



DEFEND LIFE

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

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Truth Tour brings out the good, the bad, and the ugly

By Ellen Staniszewski

Abortion is ugly.

Lots of folks don't want to think about it or hear about it.

The last thing they want to do is see it.

But, as Priests for Life Director Fr. Frank Pavone says, "America won't end abortion until America sees abortion."

So for the thirteenth summer in a row, Defend Life took the battle to end abortion to the streets of Maryland, West Virginia and Washington, D.C., with its Face the Truth Tour.

From July 22 through July 26, tens of thousands of motorists saw the true horror of abortion, as pro-lifers held large graphic images of aborted babies on busy highways at 15 separate stops.

Twenty-four Core Team members, ranging in age from 9 years to over 70 years, took part in several or all of the stops.

Pro-lifers from as far away as Spain, Florida, Michigan and several other states joined the Truth Tour at various stops.

Priests offered daily Masses for the pro-life pilgrims. Local pro-lifers provided breakfast, lunch and dinner each day for them. Others graciously opened their homes to the itinerant pro-lifers for the night.



Freddie Klein and Phillip Gilbert display a graphic poster along Route 340 at the Charles Town, West Virginia, stop.

Jim Davis of Created Equal drove a 30-foot Truth Truck, displaying pictures of aborted babies on its sides, circling around the signholders at every stop.

Luncheon speakers Chris Manion, Fr. Denis Wilde, Virginia Delegate Bob Marshall, Monica Miller, and Fr. Paul Schenck revived the tired travelers' spirits with new insights on the war on abortion.

At several stops, angry motorists called the police to force the Truthers to leave.

"We've had police at four locations, but it was all routine," said

Defend Life Director Jack Ames.

At the stop in Columbia, "our first time there," noted Ames, "before we knew it, there were six police cars flashing their lights, blocking traffic and creating gridlock, which was good; it gave drivers more time to see the signs.

"After 20 minutes, they said, 'You're okay,' and left."

At the Chevy Chase stop, the police had pre-arranged to be there, due to a minor altercation the previous year.

"They could not have been more professional," Ames recalled.

Police were also called to the White Marsh stop. A friendly police officer talked briefly to Ames, then told him, “All my reports will say there’s no violations.

“You have a good message,” he added; “it’s a shame you have to show the signs.”

“It’s the only way people can learn what abortion really is,” Ames replied.

“I really had no idea what I was getting into when I started this tour,” admitted Core Team member Paula Shute.

“It was my first time doing the tour,” said the 18-year-old, “and I knew we’d be going around the Maryland-D.C. area with the pictures of aborted babies, but that was about it.

“It was absolutely amazing to meet so many people involved in the pro-life movement and see what courage they all have.

“It was eye-opening to just be holding a sign of a baby and get screamed at! I had so many people

flip me off, call me names, tell me that I should be ashamed of myself.”

At the Westminster stop, a woman yelled at Paula, “You’ll have one [an abortion] someday, honey, don’t worry.”

But there were also lots of thumbs up and friendly honks.

‘That’s a whole baby! They do this to them and tell me the babies can’t feel it? Bulls—t!’

Sometimes, people leaned out of their cars and applauded.

One man stopped next to Paula and pointed to the aborted baby on her sign.

“That could have been my son,” he told her. “But it wasn’t. He’s 37 years old now.” He drove off with a smile.

A few people were genuinely curious and asked her what the point

of all this was, then drove off with a wave.

“This trip definitely helped me to feel God so much more,” Paula reflected.

“It helped me learn what loving people who don’t love you back really means. It helped me learn more what self-sacrifice looks like.”

In Westminster, David Mann held an American flag.

“People were waving at me and giving me thumbs up,” said Mann. “I felt proud to be part of the Truth Tour.”

While Core Team member Maggie Golden was holding a sign in Chevy Chase, she saw a woman look at the sign, then break into tears.

“She looked so heartbroken!” said Maggie. “I glanced back down at my sign, thinking once more how awful abortion is.”

In Columbia, Maggie’s sister, Annie, heard a woman in her twenties shout, “This is *awesome!* Thank you!”

At the Embassy Row stop, a woman leaned out of her car, pointing at Celia Roberts and at each of the other girls holding signs. She yelled angrily, “You have a vagina! And *you* have a vagina!”

Celia wasn’t quite sure what her point was.

“Pro-choicers” frequently resorted to the “f-word” to express their feelings.

In Hagerstown, a man walking by with a woman and two boys snarled at Celia Roberts and Katherine Crank, “There are kids here, can’t you get this f---ing sh-- out of here? My f---ing” children don’t want to f---ing see this sh--.” Katherine said, “God bless you.”

At the stop in Reisterstown, a woman named Star stopped to tell



Truth Tour Co-Director Andrew Golden (foreground) ‘reviews the troops’ at the Embassy Row stop in Washington, D.C.



Two young local pro-lifers (left) hold a sign at the Embassy Row stop; Mary Catherine Beller displays a 'Life' poster on Route 40 at the Ellicott City stop.

her story to the Truthers. She had worked as an exotic dancer, used drugs, engaged in promiscuous sex, and had three abortions.

She is now a Christian mother of

three and is writing a book on her life story, including how abortion hurt her life. She gave the pro-lifers her card and offered to help them in their work.

At the Baltimore stop, a middle-aged woman stopped to look at Celia's "Malachi" sign. She stared at it for a while and then exclaimed, "That's a *baby*. That's a whole baby! They do this to them and then tell me the babies can't feel it? Bulls--t!"

Albert Stecklein recalled what was perhaps one of the more memorable exchanges.

"Some guy yelled at me, 'Are you from the Westboro Baptist Church?' I said, 'No, I'm Catholic.'

"Well, that's worse!' he yelled back."

Stecklein, who has taken part in the Truth Tours for all thirteen years, reflected, "They say, 'The children shouldn't see this!' But I think that's a smokescreen.

"I don't think they're concerned with the children seeing the signs, but with how they can explain the pictures if they're pro-choice.

"They're afraid the kids would say, 'And you're *okay* with that?'"



Fr. Denis Wilde of Priests for Life accompanies Mary Catherine Beller and Paula Shute on the piano as they sing songs from 'Phantom of the Opera' at the home of Congressman Andy Harris and his wife, Cookie Harris.

40 Days for Life campaign comes to Fullerton

By Jody Ward

The nation's most innovative, peaceful pro-life prayer outreach, 40 Days for Life, came to the Baltimore neighborhood of Fullerton last spring.

Between February 13 and March 24 we joined together with people of faith and conscience from cities coast to coast and beyond to pray for an end to abortion.

40 Days for Life is a non-denominational pro-life initiative that focuses on 40 days of prayer and fasting, peaceful vigil at abortion facilities, and grassroots educational outreach. The 40-day time frame is drawn from examples throughout Biblical history.

The Fullerton campaign featured a 40-day prayer vigil in the public right-of-way outside Whole Woman's Health in the Belair Beltway Plaza on Belair Road.

All prayer vigil participants signed a statement of peace, pledging to conduct themselves in a

Christ-like manner at all times.

Whole Woman's Health offers abortions up to 20 weeks' gestation. Vigil participants are the last sign of hope for women going in for an abortion. They are also the first sign of mercy to women leaving after an abortion.

More than 100 people from 32 different churches participated in the first ever 40 Days for Life Fullerton campaign. Nationwide and internationally last spring nearly 800 babies' lives were saved, seven abortion workers quit their jobs, and seven abortion centers closed.

Janice came every week to stand and pray in the early morning. "I was holding the sign with the verse from Jeremiah, 'Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you,'" she said.

"A car stopped right in front of me at the light and I noticed a young woman in the passenger seat.

"She saw the sign and read it through. It's so hard to describe the look that came over her face. Her

whole countenance changed and tears filled her eyes.

"She tapped the young man who was driving and pointed to the sign. He read it and put his arm around her shoulder. I could see that he was asking if she was okay. She looked as if life itself had drained from her. A deep sadness came across her face. I haven't been able to get her off my mind."

"40 Days for Life is a peaceful way to be utilized for God's purpose to make a step toward ending abortion," said Amy. "We stood together united, visible for all entering and exiting the abortion mill, as well as for those going in to shop or just driving by on the street. At times, we were able to pray, fast, lend an ear or offer counsel, advice, encouragement and hope."

One morning Ruth received an obscene gesture. "I returned it with the universal love sign," she said.

The driver stopped at the light, rolled down her window and began to scream at her. "You make me sick. You're disgusting. I had an abortion at age 19 because I had a baby with no arms and legs," the driver shouted.

"I don't remember what else she said," Ruth related. "I just remember saying to her over and over, 'God loves you.' The light turned green, but she didn't move until she had had her say.

"When she finally pulled away, I burst into tears and prayed, 'Lord, please turn this woman's anger into tears that you can wipe away so that you can bring healing to her.'"

Participants have both witnessed and experienced the healing power



40 Days for Life prayer vigilers line up in front of the Belair Beltway Plaza, which houses the Whole Woman's Health abortion mill.

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Young Spanish pro-lifers brave the mean streets of Baltimore

Two summers ago, Mikel Diaz joined in the annual running of the bulls in Pamplona, Spain, in which thousands of thrill-seekers try to outrun six 1,200-pound bulls as they hurtle down the city's narrow streets.

"But I just took part in it a little," the 22-year-old architecture major from the University of Navarre in Pamplona admitted with a grin.

This summer, Mikel opted for a different kind of adventure—two months standing on the steaming sidewalks outside abortion mills in America, trying to persuade young women not to abort their babies.

Mikel and Javier Ordonez, also 22, a marketing major at University Rey Juan Carlos in Madrid, spent the first half of their stay in the U.S. in Baltimore, sidewalk counseling in front of Planned Parenthood on North Howard Street.

They are among over 50 enthusiastic Spanish college students taking part in a summer intern program sponsored by New York-based Expectant Mother Care.

"Some friends of mine came here two years ago," said Javier, adding, "In Spain, they only have two [anti-abortion] protests a year. There is a lot more pro-life activity here."

EMC President Chris Slattery began the Spanish intern program six years ago, but confined it to New York City.

This year he expanded it to cities across the country, including Miami, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Cleveland, Detroit, Los Angeles, San Antonio, and Boise, Idaho.

"The EMC program is very famous in my university," said Almu Benzo, 19, a communications major



Pro-life brochures in hand, Spanish interns wait in front of Baltimore's Planned Parenthood: (from left, standing) Beatriz Villanueva, Almu Benzo, Gonzalo Estornez, Javier Ordonez; (kneeling) Mikel Diaz and Alvaro Castiella.

at the University of Navarre.

Four of Almu's older brothers and sisters (she's the fifth of eight children) had been in the EMC program in previous years.

"My cousin came two years ago," explained Beatriz Villanueva, 20, an architecture major at Polytechnic University in Barcelona. "She told me what a good experience she had."

Almu and Beatriz spent their first two weeks in America at EMC's Life House in the Bronx with other interns, undergoing training and learning sidewalk counseling at the Bronx's notorious abortion mill, Dr. Emily's Women's Health Center.

Then Slattery drove the two to Baltimore. They arrived at their pro-life host's house in Dundalk at 11:30 p.m. July 1.

The next morning, they were off

to Planned Parenthood in a blighted and unsavory area of downtown Baltimore, where they rendezvoused with Mikel and Javier (who were staying at pro-lifer Steve Potorti's home in Highlandtown).

Mary Bergin, president of Helpers of God's Precious Infants' Baltimore chapter and a regular sidewalk counselor at the Howard Street clinic, gave them helpful tips on where to stand, what to say, and the location of nearby public restrooms and places to refill their water bottles.

Mary and Defend Life Director Jack Ames gave them a guided tour of the neighborhood, including the Basilica of the Assumption and St. Alphonsus Church (where they would often go to daily Mass in the weeks to come).

On their first day on their own, rain poured down in torrents.

Planned Parenthood's security guard solemnly informed them that the clinic had an 8-to-10-foot "easement" in front of the entrance in which they could not stand.

CBR Maryland Director Kurt Linneman arrived with pro-lifer Jonathan Darnel, posted graphic signs of aborted babies on the sidewalk, and told the interns that the security guard was fibbing; they had checked the plats, and the entire sidewalk was public property.

Linneman gave them more practical advice, a lot of pro-life material to hand out, and invited them to a barbecue the following Sunday.

After two days of incessant rain, the sun came out. The humidity spiked the heat index to 100 degrees or more, but the four held their ground.

Beatriz was surprised at the number of women going into the clinic who were willing to stop and listen to them.

"I had expected most of them would just walk by or say, 'Get away, don't bother me!' she ex-

plained.

On July 12 two more interns, Àlvaro Castiella and Gonzalo Estornes, both 18-year-old students at the University of Navarre, joined the group in front of Planned Parenthood.

The two had originally been heading to Austin, Texas, to join other pro-lifers rallying to pass Texas's law to ban abortions after 20 weeks.

"We were driving in a van through Tennessee," said Àlvaro. "We were three guys and two girls—Inigo was driving. It was raining, and the van hydroplaned and crashed."

The van was totaled, and the five were stranded deep in the Smoky Mountains, 30 miles from the nearest motel.

"An ex-military man from Vietnam drove by. He saw us and helped us out," recalled the youth.

The Viet vet gave them food and a place to stay—and the Army jacket that Àlvaro was proudly wearing.

"That guy was providential!" he

exclaimed.

On his first day at Baltimore's Planned Parenthood, "I was very shy," Àlvaro admitted.

"I had a hard time going up to people. Jonathan Darnel gave me a lot of advice on how to approach them. I talk to the guys better than the girls."

But that didn't stop him from walking up to a young, tight-lipped female clinic worker and offering her a polite smile and a flower (that he had plucked from the clinic's potted plant out front).

"Get away from me!" the girl snapped, stalking off in a huff.

On several of the days that Planned Parenthood was closed, four of the interns went to the Gynemed abortion mill on Fontana Lane in nearby Rosedale.

Gynemed, which does abortions up to 22 weeks, brags on its website, "We are located in a private medical office park where passersby are unaware of what we do. You can arrive and leave with anonymity."

The interns held a large red banner (used by Defend Life at a demonstration about a dozen years ago) that read, "Baby Butchers Located in This Complex."

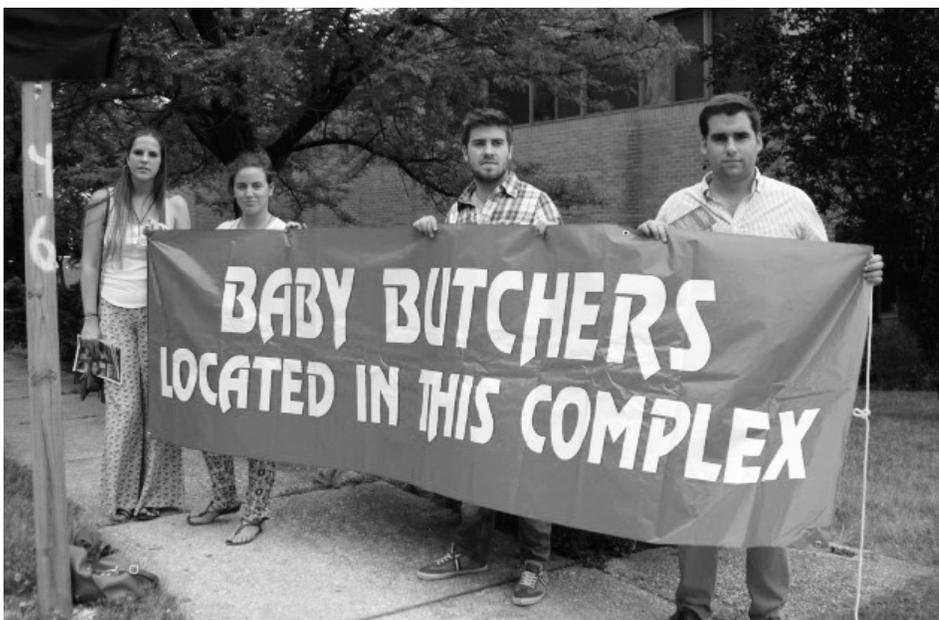
Many who drove into the private parking lot rolled down their windows to accept anti-abortion literature from the students, who informed them about Gynemed.

"Thank God you're here!" an older lady told Javier.

A U.S. postal carrier stopped his truck and said, "I want to commend you all for what you're doing."

Gynemed called the police and told them (falsely) that the interns were throwing flyers at the cars and littering the property.

The Baltimore County police



Spanish students inform the public that Gynemed abortion mill operates clandestinely in an office park in Rosedale; (from left) Beatriz Villanueva, Almu Benzo, Mikel Diaz and Javier Ordenez.

Commentary

Let's all just forget about Maria Santiago

By Diane Levero

Maria Santiago has disappeared from the face of the earth without leaving a trace.

The 38-year-old immigrant died at Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore on February 15, two days after she underwent a “simple, routine, uneventful” first-trimester abortion at Baltimore’s Associates in Ob/Gyn Care on North Calvert Street.

No one would even have known of her demise except that, pressured by some Maryland state delegates, angry over the February 7 death of Jennifer Morbelli after a late-term abortion in Germantown, the Maryland Department of Health actually inspected some abortion clinics.

Licensing requirements for Maryland abortion clinics had gone into effect on July 23, 2012. But the clinics were given “initial” licenses without an inspector setting foot on their premises.

Maryland’s Office of Health Care Quality finally got around to inspecting some of them in late February.

In early March, the Health Department suspended the licenses to perform surgical abortions of Associates in Ob/Gyn Care at their Baltimore, Silver Spring and Landover facilities, citing “deficiencies that presented an immediate and serious threat to the health and safety of patients.”

The OHCQ’s February 21 inspection report of the Baltimore

clinic makes for an interesting read.

On February 13, it states, “Patient G” [Maria Santiago] had a surgical abortion procedure performed by “Staff 3” [abortionist Iris E. Dominy].

“Patient G,” who was 12.5 weeks’ pregnant, was given intravenous sedation medication during the procedure.

“Patient, like many do, slept throughout,” the 60-year-old abortionist reported in a “progress note”: “While writing orders, [I was] called by nurse that patient could not sit up and had poor color...Patient (G) not breathing and pulse faint. I immediately began CPR...911 requested as soon as I began CPR.”

When a patient stops breathing, a “Code Blue” is called.

“During the code, Staff #4 completed three pulse checks on Patient G (58, 60, and 59 beats per minute),” the inspector’s narrative continues.

A normal pulse rate is usually 60 to 80 beats per minute, but the range is 60 to 100.

“Review of the facility’s record revealed that full vital signs [such as heart rate, breathing rate, and blood pressure] were not documented during or after the procedure,” the inspector reported. (Emphasis added.)

So, how long had the patient stopped breathing? Well, the clinic’s records don’t show, so we don’t know.

Dominy and other staff members admitted to the inspector that they had “failed to retrieve and use the AED [automated external defibrillator] during Patient G’s cardio-



Defend Lifers demonstrate outside the Maryland Board of Physicians office on June 12, the day of scheduled hearings for three abortionists whose medical licenses the Board had suspended.

pulmonary medical emergency.”

The inspector noted that “the electrode parts [on the clinic’s AED] were soiled and stuck to each other” and that the AED was not operable.

Medics arrived, continued CPR, and managed to revive Maria. They rushed her to Union Memorial, where she died two days later.

Maria’s Certificate of Death stated she died due to “severe pulmonary edema, acute respiratory distress syndrome, and hypoxic brain injury.”

No mention of the abortion. The abortion had nothing to do with it, we’re told: Maria had a pre-existing heart condition, and could have died of it at any time.

Maryland’s Chief Medical Examiner’s Office did not do an autopsy. The case “didn’t meet the criteria” of the office, spokesperson Bruce Goldfarb told *Defend Life*.

On March 25 the Health Department reinstated the licenses to perform surgical abortions of all three Associates in Ob/Gyn Care clinics, after they had each submitted a Plan of Correction; less than two months later, however, the Department again suspended their licenses.

On May 29 the Maryland Board of Physicians suspended the medical licenses of three abortionists who worked at the Calvert Street clinic: Dominy, Mansour G. Panah, and Michael A. Basco.

Their suspension orders ticked off a litany of shoddy and dangerous practices.

All three were cited for knowingly practicing “in an environment in which unlicensed /untrained office staff were allowed to perform physical examinations including ultrasounds, evaluated fetal gestational age, and provided medications to patients to promote abortions,” violations of Maryland’s surgical

abortion facility regulations “which could have resulted in serious or life-threatening harm or death.”

Basco, 53, allegedly allowed an untrained, unlicensed employee, prior to his arrival, to perform an ultrasound on a client and then administer misoprostal, a drug used to induce abortions.

Basco arrived, discovered the client was carrying “multiple fetuses,” and had a 22-week-sized uterus. He told her he couldn’t perform the abortion safely at the clinic.

With the woman presumed to be going into labor due to the misoprostal, he named a few abortion clinics or hospitals where she could

The electrode parts were soiled and stuck to each other, and the AED was not operable.

get the abortion completed, and discharged her with no written instructions.

Panah, 73, had a checkered history as an ob/gyn. He had been disciplined, in 1988 and again in 1995, for engaging in unwanted sexual conduct with a total of four patients.

In 2011 the Board placed him on two years’ probation for failing to meet appropriate standards for quality medical care.

The three abortionists were scheduled for separate hearings on their suspensions at the Maryland Board of Physicians on June 12.

The Board upheld Basco’s license suspension, but lifted Panah’s.

Dominy’s scheduled hearing did not occur, and her medical license remains suspended.

Is the Board continuing to dig into Dominy’s action relevant to the

death of Maria Santiago?

Let’s hope so.

As to the purported causes of Santiago’s death, pulmonary edema, in most cases, *is* caused by heart problems.

But it can also be caused by adverse reactions to a variety of drugs ranging from heroin and cocaine to aspirin.

Santiago received IV sedation medications Ketamine, Versed and Fentanyl, as well as misoprostal. Could she have had an adverse reaction to any of them?

Hypoxic brain injury is caused by a decrease in the supply of oxygen going to the brain. The prospect for recovery depends on how much time passed while the brain was not receiving enough oxygen.

Why was there no written record of Santiago’s vital signs during or after the abortion?

For how long a period had she stopped breathing? Might a quicker awareness that she was not breathing, and consequently a quicker response, possibly have saved her life?

Efforts by *Defend Life* to locate members of Maria’s family have been unsuccessful. No one answered the door at her Woodlawn address listed in the police report, and a different name was on her mailbox.

Her cell phone number was “no longer in service.”

“Jose,” her 44-year-old boyfriend from Hampden who accompanied her to the clinic, has declined to speak to *Defend Life*.

Did Maria have children, parents, brothers or sisters who are mourning her death? Who knows? No obituary marked her passing.

How many more “Maria’s”

See SANTIAGO, page 18

Same-sex ‘marriage’ cases draw line in the sand for Christians

By Kathleen Crank

What happens to a country when its highest court forces its citizens to swallow the lie that marriage under the law of the land has morphed into a bendable Gumby that no longer requires the most basic requirement of all—a man and a woman?

The two recent Supreme Court cases on marriage, *United States v. Windsor* and *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, have forced us to deal with this unfortunate dilemma.

DOMA ‘motivated by animus’

The Federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), defining marriage as between a man and a woman for purposes of Federal law, was easily passed in 1996 by a large bipartisan majority and signed by President Clinton, a Democrat.

In *United States v. Windsor*, decided June 26, the Supreme Court, in an opinion authored by Justice Anthony Kennedy, struck down Section 3 of DOMA, stating as its basic rationale that its passage was motivated by animus toward homosexual persons and a desire to express moral disapproval toward them, and that its effect was to harm them and “humiliate their children.”

(Apparently Kennedy forgot that a homosexual couple can never produce a child, and can only adopt children if the law allows it.)

Lawrence v. Texas, the sodomy case Justice Kennedy penned 10 years earlier, provided the legal underpinnings for the DOMA case.

Justice Antonin Scalia prophesied in his dissent in *Lawrence* that the logical extension of the Court’s ruling then was the legalization of

same-sex “marriage.” He was unfortunately correct.

‘Demeaning and degrading’

The DOMA ruling is arguably the most poorly reasoned and shoddy case the Supreme Court has ever produced.

To attempt to summarize the reasoning is difficult, and it is likely law professors everywhere will be scratching their heads to attempt to explain it to law students around the country.

The DOMA ruling is arguably the Court’s most poorly reasoned and shoddy case ever.

The Court spends 13 pages attempting to explain why this case should be decided by the Supreme Court, when it was clearly an exception to many standard rules of Constitutional law.

The U.S. Solicitor General, who was supposed to be defending DOMA, was actually permitted to argue in the Supreme Court against it.

This seems to be completely unprecedented in the history of the Supreme Court, as Justice Scalia pointed out in his dissent.

The Court then spends the next six pages discussing Federalism and states’ rights and the question of why, despite several detailed instances in which Federal marriage law overrules state marriage law, state law redefining marriage should trump Federal law in *this* marriage

case.

Then the Court informs the reader that the case will not be decided on this basis, stating that “it is unnecessary to decide whether this Federal intrusion on state power is a violation of the Constitution because it disrupts the Federal balance.”

Finally, the Court states the real holding of the case with barely four paragraphs to explain its constitutional reasoning. The Court says simply that “DOMA is unconstitutional as a deprivation of the liberty of the person protected by the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution.”

Equal protection is given a passing mention as something that “makes that Fifth Amendment right all the more specific and all the more better understood and preserved.”

In place of legal reasoning, the Court adopts an accusatory tone, stating that “no legitimate purpose overcomes the purpose and effect to disparage and injure those whom the State seeks to protect.”

The Court accuses those involved in passing DOMA of “demeaning and degrading” homosexual persons and “humiliating tens of thousands of children of same-sex couples” (with no factual references to back up this number).

The Court includes almost no language discussing the legitimate purposes Congress had in enacting DOMA or marriage in general and its meaning, nor does it apply the rigorous legal tests ordinarily applied to the declining legal doctrine of “substantive due process” that it based its decision on.

This standard requires that

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DEFEND LIFE

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Fighting the Culture of Death since 1987*

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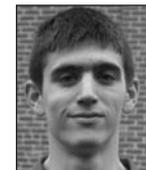
August 15, 2013 Anno Domini
Feast of the Assumption



Dear Friend of DEFEND LIFE,

Our 13th Annual Maryland Face the Truth Tour is now history. Let me tell you some of my priceless memories. But first, let me thank all of **YOU** who helped us financially, with meals, with accommodations, and your presence at our 15 Stops. Because of **YOU**, we met our goal of **\$16,000**.

Special thanks go to our Co-Directors **Julie Smith** from Stephens City, Virginia, and **Andrew Golden**, Christendom College class of 2014 from Warfordsburg, Pennsylvania. Three of Andrew's sisters, Angela, Emily, and Maggie, were invaluable as well as Paula Shute and Mary Catherine Beller, Ave Maria Class of 2016, Katherine Crank, Evangel Class of 2017, Celia Roberts, and all of our Core Team.



Here are some of my best memories.

- Walking the beautiful outdoor Stations of the Cross as the sun was setting on Sunday night at beautiful San Damiano Retreat House surrounded by the corn fields of rural Northwestern Virginia.



- Talking to a very friendly Charles Town, West Virginia policeman. He had grown up in Remington, a Baltimore blue collar neighborhood. He had attended Calvert Hall High School in Baltimore. Sadly, he was a lapsed Catholic. I told him about beautiful St. James Catholic Church right there in Charles Town and that he needed to get back to his Catholic faith. I taught him the **Memorare**, the Prayer that never fails, and told him to pray it daily.

- The wonderful priest we met in front of the Vatican Embassy in Washington during our noon stop on Tuesday. He has been on loan from the Diocese of Brooklyn to the Vatican for the last 20 years and was a friend of the legendary **Monsignor Phillip Reilly**, Founder of **Helpers of God's Precious Infants**. I gave him Monica Miller's great book, **Abandoned: The Untold Story of the Abortion Wars** and said to pass it to his boss, the Papal Nuncio, after reading it.



- Our Chevy Chase stop is one of my all-time favorites. The traffic is so heavy during afternoon rush hour that thousands of cars literally inch by our set signs which stretch all the way from Chevy Chase Circle to Bradley Boulevard. Many passersby are most likely pro-abortion government workers who are forced to face what they say they favor! **Chief John Fitzgerald**, who had his police out in force, could not have been more professional and helpful.



- Our Columbia stop on Little Patuxent Parkway was interesting. For years, I had been itching to make Columbia one of 15 Stops. That's because Columbia was a completely planned community begun in the late 1960s by James Rouse. I have always had a problem with **planned communities** because of their restrictive covenants on churches which prohibit steeples and crosses as is the case in Columbia. To his credit, Rouse built great projects like **Harborplace** in Baltimore and **Faneuil Hall** in Boston.

Before we knew it, there were five or six police cruisers joining us on the median strip we had occupied with lights flashing wildly. It was obviously the result of a torrent of **911** calls from residents of Columbia objecting vehemently that their pristine community had been invaded by persons holding pictures of aborted babies. The flashing lights plus police cruisers parked on the inside lane created total gridlock for about 20 minutes, which meant that Columbians had more time to observe our images of aborted babies as they inched by.

- In Westminster, a woman confronted me who wanted to know how we rationalized using our images of aborted babies in areas where children might be present. My answer was that adults seemed to have more problems than children, who can immediately see the evil implicit in abortion. When it turned out that she was a Unitarian Universalist minister, I went for the jugular and asked her whether she believed abortion was morally acceptable. She sheepishly admitted she was **PRO-CHOICE**.

- On Thursday, Mass was celebrated at St. Mary of the Assumption in Baltimore by **Fr. Denis Wilde**, O.S.A. Father Wilde was a seminarian at Villanova studying philosophy while I was an undergraduate studying engineering. Little did we know then how our lives would intertwine after 1998 when this great priest became full-time with **Priests for Life**.



After Mass, Father performed a short organ recital in the choir loft that included beautiful patriotic music. Later that evening, we picnicked at the lovely home of Andy and Cookie Harris and their 5 children. In his spare time, Andy is an **OB-GYN** anesthesiologist and a



United States Congressman fighting tenaciously to take back America. Cookie is involved in everything **PRO-LIFE** you can imagine. Towards the end of that evening, Fr. Wilde was at it again, playing piano music from the *Phantom of the Opera* accompanied by 3 home-schooled female Core Team members whose voices were heavenly. Father Wilde is such a blessing to the **PRO-LIFE** movement. Please encourage your pastor to invite him to preach at all Masses on a given weekend at your parish and to give an organ or piano recital that same weekend.

- Our luncheon speaker on Monday was **Chris Manion**, Notre Dame, Class of '68. He gave a great talk on the Notre Dame we all loved in our youth. He compared ND in 1900 when it was rich in spirit and poor in endowment to ND today which is poor in spirit and has a \$6.3 billion endowment. This endowment is so large that it could provide free tuition to all of its students and the endowment would continue to grow. Instead, the typical ND graduate whose family is paying **\$50K** per year is saddled with a **\$100K** debt the day he or she graduates. When married to a spouse with a similar debt, will they be open to the gift of human life or will they more than likely contracept? **Chris Manion says the latter.**



Chris's father was Clarence Manion, Dean of Notre Dame's Law School who knew such luminaries as **Knute Rockne**. Chris has taught at Boston University, University of Dallas, Catholic University, and Christendom College. He also worked as a staffer for the great **Senator Jesse Helms** from North Carolina. He now writes a weekly column entitled, *From Under the Rubble*, which is a must-read for all serious **PRO-LIFE** Catholics. To become a subscriber, contact the Fitzgerald-Griffin Foundation at **FGFBooks.com**. Listen to Chris Manion's soul-stirring talk which is posted at **DefendLife.org**.



- All 5 of our luncheon speakers were outstanding, but another that was extremely memorable was Delegate **Bob Marshall** from Manassas, Virginia. Bob Marshall heads up the **PRO-LIFE** Delegation in Richmond, where he is regarded as one of the most effective state legislators in America. I think of him as a modern day **Patrick Henry**. He is an insatiable reader, a great student of history, and is a tireless fighter against big government run amuck.

He detailed how as a young Congressional staffer in the 1970s he came up with the idea of ending federal funding of abortions. Ultimately, this motion was introduced by **Henry Hyde**, a freshman Congressman from Illinois. It became known as the **Hyde Amendment** which bans federal funding of most abortions to this very day.

Bob also explained how he acted as a conduit between **Nellie Gray** and **Ronald Reagan** in 1978 leading to primary victories in 15 key states. This led to the election and reelection of **America's greatest modern day President**. Hear this great talk at **DefendLife.org**.



And thanks for all you do to save innocent pre-born babies from death by abortion.

Long Live Christ Our King,

Jack Ames
Jack Ames, Director

P.S. **Sign up now for our 2014 Core Team. See ad on page 20.**

RULINGS, from page 9

rights be rooted in the nation's history and tradition. Of course, same-sex "marriage" is not.

There is also no more than a passing mention of the historical rationale for marriage as properly defined. Justice Samuel Alito points out in his dissent that the basis for the Court's holding could not hold up under the legal analysis that it was supposed to make, and that the case is really about two competing ideas about marriage, the historical and the new progressive definition.

If there is any silver lining, it appears to be that the basis of this case is so weak it could be blown away by a strong wind.

In sum, the Supreme Court

embraces the "name-calling as an argument" strategy that the homosexual movement has adopted and strongly implies that anyone with a traditional view of marriage is, as Justice Scalia skillfully stated in his dissent, an "enemy of the State."

This is a frightening harbinger of the elite's view of Christians and the persecution to come for those who "cling to their religion," as President Obama observed disparagingly years ago.

The Court implies that if you have a traditional view of marriage, you're an 'enemy of the State.'

This case seems to be Part I of the *Roe v. Wade* of marriage, and reveals a breathtaking amount of judicial arrogance.

It also rewards a President bent on abandoning his constitutional duty to uphold and defend duly enacted laws of Congress by permitting him to argue in Court against DOMA.

Blow to citizens' rights

The Proposition 8 Case, *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, delivers a severe blow to citizens' rights to restrain a tyrannical government.

Proposition 8, the California constitutional amendment defining marriage between a man and a woman, was a hard fought battle for the soul of the California voters. In the end, the marriage amendment passed and became a part of the California Constitution.

In *Hollingsworth*, the Court held that the citizens who passed the amendment as a check on judi-

cial overreach had no legal right to defend it.

This essentially appears to have rendered the entire California referendum process meaningless, as a single decision of a Federal district court judge appears to be enough to render the whole amendment unenforceable.

This is currently in legal dispute, however, and the reach of the Federal District Court's decision that Proposition 8 is unconstitutional has yet to be fully decided.

What next for Christians? These rulings are a clear sign of a line being drawn in the sand to separate the sheep from the goats in our Christian nation.

The goats, representing many churches and denominations, will bend to conform to popular culture and the approval of man. The sheep will continue to speak the truth, fight valiantly for the truth, and suffer the attendant persecution.

Parents will have to fight harder than ever for the souls of their children, who are undergoing an all-out assault on their innocence.

In the legal and political realm, the Supreme Court has often received a "pass" on its wicked judgments from We the People.

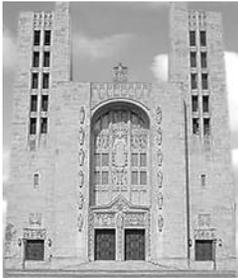
This must stop, and the Supreme Court must be called to account by the citizenry for its increasingly bizarre and unjustifiable decisions. The Supreme Court cannot have any power not given by We the People.

Finally, our reluctance to amend the U.S. Constitution must give way to willingness to do so for the sake of the lives of innocent babies and the integrity of God's most precious institution besides the Church, marriage.

Kathleen Crank, J.D., is treasurer and cofounder of Protect Marriage MD PAC.

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In My Humble Opinion

CCHD's hands dirty in Texas abortion-ban showdown

By Janet Baker

On June 25, as midnight drew near, a late-term abortion ban failed to pass the Texas State Senate, due in large part to an 11-hour filibuster by pro-abortion Senator Wendy Davis.

When her filibuster ended, pro-abortion spectators in the gallery let loose with boos, jeers and cat-calls until midnight signaled the end of the special session called by Governor Rick Perry largely to pass the abortion ban.

Fortunately for the babies of Texas, Perry immediately called another special session. Pro-life activists rushed to Texas to oppose the pro-abortion mobs. On July 13 the abortion ban (HB2) passed both houses and was signed into law by Governor Perry.

The benefits are already being realized, even though the law won't go into effect for another few months. Three Planned Parenthood facilities in Texas (including the one from which Abby Johnson walked away) will close their doors.

More closures are anticipated. Other states enacting measures to hold abortionists to minimum medical standards have seen similar benefits. Virginia's largest abortion center, NOVA Women's Health Care of Fairfax, has closed its doors following passage of such a law.

In Texas, the behavior of the pro-abortion activists can only be described as oafish—and that's being charitable.

During the first go-around, the loud cat-calling and racket was be-

ing encouraged from sources outside the room.

One of those instigators (via Twitter) was none other than Cecile Richards, current CEO of Planned Parenthood Federation of America and daughter of former Texas governor Ann Richards.



CCHD Director Ralph McCloud was campaign treasurer for State Senator Wendy Davis, who filibustered Texas' late-term abortion ban.

During the second go-around, Texas State Police confiscated from these less-than-gracious individuals jars filled with human urine, feces and paint. They were planning to hurl this stuff onto the legislators on the floor below.

Their lack of intellect and decorum is apparent in these pictures: saynsumthn.wordpress.com/2013/07/12/prochoice-girl-holds-offensive-poster-attaching-jesus-on-abortion/.

But one of the most troubling aspects of the Texas "showdown" is that Wendy Davis' political career

was aided by a Catholic high in the U.S. Church bureaucracy.

Wendy Davis ran for her Texas State Senate seat in 2008. Her campaign treasurer was Ralph McCloud. Prior to that campaign, the two worked together in Texas politics for at least six years.

McCloud is now national director of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

At the time McCloud joined the Davis campaign, he was in his first year of directing the CCHD. In other words, he held these two positions concurrently.

McCloud *had* to know of Davis' pro-abortion support, having worked with her for many years. Moreover, her opponent for that seat was the pro-life incumbent.

That means that Ralph McCloud, while director for a national Catholic social justice agency, publicly supported a pro-abortion politician in opposition to a pro-life candidate.

Davis won that election with McCloud's direct assistance. Davis' filibuster might not have happened without his help.

From that we may infer that McCloud, head of the CCHD, would have had his hand in defeating pro-life legislation in Texas—had not Governor Perry the tenacity to withstand Davis and go ahead with the second session.

How much innocent blood might the director of the CCHD have had on his hands as a result?

While the preceding thoughts involve some speculation, it is a fact that Ralph McCloud and many

at CCHD display abysmally poor judgment in setting their priorities for issues they address and recipients of money and assistance. I hope it's merely a case of poor judgment; otherwise, it's a case of malevolent intent.

Those of you in the Archdiocese of Washington should have received post cards by now, advising you not to donate to the CCHD collection during the weekend of August 10-11.

The CCHD collection for the Archdiocese of Baltimore remains scheduled for November. We will remind you before then not to contribute to that collection.



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CAMPAIGN, from page 4

of Christ. Betty said, "40 Days for Life has helped me come out of hiding from my own abortions to begin the healing process with loving, compassionate people. They have awakened in me the courage to stand up and speak out for the sanctity of life and to be a voice for the precious unborn."

The Fall 40 Days for Life Campaign is set for September 25 through November 3.

"Once again we will 'Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,' as Proverbs 31:8 says," said Rick Ward, co-director of the 40 Days for Life Fullerton Campaign. "We hope that many praying people will join us for the fall 40 Days for Life Campaign and defend the rights of the unborn."

Jody Ward is campaign director for 40 Days for Life Fullerton, a full-time wife and mother of five. Her email is sevenwards@juno.com.

INTERNS, from page 6

officer courteously advised them to stay on the public sidewalk and left.

Back at Planned Parenthood, on July 11, the interns saw two police

detectives, dressed in business suits but with holstered guns, enter the clinic.

"I spoke with one of them," said Javier. "He said they were doing an investigation, but he couldn't tell us any more.

"He also said he is against abortion and is proud of what we're doing."

Did the young Spanish pro-lifers have any "saves"?

They had quite a few "maybes" and at least three "for sures."

On July 17, Beatriz talked at length to a 21-year-old woman who said she was 3 months' pregnant.

Beatriz showed her a plastic model of a 3-month-old unborn baby.

"This is what your baby looks like right now," she told her. "She was shocked!"

But the woman went in anyway. When she came out two hours later, Beatriz assumed she had had an abortion.

"I felt so sorry for her. I didn't know what to say. But she called out to me, 'I didn't have the abortion!' and she looked very happy."

"Getting 'saves' on the street is tough," acknowledged EMC's Slattery.

So part of the interns' work is counseling at rented office spaces near the abortion clinics.

In Baltimore Slattery set up a counseling office on East Pratt Street, just blocks from Planned Parenthood, where abortion-minded girls can receive personal counseling by appointment.

Despite the snarls and headaches inevitable in such a wide-based program, Slattery plans to keep it going in summers to come.

"We're hitting the Planned Parenthoods in every city we're in," he noted with pride.

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Moral Family Planning is NFP from a deeper perspective

By KC Schnitker

I am an instructor of NFP—Natural Family Planning, but I'd really like to call it "MFP"—Moral Family Planning.

Moral Family Planning is the use of one of the fertility awareness methods (I teach the Ovulation Method); "periodic continence;" to achieve pregnancy; or for a serious reason, to postpone pregnancy. It is also living your married life open to the children God may send; all of these are "moral" family planning.

I think MFP makes proper priorities clear—not that the No. 1 element of family planning should be "natural" so much as it should be "moral."

It also highlights that if there is a "moral family planning," there is also an "immoral family planning," and it prompts the question, "What might that be?"

The sharing of information with couples about this topic by pastors is an absolute moral and practical imperative these days because, as Fr. Daniel McCaffrey of NFP Outreach says, "The battle is nuclear."

At every turn couples are bombarded, pressured, harassed, terrified and guilted to contracept. If NFP/MFP instruction is not a priority for pastors, couples are pretty much sitting ducks—practically helpless against the pressure. With basic knowledge about fertility and his support they can stand against it.

Because of this nuclear battle, I'm constantly calling and visiting area priests to introduce myself and offer classes, and asking whether they require a course for engaged couples.



Moral Family Planning, as Blessed John Paul II said, facilitates a conversion, and a couple's faith becomes a priority.

If not, I encourage them to do so, because the use of NFP or MFP truly defends life, promotes life and brings life to marriages, the Church and society.

It defends life because it is not at all contraceptive. Most contraceptives—the pill, patch, shot, IUD and ring—act as abortifacients. There are about ten times more chemical abortions every year than there are surgical abortions. Wherever the contraceptive rate is highest, the surgical abortion rate is the highest.

Combine the surgical and chemical abortion rates and we have a staggering loss of life. The contraceptive methods that are not chemical abortifacients—condoms, withdrawal, sterilization, etc., feed the abortion mills.

When a couple sterilizes the ultimate act of love they can share, their fertility is cut off, and the idea and natural end/purpose of the marital act, the potential child, is cut off.

As a result, life, fertility, conception, pregnancy, babies, children are seen as unwanted: diseases, parasites, too much work, burdens, unwelcome guests in a couple's "pleasure act."

So life and children are devalued and dehumanized and become a kind of commodity to be disposed of at will.

MFP promotes life. When couples use moral family planning, the potential child and motherhood/fatherhood are always connected to the ultimate act of love they share—the physical renewal of their wedding vows—a source of actual grace for the couple when the vows are renewed honestly: either because they are willing to parent the child should they conceive during the fertile time (about 100 hours) or if they have serious reasons to postpone pregnancy, they are willing to abstain from the marital embrace (sexual intercourse).

The couple who use MFP recognize and respect the unitive/procreative nature of sexuality, and so in a very short time this constant connection changes the way the couple sees children.

Fears are diminished and they begin to see them through the lens of the ultimate act of love they share and as the fruit of their love.

Finally, the use of MFP brings life. Couples who use moral family planning tend to have larger families, not because MFP isn't effective to postpone pregnancy (it's 98-99 percent effective), but because they begin to see children as a blessing, and so become open to new life.

Through their practice of self-denial and self-control and willingness to sacrifice out of love for each other and our Lord, they lose their fears of responsibility and even of suffering.

I recently spoke with a priest

who told me that because the parish has a school, he doesn't have time to promote moral family planning. I suggested that if it was not promoted, in ten years he would not have a school.

I could name many parents I have taught whose children attend that parish school. These couples came to me with two, three or four children and were "done," but wanted to postpone or even avoid pregnancy morally.

Through the use of MFP and how it changes the way couples see children, they now have six or seven, five of whom attend that school.

MFP, as Blessed John Paul II said, facilitates a conversion, and their faith becomes a priority; so much so that they are willing to make the financial sacrifice to send their children to Catholic school.

I am a big fan of MFP! It changed my marriage. After being

married 22 years, my husband says his favorite time of day is coming home and kissing me (that's pretty romantic after 22 years!)

It's not because I am particularly fabulous; it's because moral family planning boots lust right out the door, reorients the way the couple see each other, and purifies their intentions, especially sexually.

This is so important, especially for women, who after a while, when lust is the dominant factor in the marital embrace, as happens with the use of contraception, well, we get—headaches, because "Real Women Don't Like Lust."

And that just happens to be the title of Part 2 in this series!

KC Schnitker lives in Southern Maryland and teaches for the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., and for Family of the Americas. Her website is FamilyNFP.com.



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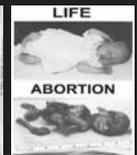
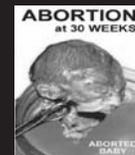
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Harrisburg pro-lifers score victories in bullhorn cases

By Sue Doller

Do pro-lifers have a constitutionally protected right to use bullhorns to reach abortion-minded women at abortion facilities?

A small group of us pro-lifers in Harrisburg, Pa., thought so. The police thought otherwise. Here's how things turned out.

Because of high volume traffic noise in front of the Hillcrest abortion mill on North Front Street, it had become functionally impossible for us to do counseling or outreach to abortion-minded young women going in the front entrance.

Our voices were completely drowned out by morning rush-hour traffic. Sidewalk counselors could access the back parking lot, but we were missing many women who walked in or were dropped off at the front door.

After some research on the First Amendment, veteran pro-lifers Ed Snell, Caroline Pittman and I concluded that amplification of constitutionally protected speech could be defended legally. We began this in earnest in March 2011.

Standing on the sidewalk in front of the clinic, we used a 50-megawatt bullhorn to broadcast the message of life to women entering the front doorway as well as to penetrate the waiting room and killing chambers.

There was a marked increase in "turnarounds"; three babies were saved on one Friday morning alone!

We could also address the mill staff as well as the abortionist himself, Earl McLeod, with messages of hard truth, Scripture and prayer, along with powerful overtures for conversion to Christ and Holy Mother Church.



Sue Doller talks with a Harrisburg police officer before her first arrest for using a bullhorn at the Hillcrest clinic.

Legally, we made sure that the volume of the bullhorn did not exceed the street/traffic level noise, which we documented with a decibel meter.

The abortuary called the police each time we used the bullhorn, and they showed up every time. The police warned me that I would be arrested, and I was on March 11. (See youtube video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CrKLVCE-f5c>.)

They charged me with disorderly conduct/unreasonable noise. Of course, I pled not guilty. I went pro se (defended myself) at the District Justice trial, where I was found guilty by District Judge Barbara Pianka.

The case was appealed to the Court of Common Pleas by two God-fearing pro-bono attorneys, Jeff Conrad and Emily Bell (from the law firm of Clymer, Musser and

Conrad in Lancaster, Pa).

Judge Bernard Coates reversed the decision of District Judge Pianka.

In the meantime, the Harrisburg police continued to violate pro-lifers' rights at Hillcrest by confiscating constitutionally protected pro-life signs, and by slapping down our camera while we were videotaping the encounters with police. (See youtube.com/watch?v=5hZyBN2WMqo and youtube.com/watch?v=hkGTy_y6bOW0).

With the court's exoneration of charges, we continued using the bullhorn until a private citizen complained and the Harrisburg police arrested me again, using the identical charges from the first arrest.

Again I defended myself before District Judge Pianka, and again was found guilty in this "Kangaroo

court.” I was not allowed to finish my cross-examination, and not allowed to call witnesses.

I addressed my final summation to Judge Pianka, who lives in the neighborhood where Hillcrest is located. She walked out during it.

I said, in part, “Everyone truly knows why we are here, and why I am here—it is the “elephant in the living room” that no one will address truthfully.

“That elephant is the killing of unborn children day in and day out since 1976 at Hillcrest Abortion Clinic on North Front Street.

“Close to 300,000 innocent children have been killed at that putrid death factory, along with the wrongful death of a woman and other untold horror stories.

“The abortuary is nicely shrouded by legitimate businesses and cozy traditional homes. Hillcrest has found a nice, quiet neighborhood to ply its deadly trade.

“Nobody in the neighborhood appears to care about what goes on inside. They only seem to care if somebody points out the tragedy, if someone makes a noise, or if their life might be inconvenienced while the butchery of human lives contin-

ues down the street.

“So while we quibble about ‘disturbing the peace,’ babies with faces and bodies are being ripped from their mother’s wombs and torn to bloody shreds while being sucked down a tube.

There definitely is a problem here—but the problem isn’t me, and

“While we quibble about ‘disturbing the peace,’ babies are being torn to bloody shreds.”

the problem isn’t noise. The problem is yourselves.

“You, in that neighborhood, let the killing go on unabated as you look the other way and complain about the scarce few who try to put an end to it. Yes, by using a little noise. May that noise, one day, wake you up to the Truth.”

Again, this case was appealed in the Court of Common Pleas, and the charges against me were summarily dismissed by District Attorney Edward Marsico.

Due to the continued harassment

and violations by the Harrisburg Police Department, four federal civil rights actions were filed against Harrisburg City and the police department by Boyle Litigation on my behalf: all were First Amendment/free speech violations documented in our videos.

In June the City of Harrisburg settled the four cases in my favor for an undisclosed sum.

A fifth case has been filed and is still pending.

The police no longer are a harassing presence, and bullhoming at the abortuary is legally permitted by the courts. Praise God.

For more information, email scdoller@comcast.net.

SANTIAGO, from page 8

have died in Maryland after abortions without public knowledge, their death attributed to a cause other than abortion?

We don’t know. The liberal, pro-abortion State of Maryland, unlike most other states, keeps no records of the number of abortions performed each year, much less how many women have died because of them.

We know of Santiago’s death almost accidentally, due to a belated OHCQ inspection.

We learned of Jennifer Morbelli’s abortion-caused death only because vigilant pro-lifers were praying and counseling outside the Germantown clinic.

Abortionists, generally the dregs of the medical profession, and their supporters don’t care about the unborn babies they’re killing.

And when a woman is injured or killed in the process, the last thing on their minds is concern for her.

The first thing on their minds is cover-up.



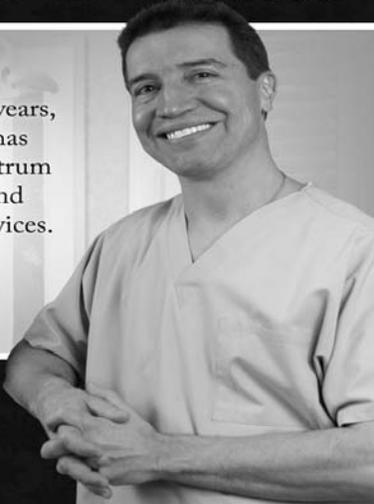
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Letters to the Editor

Upgrading abortuaries is Christian thing to do

Bob Brown in his article, "The Top 10 things that bug me about the Gosnell case," (*Defend Life*, May-June), sounds like he is on a crusade against improving safety conditions in abortuaries when he says, "Pro-Lifers cannot join with pro-abortionists to promote 'high quality abortion care,'" because that takes the focus off ending abortion, and NARAL and Planned Parenthood verbally support safer abortuaries.

But pro-lifers didn't set aside their efforts to end abortion when Gosnell was arrested several years ago or during his trial, conviction and sentencing. They are still doing the Will of God, who is directing their efforts.

Pro-lifers know that the pro-abortionists' contention that they want safe abortuaries is an outright lie, which is evident from their opposition to legislation designed to protect women, and their lawsuits against any such legislation that becomes law.

We also hear them saying they will be forced to close many abortuaries when protective legislation goes into effect. While that is true in some cases, it is a gross exaggeration, as most of the abortuaries will be upgraded to comply with safety regulations. When NARAL and Planned Parenthood issue such statements, they are lying to elicit public support.

We don't need to abide filthy abortuaries with incompetent, unscrupulous abortionists injuring women. They will always be harmful places for women.

Trying to clean up abortuaries

does not detract from the pro-life mission; it is a synergistic activity, especially in a public relations vein.

It is also a Christian thing to do as the Gospel tells us that everyone is our neighbor, even those who may be killing innocent, defenseless babies. We should do our best to stop the killing, but we don't wish women unnecessary harm.

John Naughton
naughtonjj@gmail.com

Misery loves company

I can't say I enjoyed the article, "Can a 'good' pro-life Catholic be pro-death penalty?" (May-June *Defend Life*), except in the sense that "misery loves company."

That article let me know that the Maryland Catholic Conference (MCC) is as destructive as the Virginia Catholic Conference (VCC). The VCC, representing nobody but the two bishops who own it and their paid employees, lobbies the Virginia Legislature on a host of "social justice" matters while presuming to speak in the name of the Catholic laity of Virginia.

For example, here are just some of our bishops' priorities: in-state tuition for illegal aliens, ending execution of murderers, gun control, voting rights for felons, full implementation of Obamacare, and opposition to uranium mining.

Meanwhile, if there is a pro-life organization such as Defend Life functioning anywhere in Virginia, it sure keeps a low profile.

Virginia Right to Life, founded and thriving in the 1970s when the late Thomas Welsh was Bishop of Arlington and enjoying his support, is long gone.

While campaigning to end the death penalty, the VCC allied itself with one of the Virginia Senate's most adamant supporters of abortion and gave her favorable publicity in the Diocesan newspaper.

Young pro-life Catholics might wonder how the Church got so far off its mission. I recommend they view this Michael Voris video, which is an excellent lesson in modern Church history: churchmilitant.tv/_daily/?today=2013-06-19.

It is a history I lived through, and Mr. Voris tells it as I remember it. The seminarians of the 1960s became today's bishops.

Thomas L. McFadden
McLean, Virginia
thomaslmcfadden@gmail.com

THINKING LONG-TERM?

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