



DEFEND LIFE

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

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CPC buys property next to Planned Parenthood Will open pregnancy center at 328 North Howard Street

Real estate agents have a maxim: the three most important factors in the value of a property are location, location, and location.

That's why Carol Clews was so excited when she received a phone call early in January from a gentleman proposing to donate a piece of property to the Center for Pregnancy Concerns.

"I want to give you a building!" he told Clews, who is executive director of the center.

The property he wanted to donate was a 3-story brick storefront at 328 North Howard Street in Baltimore. Adjacent to the property, at 330 North Howard Street, is the headquarters for Planned Parenthood of Maryland.

The Center for Pregnancy Concerns already had four locations: in Essex, on East 22nd Street in Baltimore City, in Dundalk, and in Arbutus, where women facing unplanned pregnancies receive counseling and concrete help in carrying and caring for their babies.

But if CPC had a location next to the Planned Parenthood on Howard Street, where abortions are actually performed, how many more women might be reached with alternatives to abortion; how many more pre-born babies might be saved? Clews



Next-door neighbors

The Center for Pregnancy Concerns will be locating a pregnancy center in the building on left, adjacent to Planned Parenthood's Maryland headquarters in Baltimore.

reasoned.

The would-be donor explained that the property would be sold at a public auction on January 19.

"We had a walk-through on January 13," said Clews.

Along with a realtor, Clews, CPC Development Director Bob Gaines, pro-lifer Jody Ward and David Steck toured the building.

The building was in appalling condition, Clews recalled: "It would

have to be completely gutted."

Steck, a building contractor, "gave us a very rough estimate of what renovation might cost," she said.

The property, built in 1920 and formerly occupied by an electronics and jewelry store, hadn't been occupied for years.

The walls were full of mold and would have to be torn down. The roof needed major repairs. Heat-

ing and air-conditioning, plumbing and electricity would need to be replaced. The stairway would have to be reconstructed.

“When we saw the condition of the building, we said we weren’t interested,” said Gaines; “the cost of the building and the rehabilitation would be too much.”

At that point, however, another donor stepped in and offered to match the amount the initial donor had pledged.

The auction of the property was set for 11:00 a.m. on January 19.

“We had a board meeting that morning,” said Clews.

The CPC Board of Directors members at the meeting “were really not on board with the purchase,” she said. “They were still very reticent. It was an extremely emotional meeting. There were many prayers and tears.”

But by the end of the meeting, the consensus to buy the building was a unanimous “yes.”

“I was clearly feeling that God was with us and what we should

do,” said Clews.

After the meeting, Clews, Gaines, and one of the donors set out for the auction, held on the premises by Alex Cooper auctioneers.

“It really had me on edge,” said Gaines.

“We were *very* anxious,” Clews agreed. “We had a cap figure as to how much we would offer.”

Bidding started at \$50,000.

But their suspense on that cold, sunny morning did not last long.

“There were only three bidders, and one dropped out early,” Gaines explained.

The auction was over in ten minutes. The building sold to the Center for Pregnancy Concerns for \$90,000. (A 5% premium added to the “hammer” price brought the amount to \$94,500.)

Settlement for the property occurred on March 10.

Two days later, Clews was present at an exorcism conducted by Fr. Richard Gray, pastor of St. Clare’s Catholic Church in Essex, “to spiritually cleanse the building,” said Clews.

Next, she said, “We’ll be calling four or five contractors to get estimates, to get the best deal” on the massive amount of renovations that must be done.

A planning committee comprised of members of CPC’s Board of Directors will guide the work.

Gaines estimates that the renovations will take six to eight months, with the new pregnancy center opening in the fall.

Like each of CPC’s center locations, the Howard Street pregnancy center will have a paid center coordinator, who will supervise volunteers, create the center’s schedule, handle data entry and do counseling herself.

She will provide training for the center’s volunteers, who will work as counselors, receptionists, and phone helplineers (who can serve from home).

Every woman who comes to a CPC center has a private counseling session, and is given a Bible and the good news of Jesus Christ, said Clews.

“We do have a portable ultrasound, but part of our plans from Day 1 will be to have an ultrasound at the Howard Street center. We want to show pregnant mothers that this is a precious child in their womb, not just a clump of cells.”

At the Howard Street center, “We hope to attract more abortion-minded women to our doors, and also women in general—mothers who need material assistance,” she added.

Three of CPC’s centers have an Earn While You Learn program, which offers pregnant mothers and mothers with young babies DVD



Carol Clews and Bob Gaines discuss plans for renovating the Howard Street property.

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3 Md. libraries dump kids' sex ed classes after uproar —but leave door open for future sex Q&A sessions for children

Georgia Kijesky was skimming through the St. Mary's *County Times* when a notice in the paper's Library Calendar caught her attention.

"Lexington Park Library will hold Straight Talk Sex Ed for Teens (ages 12-17) with sex educator Bianca Palmisano on Saturday, March 4 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.," the blurb read.

"Everyone has questions about sexual health, whether it's birth control, lubricant, STI testing, LGBTQ relationships, or something else completely.

"This will be an informal workshop where you can ask ANY sexual health question you want and get an honest answer. Free safer sex kits, information about local clinics, and other resources will be available."

Kijesky, a Great Mills, Md., resident and homeschooling mother of four, was nonplussed: why would the library be offering such a session to minors—and who was this "sex educator," Bianca Palmisano?

She immediately started researching on the Internet. "I was *shocked*, absolutely *shocked* at what I discovered!" she confessed.

Palmisano is the director of operations for The Garden, a sex education initiative in Washington, D.C., according to mykidisgay.com.

The Garden, a sexuality resource center and toy shop, has provided reviews on sex toys on YouTube.

"Bianca is also a pole dancer, blues dancer and self-professed geek," says the website.

She has appeared at events like the University of Maryland's Sex Week and offers free sex education programming to DC non-profits.



Sex educator Bianca Palmisano's Maryland library classes for kids aged 12-17 have been cancelled, but some library officials are still open to future sex ed classes for children.

Palmisano, a self-described lesbian, supports HIPSDC (Helping Individual Prostitutes Survive), a Washington, D.C., group that advocates the legalization of prostitution.

She has given presentations on B & D (Bondage & Discipline), D & S (Dominance & Submission), and S & M (Sadism & Masochism).

She has solicited people on her Twitter page who promote "rope," "bondage," and asphyxiation."

To top it off, Palmisano's organization, Intimate Health Consulting, partners with Good Clean Love—"a lubricant company that creates a body-healthy alternative to products available at the grocery store"—to bring sex education classes to small

towns across Maryland.

Kijesky was furious.

"This is the woman our public library deems an 'expert' on the topic!" she declared.

"This is the person they—after investigating both her and her materials—approved of and invited to educate our children about sex, without written parental consent or presence."

Besides the classes scheduled for Lexington Park Library in St. Mary's County, Kijesky learned that sex ed classes for minors were also scheduled at:

- Waldorf West Library in Waldorf, Charles County (ages 12-

17), March 6

- Kent Island Library, Stevensville, Queen Anne's County, (ages 12-15, and a separate, concurrent adult class), March 8.

Sex ed class 'good idea'

Kijesky, a pro-lifer and Defend Life supporter, went on the warpath.

She contacted Sid Marcus, chairman of Charles County Right to Life, who alerted his members via a February 21 email: "Small Town Sex Ed Tour coming to Charles County."

Kijesky talked by phone to the assistant branch manager of the Lexington Park Library, Amy Kirchofer.

She wanted to know how library classes are approved.

"Ms. Kirchofer told me that a group of people get together and look over the materials and thoroughly investigate the person presenting the materials," Kijesky recalled.

Kirchofer recommended that she talk to the library's deputy director, Mary Ann Bowman, one of the group that approved the class.

Bowman, according to Kijesky, told her that she thought the sex ed class was "a good idea because it is what our children want that they're not finding out in school.

"Face it—children are having sex and we wanted them to have a safe space to ask any question they want to find out that information, to give teens the opportunity to ask questions they would be afraid to ask their parents," Bowman reportedly told Kijesky.

"So what do lubricants have to do with safe sex?" asked Kijesky.

Bowman replied that she didn't know, and told her that she had

trusted her employees to do the actual investigation.

"I informed her that it took me only a few minutes to find some very disturbing things about Palmisano." She listed a few of the more prurient ones.

Finally, said Kijesky, Bowman asked rudely, "What is it that you want?"

"I replied, 'I want the class canceled.'

"She coldly replied, 'Done.'"

Later that day, Kijesky spoke by phone to Lexington Park Library Director Michael Blackwell and got roughly the same reaction.

"Mr. Blackwell informed me that they fully intend to facilitate this discussion in the future," she said.



Kimberly Darling slams the Charles County Library Board of Trustees for cancelling the kids' sex ed classes.

Battle moves to Charles County

In the meantime, opposition to the library sex ed classes had spread to Charles County, with pro-lifers such as Waldorf resident Janet Beck and Karen Cross picking up the

torch.

Defend Life Director Jack Ames made a robo-call to Defend Lifers in Charles, St. Mary's and Calvert counties on March 1, informing them of the scheduled sex ed sessions for children.

"This is a tremendous, abominable invasion of parental rights and needs to be stopped!" Ames warned.

He asked the pro-lifers to attend a March 2 town hall meeting at Waldorf West library to voice their concerns.

When the smoke cleared, the sex ed classes scheduled for Lexington Park and Waldorf West libraries had been cancelled.

"This was a united effort by an army of concerned families in Southern Maryland," who called library officials, county commissioners, and other elected representatives, voicing their opposition to the sex ed classes, said Kijesky.

The Kent Island Library in Queen Anne's County was another matter, however.

"The library's director, John Walden, was obstinate and absolutely refused to cancel the classes, stating the library is an educational institution and it is not in the business of censorship," Kijesky emailed supporters on March 1.

"So I contacted Queen Anne County Commissioner James Moran, and after hearing his reaction (of shock and horror) to this news, I pray, God, that those classes will be cancelled very soon too," she said.

By March 6, the Queen Anne's County Library online calendar (calendar.qaclibrary.org/event/3025842), had posted, in reference to the Straight-Talk Sex Ed for Teens with Sex Educator, Bianca Palmisano scheduled for March 8 at the Kent Island Library, "We have canceled the event at this time due

to low enrollment.”

Palmisano ‘very qualified’

At their March 2 meeting at Waldorf West Library, members of the Charles County Library Board of Trustees made it clear that the board is still open to children’s sex ed programs.

“I have had multiple calls, multiple emails” from citizens objecting to the classes, Board of Trustees President Claudia Bellony-Atanga told the other board members at the meeting.

Following the public outcry, the board had convened a special closed meeting on February 22, and decided to cancel the classes at the Waldorf West branch.

Up to this point, the Board of Trustees had left decisions on the subject matter of library classes or programs up to the staff of each library.

“We’ve never dealt with anything like this before!” said Bellony-Atanga at the March 2 meeting.

“We need to review the policy for vetting programs. I think that anything out of the normal range or scope of the library—something that’s polarizing—needs to be vetted” by the Board of Trustees.

“This particular program was cancelled, but *not* the topic!” emphasized board member Kiran Sitoula; “It is canceled until further notice.”

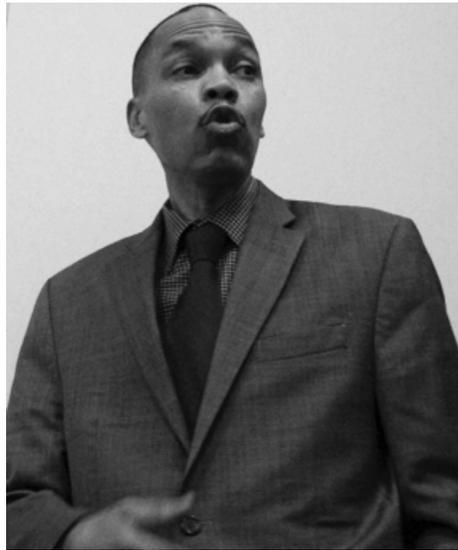
Bellony-Atanga said that the board will review its policy at the next Board of Trustees meeting on April 6.

Six of the nine people who spoke during the Public Comment part of the March 2 board meeting opposed the board’s cancelling of the kids’ sex ed classes.

Zachary Ball, the first to com-

ment, said, “I researched the speaker; I find Bianca Palmisano very qualified to speak on the subject.”

“I believe the libraries should be equal opportunity offenders,” said Charles County resident Lisa



“You made the right, courageous decision,” Kevin Washington tells the Charles County Library Board of Trustees.

Clarke. “There should be something in the library to offend everybody.”

“When we got informed about the teen sex ed program, we said, ‘Hurray!’” said Kimberly Darling, who identified herself as the mother of three children, the oldest of whom is 15.

But commenter Kevin Washington warned, “There’s a legal liability that comes with the dispensing of this information.

“You made the right, courageous decision,” he told the board. “There’s many people that will stand up for that decision.”

Library directors’ ‘indifference’

Opponents to the kids’ sex-ed library classes reinforced their op-

position at a packed, three-hour meeting of the St. Mary’s County commissioners in Leonardtown on March 7.

Ashley Morgan, who helped lead the fight against the classes in St. Mary’s County, told the commissioners, “Sex is pleasurable, but it’s also powerful. It creates a human soul that one day has to stand before God.”

But Kijesky knows the battle is not over.

“While we are very happy these classes have been canceled at the Lexington Park and Charles County libraries, the *real* problem lies with the people in positions of power working at the library who are of the opinion that the library can and should be facilitating sex discussions for our children,” she asserted.

“What is most unsettling is the indifference demonstrated by the directors whom I have spoken with—the indifference to both the nefarious activities of Bianca Palmisano, the corruption of morals of minors, and this blatant, borderline sex-offender activity,” she charged.

“All directors whom I spoke with kept reiterating their desire to create a ‘safe-space’ for teens. The fact is, there is *nothing* ‘safe’ about exposing innocent children who are on the library property to pedophiles, people with nefarious motives, sexual deviants and degenerates.

“Holding a discussion on sex invites this to our library, endangering our children.”

In a letter to elected officials Kijesky urged, “We expect you, as our elected officials, to do all in your power to prevent that from happening in our public libraries.”

Launch of Youth & Aged for Life began with singing to

By Janis Clarke

As president and founder of RosaryMission.org, my ministry for years has been to inspire and encourage people to pray the Rosary for peace and a culture of life.

While praying the Rosary one day outside the Germantown abortion clinic, I experienced an intense awareness of the spiritual battle taking place there and a profound conviction that more intercession was needed to fortify the front line.

As I tried to recruit intercessors to join me every Sunday for sustained intercession at the neighboring Germantown *good* clinic, the pregnancy center director suggested I get started on my own. I was given the gift of being able to pray with great intensity, and as I prayed, I was given a further gift—the gift of expectant faith.

I really expected that if we could get a large enough group to gather every Sunday to pray, the Lord would shut down this killing center.

Then one Sunday, something surprising happened. I was praying in the pregnancy center after the sidewalk counselors had left and all the mothers were in the abortion clinic.

Unexpectedly, the pregnancy center director asked me to speak to some people waiting in a van outside the abortion clinic. These people had been there the week before, but after speaking to the sidewalk counselors, had decided to leave. Now they were back.

As I approached the van I sensed the Lord saying, “As you pray, I will act.”

I knocked on the window and discovered a young mother with

her beautiful baby, and two precious children whose mom was in the abortion clinic with their unborn baby brother.

The woman in the van was a complete stranger to me, but as she kindly rolled down the window, I started to sing to the children. They were demonstrably delighted, and this seemed to encourage the young mom.

I asked if we could pray for her friend in the clinic, and she agreed. We prayed and sang—an intergenerational prayer gathering of sorts—until all of a sudden, from among the

**I thought, why not
invite youth and older
persons—the bookends
of life—to come together
to fight for life?**

many women waiting in the clinic that day, the very pregnant mom we were praying for walked out!

I prayed with her, encouraged her, hugged her—and sent her on her way with the information she needed to get the right kind of help.

She never came back.

The Lord arranged for a remarkably similar event to happen the very next week.

I presumed from these events that I should become a sidewalk counselor, but in the midst of my training I kept thinking about my initial conviction to gather intercessors to fortify the front line.

My experiences with the late-term moms in Germantown had increased my faith in the power of intercession and my conviction that

we needed a lot more of it.

All of this took place in the final months of 2015. At this same time, the contraceptive/abortifacient mandate that the Obama administration was trying to impose upon religious groups like the Little Sisters of the Poor was making its way to the Supreme Court.

Things looked bleak for defenders of life! It seemed there was no way the mandate could be stopped, and therefore no way the Little Sisters could continue with their ministry, for they knew the Lord did not want them to cooperate with the evil of that mandate.

As providence would have it, I was privileged to sing at the Little Sisters’ Christmas Mass. Afterwards, they shared with me about the case, and it brought to mind my experience at the abortion clinic.

This stirred in me a profound conviction that more prayer was needed to support the Sisters and their cause.

When I discovered that no prayer event open to the public had been planned for their Supreme Court case, I offered, through Rosary Mission, to organize a Holy Hour with the Rosary and invited Shalom World to come and live-stream it for worldwide prayer support. I also invited children to come.

It was a great success, absolutely awesome. The papal nuncio was there, as was Helen Alvaré, and others.

But the highlight for me was seeing the faces of the residents as I announced that the children had come to show their love for the elderly and pray in solidarity with them. And the following week there was a surprise turn of events at the Supreme Court!

Here I wish to pause my story

little children outside the Germantown abortion clinic



Young and old join together for a rousing chorus of “Every Human Life Is Sacred” to launch Youth & Aged for Life at the Little Sisters of the Poor residence in Washington, D.C.

to point out that my role is just one of many. I acknowledge with gratitude the wonderful roles that many, many faithful people have played to defend life both at the Germantown clinic and in the fight against the HHS mandate.

At the clinic these include sidewalk counsellors and prayerful, peaceful protesters, and in the fight against the mandate we need to thank donors, intercessors, friends at the Becket Fund who offered help *pro bono*, and many others.

We were deeply encouraged by the outcome of the HHS mandate, and convinced that the prayers of the youth and elderly during the Holy Hour and Rosary had something to do with it.

I soon discovered that the Little Sisters shared a common dream with me: to help the elderly discover their great dignity in Christ, their great mission for these times, and their critical role in the lives of young people who need them as much as they need the young.

Not long after that, Youth & Aged for Life was born: a Lord of the Rings kind of fellowship to pray for families, the unborn, and the elderly.

Youth & Aged is a play on words that came to me one day in prayer. I was reflecting on the tragedy of euthanasia. It struck me that the word “euthanasia” and the phrase “youth and aged” sound very similar.

I thought, why not invite youth and older persons—the bookends of life who hold the family together—to come together to fight this trend, by witnessing to the dignity of every human life, and by joining forces in prayer?

Youth & Aged for Life was officially launched on October 7, with Shalom World returning to produce a wonderful music video of our theme song, “Every Human Life is Sacred,” which was sent to every bishop in the U.S.

We meet regularly at the Little Sisters’ home in DC. Visiting schools participate in our meetings, and a delegation from Youth & Aged

reaches out to a local Catholic high school.

We have begun introducing the movement to other Little Sisters’ homes, and our plan is to establish a template and accompanying Youth & Aged for Life packet that can serve families, parishes, schools, and homes for the elderly across North America.

Music plays a very important role in the movement. Our packets will include our own song CD and accompanying song book for Youth & Aged gatherings and for the general public, to help spread our message for a culture of life.

We begin our meetings with catechesis, updates on local pro-life initiatives, and inspirational stories to stir up faith. We then sing and pray the Rosary together, with specific intentions.

Our meetings always conclude with fellowship and fun to give the youth and elderly a chance to inter-

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DEFEND LIFE

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Fighting the Culture of Death since 1987*

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*April 11, 2017 Anno Domini
Feast Day of Saint Stanislaus*

Dear Friend of **DEFEND LIFE**,



If ever **DEFEND LIFE** had a friend, it was **Monsignor Robert Armstrong**, retired rector of Baltimore's magnificent **Cathedral of Mary Our Queen**, who went to his eternal reward on March 1. More about him in a moment.

I first heard about this great cathedral during my first year at Villanova in 1959. One of my classmates from Baltimore told me about this brand new cathedral which was about to be consecrated. Little did I know how then that a person by the name of Bob Armstrong, who had taken minor vows as an Augustinian, and had graduated from Villanova the year before I arrived, would one day be my pastor at this great cathedral.

One of its claims to fame is this. It is the only cathedral in the **2000**-year history of the Church that was donated by a single individual. That person was **Thomas J. O'Neill**, who came from Ireland to Baltimore as a young lad, worked diligently selling dry goods from a push cart, and began a small department store empire with elegant stores in Baltimore, Ireland and England. His entire estate was used to build this magnificent cathedral and nearby Good Samaritan Hospital as well



In 1977, when I moved from Richmond to Baltimore, I fully expected to find **vibrant Catholicism** here in this, the Mother Sea of Catholicism in America. How wrong I was.

But, thanks be to God, there were still significant vestiges of that vibrant Catholicism. One such vestige was Monsignor Robert Armstrong, who served as rector of the Cathedral for 25 years. He would have served longer, but was forced to retire for health reasons.



DEFEND LIFE actually began as the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen Respect Life group in the mid-1980's. In the fall of 1986, with the blessing of Monsignor Armstrong and under the tutelage of the late **Eileen Fitzpatrick Bolgiano**, we began having **PRO-LIFE** speakers and showing **PRO-LIFE** VHS videotapes 2 times each month. **Remember VHS tapes?** We took advantage of the 45-minute gap between the end of the 9:15 AM Mass and the beginning of the 11 AM Mass.



Some of our first speakers included Judie Brown, Michael Schwartz, John Cavanaugh-O'Keefe, and Joe Scheidler.



We decided to move the Joe Scheidler talk from the Undercroft of the Cathedral on Sunday morning to nearby Loyola College on Friday evenings to attract a larger crowd and it worked.. That's when we came up with the idea to move all of our monthly lectures to Loyola College beginning in the fall of 1987. Eileen, God bless her, came up with the brilliant name **DEFEND LIFE** for our venture.

Given that lengthy introduction, here are some recollections of this **great Priest of God**:

- Monsignor Armstrong supported us financially. He paid for a then huge 25" RCA color TV, a rolling cart to transport it, and a portable VCR which we used to show our VHS tapes. As I recall, he also reimbursed us for our printing and postage.
- Even after we moved to Loyola College, not being one to split hairs, he continued to support us financially. Years later, I remember the day he called and sadly told me that

due to a serious budget crunch at the Cathedral, further financial support would no longer be possible.

- In the early months of 1987, we had shown a video on the seemingly miraculous events that were occurring in **Medjugorje**. I ran into Monsignor one day shortly thereafter and he quipped **what did downtown say about this?** The **downtown** to which he referred was the Chancery. The point is this. **He trusted us and did not micro-manage us.**
- In 2009, on the 50th anniversary of its Consecration, I remember asking Monsignor his recollections of the Consecration 50 years earlier. At the time, he was a seminarian at Mount Saint Mary's in Emmittsburg. He recalled in colorful language that it was a cold rainy day and that he and all other seminarians were outside shivering in the rain while awaiting the arrival of the legendary **Francis Cardinal Spellman** from New York who was to officiate at the Consecration. It turned out that Cardinal Spellman had stopped in Philadelphia the night before to dine with friends. He decided to stay overnight there instead of coming to Baltimore. Because of the rain and because **I-95** had not yet been built, he arrived very late for the Consecration ceremony.
- Monsignor Armstrong was a fantastic mentor to the young priests who served under him. He treated them as his sons. I remember, on one occasion, when he announced in a choked voice and nearly in tears, that one of his beloved young associates had decided to take a **leave of absence**. How close he was to his young priests. Thanks be to God, that priest, unlike many others, returned to the priesthood!
- Here is my last recollection. It was a phone call I received just several months ago requesting that we change his mailing address from the Cathedral to Mercy Ridge where he had retired. He said, **Hi, this is Bob Armstrong.** How self-effacing that was! Most clergy would have used their title, but not Monsignor Armstrong. I suggested that we have lunch soon and he gladly accepted. But sadly, I never made it happen.
- Gail Liss, who is the exceptional receptionist at the Cathedral, recalled the wonderful Christmas parties for staffers he hosted at the beautiful rectory. Monsignor was responsible for preparing the eggnog which he always generously spiked with bourbon.
- Dori Stanwyck, a long-term parishioner, said he always spoke the truth and had a dry sense of humor. The single word she used to describe Monsignor was **solid**. Dori recalls her growing family was enjoying a picnic on the lovely Cathedral lawn. They were spotted by Monsignor who mentioned that it reminded him of a scene from **Cheaper by the Dozen** where a character says to the mother, **Is this a family or a picnic?** She replies **It's a family and it's not a picnic!**
- One parishioner who became the next owner of one of Monsignor's cars, recalled how it reeked of cigarette smoke.
- Another parishioner recalled how Sasha, her special needs adopted son from the Ukraine, once knocked on the door of the rectory. Monsignor, who was recovering from some type of rectal procedure, answered the door. Sasha said **stick 'em up**. With a twinkle in his eye, Monsignor complied, sticking up both hands. He later explained that Sasha, not knowing his earthly father, might have a religious vocation and he wanted to do everything possible to foster that vocation.



Well done, Good and Faithful Servant! Without you, **DEFEND LIFE** might never have existed!

Enclosure

P.S. Lord, please give us more great priests like Monsignor Armstrong!

Long Live Christ Our King,

Jack Ames

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Pro-lifers need to get a few scars from action, says Daccarett

Ed Daccarett was always a fighter.

As a teen in Kingston, Jamaica, he took on a one-man battle to get his high school to install a water cooler.

“I have no idea why I decided to do battle over a water cooler!” he told pro-lifers at his Defend Life-sponsored talk at Our Lady’s Chapel in Ellicott City March 17.

After he had migrated (legally, he joked) to Miami and married his wife Lori, his fighting instincts took on more focus.

One weekend, he went to a March for Life. After the march, he said, “I wandered off to a side room where Bernard Nathanson was showing ‘The Silent Scream.’

“I could not believe that mothers would do this to their babies!” Someone had to do something, he thought.

As a subscriber to the *Miami Herald*, he realized that the newspaper had a pro-abortion bias, so he went to the publisher to complain.

The publisher was Catholic, had five children, and was pro-life, Ed discovered.

“He put his arm around me and told me to monitor the paper for 30 days, then come back and tell me what I found,” he recalled.

“Then he let me make a presentation to the entire editorial board and all the reporters.”

Daccarett had Libby Johnson, a registered nurse, make the presentation.

“She stacked it with pictures of aborted babies. The people were screaming, ‘Stop! Stop! We can’t take this!’ But Libby kept on going.

“I have no idea how many conversions we had that day, but that’s not our business; that’s God’s business. Libby and I did our job—we

showed up.”

Concerned that the public was not getting the truth about abortion, Daccarett began spending Friday nights in his garage painting small signs with the message, “Abortion is murder.”

Every Saturday morning he would head out with a ladder in his



Praying is good, but pro-lifers must follow up with action in the public square, says Ed Daccarett.

truck. Climbing on the ladder, he would post the signs high on utility poles on highways all over Miami.

“They wouldn’t be able to take them down because I put caulking behind—so the signs would be up there for months!” he noted.

Ed’s next battle occurred when he learned that Planned Parenthood was moving to his new hometown, Vero Beach.

“I wrote a letter to the editor that if any shopping strip rents to Planned Parenthood, there’s going to be picketing there all the time; it would be bad for all merchants.”

His letter started a firestorm—Planned Parenthood could not rent

any space in all of Vero Beach. They ended up having to buy a property.

“In about three years, they were shooed out of town because of all the picketing there; they were persona non grata.”

Next, he took on Children’s Services Council which, he learned, was funding Planned Parenthood at \$54,000 a year in his county, Martin County.

“It took four years for us to defund them in our county,” he recalled. “I’m telling you, when you fight, do not fight nice—they do not know nice!” he advised

In the battle against abortion, prayer is important, said Daccarett.

“Like Jesus, we have to pray before we do any action,” he said.

But prayer is not enough; we cannot pray abortion away.

“If there’s a fire, we don’t just pray, we take action; we go and put the fire out,” he pointed out. “The battle must be fought in the public square, not in chapels or churches!

“If all we do is pray, it is useless; it gives God lip service.”

Daccarett believes that only one-tenth of 1 percent of Catholics or Protestants are engaged in this battle—despite the fact that 1 million babies are aborted each year.

“That’s the equivalent of ten 9-11s every day; but no one pays any attention—there are no headlines.”

What should we do?

“Ninety percent is just showing up,” Ed said; “say, ‘Lord, use me.’”

He offered a few more concrete suggestions:

- Resolve to do more; add an additional hour of activism, if possible.

See ACTION, page 15

Book Reviews

Joe Scheidler set the standard for pro-life activism

By Diane Levero

I remember meeting Joseph Scheidler four times.

Three of those times occurred when Joe flew in from Chicago to join Defend Life's summer Face the Truth tours.

On two occasions I ran into Joe and his son Eric at the Naval Observatory stop in Washington, D.C. The third time, Joe came with his wife Ann; I snapped a good photo of Ann holding a graphic sign in front of the Holocaust Museum.

My fourth sighting of the pro-life icon was at a Pro-Life Appreciation Night in Glen Burnie, Md. I remember standing with Joe and Defend Life Director Jack Ames, chatting about pro-life stuff and telling Joe matter-of-factly, "You're my hero."

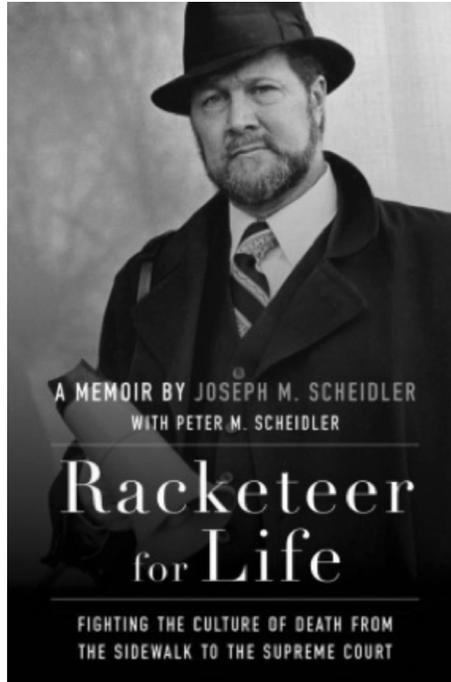
Joe was legend to me then and he is now. I'm very glad he wrote *Racketeer for Life* with his son Peter.

Joe's life story encompasses the sprawling saga of the pro-life war against abortion in America, beginning in the years prior to *Roe v. Wade*, up to the present day.

Born in a small Indiana town in 1927, Joe was Catholic to the core. After a short stint in the Navy, he enrolled at the University of Notre Dame on the GI Bill.

"Notre Dame was very Catholic in those days," he writes. "Nearly everybody on campus seemed to have a goal, and their faith was central to that goal."

Many of his teachers were priests: Holy Cross, Dominicans



and Jesuits.

Central to all his courses, he notes, "was the belief that truth existed and could be known. Our goal was to find truth" and then to live by that truth.

After graduating in 1950 with a major in communication arts, Joe worked briefly as a reporter at the *South Bend Tribune*, then entered the seminary—not an unusual step for a devout Catholic man in those days. (Two of Joe's brothers had entered the seminary, several cousins were priests and an uncle was a bishop.)

After years of seminary life, including stints at St. Meinrad seminary and a Benedictine monastery, Joe realized that he did not have a priestly vocation.

Back in the secular world, he taught journalism classes at Notre Dame University, then taught jour-

nalism and theology at Mundelein College in Chicago.

At this Catholic women's college, Joe met a pretty blonde junior named Ann. Joe and Ann were married in 1965.

As new little Scheidlers came on the scene (Eric in 1966, son Joe a year later), Joe worked first for the Chicago Department of Youth Welfare, then as an account executive for a Chicago advertising firm.

When the Supreme Court handed down its rulings in *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* in 1973, Joe was horrified. He realized that the latter case allowed abortion on demand in all nine months of pregnancy.

He continued his work at the ad agency, but his mind was elsewhere, focusing on every aspect of fighting abortion.

With a wife and (by this time) four kids to support, Joe took a leap of faith, left his advertising job, and started a pro-life nonprofit, the Chicago Office for Pro-Life Publicity.

His work got him noticed by the Illinois Right to Life Committee, which hired him as director in 1974. Joe organized protests and pickets, talks and seminars for the IRLC and got them lots of media exposure.

But Joe and members of the group had basic differences on methods.

"Too many members of the IRLC board seemed afraid of alienating anyone," he explains. "I wasn't particularly concerned about risking alienating people. We couldn't compromise our effectiveness."

For example, when Joe used a

disturbing photo of a garbage can full of aborted babies as the center of the IRLC display at a Chicago City Hall health fair, an IRLC board member angrily jumped into the booth, grabbed the picture and threw it out.

Differences on Joe's aggressive methods came to a head in 1977, when he disrupted a commencement speech by Indiana Senator Birch Bayh, who had blocked Maryland Congressman Larry Hogan's Human Life Amendment from a full Senate vote.

Joe could not convince St. Joseph's college to cancel Bayh's speech, so he and several cohorts (including Jack Ames) rushed down to the Indiana campus.

"When Senator Bayh began to speak, we all stood up," he recalls. "I pulled out the bullhorn and said, 'You, Birch Bayh, vote to kill babies.'"

Within a year, the IRLC fired him.

But Joe stuck to his belief in direct action as the best way to fight abortion. He made that clear when, in 1980, he and Ann founded their own pro-life organization and named it the Pro-Life Action League.

Rather than telling his story chronologically, *Racketeer* recounts it thematically, with chapters devoted to subjects such as the influence of the pro-abortion media on public opinion; the use of graphic pictures of aborted babies; the increase in clinic bombings and arson in the 1980s; and Joe's confrontations

**'I pulled out the
bullhorn and said,
'You, Birch Bayh,
vote to kill babies.'"**

with pro-abortion churches and clergy, both Protestant and Catholic.

Coverage of the massive lawsuit by the National Organization for Women against Scheidler could not be contained in a single chapter, of course.

NOW filed its lawsuit against Scheidler and several others in 1986, arguing that their pro-life efforts violated the federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act.

Joe's account of his trial in federal district court in *NOW v.*

Scheidler is fascinating. Anonymous witnesses giving outrageously perjured testimony and apparently biased judge's rulings led to a guilty verdict by the Chicago jury.

The case went before the Supreme Court three times, and Scheidler emerged triumphant each time.

NOW lost its final appeal and paid his court costs in 2014, ending 28 years of water torture-type martyrdom for the pro-life leader.

Joe's confrontations with assorted abortionists and with politicians (friends and foes), his skirmishes with police and occasional arrests, his edgy, in-your-face tactics for fighting abortion make for absorbing reading.

Joe knew and worked with pro-life war horses across the country, so names familiar to pro-life veterans—Monica Miller, Tom Brejcha, Joan Andrews, Chris Slattery, Randall Terry, Missy Smith—abound in his "war stories."

There's a nice photo of Joe and Jack Ames arm-in-arm in front of the U.S. Supreme Court.

And Ames makes more than one appearance in Joe's narrative: on one occasion, he helps Joe and others disrupt a pro-abortion "religious" service at a Presbyterian church in the nation's capital by hoisting a huge pro-life banner.

As the pro-lifers make a quick getaway from the irate pro-abortionists, they meet police officers coming up the steps.

"Hurry!" Joe tells them; "It's chaos in there!" (Don't think pro-life activism can't be fun.)

Joe's leadership and PR savvy, his journalistic and speaking skills, and his strong Catholic faith combined to make him a major mover and shaker of pro-life activism in America.

Thanks, Joe; we owe you a lot.

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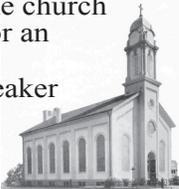


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Book Reviews

Defenders chronicles moral slide to abortion, pro-life response

By Monty Phair

This scholarly but readable work is more than a chronicle of the pro-life movement up to the third quarter of the 20th century. It's a glimpse of American society, law and politics of the period from the late 19th century to the Reagan years.

Published in 2016, *Defenders of the Unborn* is the first positive book written about the pro-life movement by a major publisher—Oxford University—since 2008-'09.

Daniel K. Williams presents a great deal of research in these pages.

The amazing truth portrayed in this work is that the pro-life message and philosophy were winning the hearts and minds of the American public until the era of the great national mental breakdown between 1968 and 1973.

Williams argues that until that time we Americans were generally more concerned about the rights of the unborn child than we were about the mother's questionable reasons for eliminating that child.

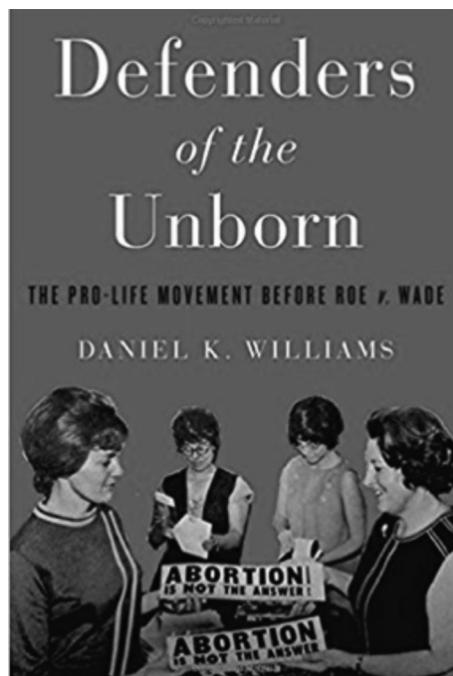
From 1945 until around 1965 the horrors of the Nazi holocaust were fresh in the minds of our people, and we were quite fearful of importing a holocaust into our own country in the form of genocide against the unborn.

All of that changed in the cataclysm of the years 1968-'73, when we threw away the "baby with the bathwater," abandoning our concern for the weakest and most vulnerable members of our society, and much of our Judeo-Christian value system as well.

In those years the hedonistic generation overshadowed everything, and the rights of the liberated wom-

an eclipsed the rights of the unborn child.

This was very similar, according to Williams, to the way that the Dred Scott decision of 1857 eclipsed any rights of black Americans by the majority white population. Justice Taney's opinion stated that "The



Black Man had no rights to which the white man was bound to respect."

As outlined by Williams, the revision of the national abortion laws did not occur in a vacuum. In those same cataclysmic years of '68-'73, all of the programming barriers on radio, television and film were knocked down, pornography became mainstream, and hedonism was elevated to the status of personal virtue.

These social changes overshadowed all of the marginal socialist and utopian eugenics movements of the early 20th century.

Williams presents very convinc-

ingly the role of graphic images in the delivery of the pro-life message. As early as 1910, Dr. Frederick Taussig, professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, wrote, "I think pictures like that of the six-week embryo will keep many women from having an abortion done."

Fr. Paul Marx, Benedictine professor of Sociology at St. John's University of Minnesota, thought very much the same sixty years later.

Father Marx had obtained a film showing a medical vacuum aspiration of the abortion procedure in April 1970 and showed it to his Catholic college students—to show them the full horrors of abortion.

He is quoted in Williams's book: "A few students who were sympathetic to abortion were turned off completely, and several walked out in disgust."

He later wrote the Bishop of Duluth, "That kind of film is worth hours of lecturing and whole shelves of books."

The book is rather dense in content. I am summarizing some of the salient points in this review.

Details regarding the politics of abortion laws in many individual states are covered as well as the conflicting views at the national level. Medical, legal and political power-brokers are delineated throughout the history of the debate.

But it is rather remarkable to this reviewer that Oxford University Press has published an objective book about this important subject.

Anyone interested in one comprehensive history of the pro-life movement in America should read *Defenders of the Unborn*.

In My Humble Opinion

‘Snake’ is driven from Spring St.—on St. Patrick’s Day

By Janet Baker

After the closing of Hillcrest Women’s Surgi-Center in early 2004, a number of us started praying and sidewalk counseling outside of Spring Street Center, at 1400 Spring Street in Silver Spring, Md.

Within a five-story office building at that address, on the 4th floor, was a branch office of Planned Parenthood of Washington, D.C. This was one of three branches of PP of DC that committed surgical abortions.

I don’t know how long Planned Parenthood had been at that location before we arrived.

Prior to our arrival, the only pro-life presence had been that of a group from St. Bernadette’s Church in Silver Spring, who came on First Saturdays, praying the Rosary. They continued for some time after our arrival, often with twenty to thirty of them in attendance.

We noticed that when they prayed the Rosary with us, some of the cars bringing abortion-minded women would pause and drive right by us, with the woman remaining in the car. This was a clear indication to us that just the simple prayerful presence of pro-life people was enough to deter some abortions.

The main office of Planned Parenthood in DC was on 16th Street, within walking distance of the White House. There was also a pro-life presence there. Several years ago we received news that PP of DC was planning to build a larger facility in North East DC. It was completed within the past two years; both the 16th Street location as well as the Falls Church lo-



Photo by John Naughton

Pro-lifers gather in front of the Spring Street building to thank God for the closing of the Planned Parenthood abortion facility there: (from left) Nancy Zappala, Ellen Sarnecky, Joe Gillin, Lise Baur, Janet Baker, and James Roche.

cation were subsumed into the North East facility.

The Spring Street facility remained open for a while. However, we know from some “inside” information that our presence was having an impact on the profitability of that location.

Additionally, some activists began petitioning the owners of the 1400 Spring Street building to rid themselves of a tenant that murdered babies within its four walls.

Finally, we received word that the suite in which Planned Parenthood was located had been put on the market for lease. Then came word that the last day of operation for Planned Parenthood at Spring Street was Friday, March 17—the feast of St. Patrick.

It is rather fitting that the closure would be on that day; as St. Patrick is reputed to have driven snakes from Ireland, so a snake was driven from

1400 Spring Street.

Some might argue that the location would have closed anyway, with or without our presence. We won’t argue that point; suffice it to say that our presence was most likely an influencing factor, as we did convince a good number of women to carry their children to term, denying a bit of blood-money profit to that location.

The next day, March 18, we gathered at the Spring Street location for some prayers of thanksgiving to God. We prayed the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

We will continue our outreach elsewhere. At the time of this writing our next venue has not been decided.

Nationwide, over the past twenty years or so, the number of abortion mills has dropped by over 60%. Let them continue to disappear, by God’s grace.

NEIGHBORS, from page 2

instruction on pregnancy and a wide range of child care topics, while rewarding them with credits for free baby clothes and supplies.

“We hope eventually to have an Earn While You Learn program on Howard Street,” said Clews.

The two men who were the chief donors for the new center are “un-equivocable” in their wish to remain anonymous, she said.

“Their true concern is that babies will be saved; their being known would detract from that,” she explained.

As for the Howard Street Center itself, she added, “We really feel that this is of the Lord.

“This is His whole endeavor.”

Anyone who would like to donate to help CPC with the Howard



CPC plans to have an ultrasound machine at its Howard Street location similar to the ultrasound at its Essex center, displayed above by medical sonographer Kelly Wargo (right) and Carol Clews.

Street center or to serve as a volunteer may go to cpcforhelp.org or phone 410-391-6699.

YOUTH, from page 7

act and cultivate intergenerational bonds of friendship.

The beauty of this movement is that it is adaptable to different situations and circumstances. I recently began a Youth & Aged prayer group through Skype, with the hope of developing an online branch.

These saintly children in my Skype group, frail as they are from a genetic disorder that has caused them great suffering, serve the elderly with extraordinary love and compassion. And the power of their prayers is simply amazing.

Should we be surprised that the Enemy is trying so hard to wipe from the face of the earth the very ones Our Lord has chosen to help us become saints?

These children witness to us, and especially to youth, that God’s call to be great saints is amazingly with-

in reach as we surrender to Him in our littleness. Needless to say, I am forming these children to become leaders for the movement.

Grandparents who hear me talk about Youth & Aged for Life can’t wait to receive their packet and get started with their grandchildren.

Imagine a huge army of Youth & Aged intercessors. Imagine inspiring and mobilizing elderly men and women together with youth to be the world changers they were born to be at this critical juncture in history. I believe these “little ones” are the secret to the turn of the tide.

On March 25, close to the anniversary of our first Holy Hour and Rosary, we had a special Youth & Aged gathering to pray for the closure of the Germantown abortion clinic and an end to the HHS mandate.

With Mother Mary—*Our Lady of Littleness*—as our fearless leader, and the Rosary as our weapon of

love, we are unstoppable in Christ!

For more information about Rosary Mission and Youth & Aged for Life contact Janis Clarke at janis@janisclarke.com.

ACTION, from page 10

- Boycott companies that fund abortion.
- Display pro-life bumper stickers.

Daccarett said that Bishop Fabian Bruskewicz once warned, “When we appear before the judgment seat of Christ, He will look us over very carefully and ask, ‘Where are your scars?’”

“If we have no scars, He will say, ‘Was there nothing worth fighting for?’”

The cause of life is worth fighting for, Daccarett told his listeners.

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**Read Jack Ames' Tribute to
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Vandalism 101 A student casually slaps red paint from a paint can on a banner showing aborted babies at a Defend Life Outreach on the Rockville campus at Montgomery College March 21. Rockville Police arrested two students and charged them with destruction of property.

Volunteers needed, call Ken 240-988-1646 • Garris1@yahoo.com

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For more information, visit DefendLife.org

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4 GREAT SIDEWALK TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

Wednesday, May 10 • 6:30 – 8 PM

Mother Seton Catholic Church
19951 Father Hurley Blvd., Germantown, MD 20874

Thursday Evening, May 11

Washington, D.C. • Time and Location TBA

Friday Evening, May 12

Annapolis, MD • Time and Location TBA

Saturday, May 13 • 9 AM – 1:30 PM

Sts. Philip & James Catholic Church
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