection of the right of parents to educate their children.”

In his address, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI reminded his listeners that there are fundamental principles that fall solely under God’s authority, making them **non-negotiable**. He told them that principles related to life and death, to the definition and make-up of the family, and to the rights of the family are so fundamental to our shared identity in God, that authority over them must be rendered unto the God. Other issues are negotiable (prudential) and authority over them can be “rendered unto Caesar”.

When I was in my early teens in the 1950s, I experienced little conflict between my Catholic faith and the culture in which I was growing up. We prayed in public schools; stores were closed on Sunday; and Archbishop Fulton Sheen was a “rock star”. His television show, “*Life is Worth Living*”, was one of the most popular programs on television. Heck, he won an Emmy for Most Outstanding Personality in 1953. Father Patrick Peyton was another television celebrity. Known as the Rosary priest, Father Peyton’s Rosary Rallies were attended by millions throughout the world. He called some of the most famous Hollywood stars of the time friends. The Causes for Canonization of both Bishop Sheen and Father Peyton are in progress.



Archbishop Sheen on the Set of Life Is Worth Living

The 60s and 70s were another story. The culture was torn apart. The rupture culminated in the 1973 Roe v Wade vs Wade Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion. A year to the day later, the first March for Life was held.



Father Patrick Peyton at a Rosary Rally

Reflecting on what may have accounted for the cultural revolution of the 60s and 70s took me back to the Pharisees, Herodians and the Roman coin. I thought, what if Jesus were to have dropped in back then and asked the same question he asked the Pharisees? And what if the response was not universal? What if some saw the image of God in our ‘Caesars’ and others did not. Wouldn’t that result in a culture divided by two conflicting world views, one in which authority over life and death, the definition of the family and the rights of the family was rendered unto God, and another in which the authority traditionally rendered unto God was rendered unto or usurped by the state? Couldn’t such a schism in the culture explain the current volatile controversy over abortion and euthanasia, the definition of marriage and the loss of religious freedom? It occurred to me that perhaps the timing of then Pope Benedict XVI’s 2006 address was no accident. Perhaps it was a call for Europe (and, indirectly, to the entire West) to return to its former Christian heritage and values. Read [his address in its entirety](#) to see if you agree.

The question now is, “What does the future hold?” As far as the immediate future goes, the answer to that question is quite simple. Each of us must ask ourselves, “To whom do I choose to give authority over those non-negotiable issues, over matters of life and death, the definition of the family and the rights of the parents to educate their children? Do I place my trust in the God who created me, in the God whose only begotten Son suffered and die for me, and in the God who feeds me daily at mass, and render authority unto to Him? Or do I hand over that authority to a creature like me, a creature who, although created in the image of God and redeemed, is still subject to sin?”

In acknowledgement of Respect Life month, Archbishop Joseph Naumann, the Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities released a [letter](#) (page 12) in which he stated, “The Holy Father expressed his support for our efforts observing that if we fail to protect life, no other rights matter. Pope Francis also said that abortion is not primarily a Catholic or even a religious issue, it is first and foremost a human rights issue.” In his letter, the Archbishop’s reiterated both the teaching of the Church and the position presented by the USCCB in its 2020 document, [Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship](#). Please pray for our nation!

## **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 print 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 the archived newsletter from which you can access the links.*





September 23 - November 1  
**40 DAYS FOR LIFE**®

## HELP SAVE LIVES IN CATONSVILLE!

**You can protect mothers and children** by joining this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion!

Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 1,000,000+ volunteers!

**With God's help**, here are the proven results in 26 coordinated campaigns:

- **17,226 babies** saved from abortion
- **206 abortion** workers converted
- **107 abortion** centers closed

**Here's how to take part in 40 Days for Life in our community:**

- **Vigil location:** Outside Hillcrest abortion facility, Suburbia bldg. 5602 Route Baltimore National Pike
- **Vigil hours:** 7 am to 7 pm daily
- **Local contact:** Kim Frazer  
[vigilbaltimore@gmail.com](mailto:vigilbaltimore@gmail.com) 410-456-9544
- **Learn more ...** get involved ... and sign up for prayer times by visiting our campaign at the web address shown below!

[40daysforlife.com/Catonsville](http://40daysforlife.com/Catonsville)



# 40 DAYS FOR LIFE<sup>®</sup>

*Devotional for Day 29, Wednesday, October 21  
Carmen Pate, former 40 Days for Life board member*

## Intention:

Praise God for His compassion in pardoning our sins and forgiving our transgressions. Give praise that He delights in showing mercy.

## Scripture:

Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgressions of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy. He will again have compassion on us; and will subdue our iniquities.

—*Micah 7:18-19*

## Reflection:

Micah had been sent to declare God's judgment and call the people of Judah to repentance. The people had become spiritually and ethically corrupt.

Prosperity had hardened the rich, the poor were oppressed and the heirs to David's throne were practicing abominations and idolatry.

Is it not easy to see the parallels of God's people in Micah's day and God's people today in America?

Through Micah, God corrected His people by demanding justice, not burnt offerings and sacrifice. He told them to love mercy, and to walk humbly with their God. In speaking of the Old Testament stories of God's people turning from God to sin and idolatry, Paul

wrote in 1 Corinthians 10:11, "Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come."

Many biblical scholars believe God has removed His hedge of protection around our nation in response to our sins of immorality and abortion. Let us cry out in repentance for His mercy once again.

And may we honor His faithfulness by doing justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with our God.

## Prayer:

Heavenly Father, eternal, changeless, and faithful Lord, we recognize that we are in need of forgiveness as a nation, for turning our hearts away from you.

Hear our prayer of repentance Lord and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. We praise you for your tender mercies and your compassion that never fails.

Lord, it is only by Your grace that we can live lives that are just, and merciful.

May Your Holy Spirit enable us to walk humbly in Your presence and may You be pleased to restore America so that a generation not yet born may praise you. In the name of Christ Jesus, who has done great things for us, amen.

HOLY INNOCENTS MINISTRY INVITES YOU TO:



## *Memorial Vespers Service*

Sunday, November 1, 2020

4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Victory Parish

4414 Wilkens Ave,

Arbutus, MD 21229

*Whether your loss is recent or long ago, we welcome you to pray Vespers with us in memorial of these souls and for the comfort and healing of grieving families.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT HOLY INNOCENTS AT 410.547.3142 OR AT  
HOLYINNOCENTS@ARCHBALT.ORG



## Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

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### **LIVE THE GOSPEL OF LIFE**

#### ***Respect Life Month Statement, October 2020***

Most Reverend Joseph F. Naumann  
Chairman, USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities

As Catholics in the United States, we will soon mark our annual observance of October as Respect Life Month. It is a time to focus on God’s precious gift of human life and our responsibility to care for, protect, and defend the lives of our brothers and sisters.

This year’s theme, “Live the Gospel of Life,” was inspired by the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of Pope John Paul II’s encyclical *The Gospel of Life*. Pope John Paul’s masterfully articulated defense of the right to life for children in their mothers’ wombs, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and the marginalized is more relevant today than ever before.

This past November, the U.S. bishops reaffirmed that “the threat of abortion remains our preeminent priority because it directly attacks life itself, because it takes place within the sanctuary of the family, and because of the number of lives destroyed.” While we noted not to “dismiss or ignore other serious threats to human life and dignity such as racism, the environmental crisis, poverty, and the death penalty,” we renewed our commitment to protect the most fundamental of all human rights – the right to live.

This past January, I shared with Pope Francis that the Bishops of the United States had been criticized by some for identifying the protection of the unborn as a pre-eminent priority. The Holy Father expressed his support for our efforts observing that if we fail to protect life, no other rights matter. Pope Francis also said that abortion is not primarily a Catholic or even a religious issue, it is first and foremost a human rights issue.

The Gospel of Life provides a blueprint for building a culture of life and civilization of love. The important work of transforming our culture begins by allowing the Gospel of Christ to touch and transform our own hearts and the decisions we make. May we strive to imitate Christ and follow in his footsteps, caring for the most vulnerable among us. Through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, may Our Lord grant us the grace to live courageously and faithfully his Gospel of life.

Pregnant, Alone, Facing Homelessness

# Mary's Home Maryland



## Embracing life, mother and child

### **Our Mission**

Mary's Home Maryland (MHM) is a pro-life ministry with Catholic values, whose mission is to provide a safe home environment for expectant mothers and their children who are in crisis, discouraged, and often vulnerable to abortion.

### **Overview**

Mary's Home Maryland assists expectant mothers who are homeless and in crisis and serves God's most vulnerable, the pre-born, in a life-affirming environment. Mary's Home Maryland provides a safe, warm home for homeless, pregnant women and their children in a positive atmosphere founded on Catholic faith and tradition. Women have an opportunity to reside in Mary's Home Maryland before and after their child's birth as they strive to achieve and learn how to better provide for themselves and their children. Resident moms are expected to embrace education and employment; to this end, a structured program must be adhered to in their stay at MHM. Each mother must receive counseling, parenting, pursue daily-

life skills, and be willing to work towards independence and self-reliance. Pre-natal care, infant health care, and health care for all of their children are required. Our staff, volunteers, and mentors are a great blessing, and we seek more of each so that we can support and encourage each mother and her family.

**Vision Mary's Home** in Maryland provides a Christ-centered program designed to assist pregnant, homeless mothers during pregnancy and after the birth of their child to become self-sufficient and independent, so they may grow in confidence and dignity and plan for a healthy and sustainable future.

### **Who we help**

Mary's Home Maryland does not discriminate in any way concerning the race, creed, or religious affiliation of those seeking admission.

- 18 years of age or older
- Currently pregnant and in crisis
- May already have young children
- Seeking a safe, warm home in which to live
- Motivated to independent living with structure and guidance

### **How to help**

1. Mentor an individual expectant mother
2. Assist in our on-site "Boutique."
3. Transport our moms on errands and to doctor appointments
4. Help with "Service Days" and Events
5. Put together donated items for Layettes and Gift Baskets.

The home needs many items, especially diapers (newborn and size 5-6), wipes, children's clothes in good condition of all sizes (especially 4T+), clothes for moms (maternity and regular), grocery gift cards, and rideshare gift cards. Of course, tax-deductible monetary donations are most welcome. Visit the MHM website and click on "Donate."

Kelly Obermayer, Executive Director  
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