



DEFEND LIFE

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

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Mira Via gives pregnant college students a welcome choice

Veteran pro-lifer Ruby Nicdao was leaving the Virginia abortion facility where she regularly side-walk counseled one day when she saw a young woman standing at a bus stop nearby.

The young woman was crying.

Nicdao approached and gently asked her if she had just had an abortion. She said no, she had made an appointment, but somehow it hadn't gotten properly scheduled, and it fell through.

Ruby talked compassionately with the distressed young lady. She was a student at a local college, working part-time—and pregnant and unmarried. She gave Ruby her phone number.

Then, says Washington, D.C., pro-lifer Missy Smith, "Ruby called me.

"She told me, 'I don't think the young woman really wants to have an abortion! I think you're the one who can help her.'"

Smith phoned the girl.

"I told her, 'I'm post-abortive. If you have an abortion, you'll regret it for the rest of your life!'"

Missy invited Ashley (not her real name) to meet her for "coffee or a salad."

After some hesitation, Ashley agreed.

"I met her near the Metro," Smith recalls. "It was in December,



After offering Mass at Mira Via's chapel, Abbot Placid Solari, chancellor of Belmont Abbey College, greets a new guest at the residence.

and it was snowing heavily."

Ashley was "in a bind; she was the first person in her family to go to college," explains the pro-lifer. "Her big thing was to complete college."

Suddenly, says Smith, "I had in inspiration by the Holy Spirit!"

Smith and Defend Life Director Jack Ames had recently attended a Catholic conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. While they were there, they visited Mira Via, a new residence for pregnant college students at nearby Belmont Abbey College.

"It hadn't opened yet, but we got

to tour around it," says Smith.

"I thought, this would be a perfect fit for Ashley! I told her, 'Why don't you cut your losses—come to Mira Via!'"

Ashley was cautious and skeptical. The possibility of a place where she could complete college and still have her baby seemed to be too good to be true.

But Missy contacted Mira Via Executive Director Debbie Capen about transferring Ashley in time to start the spring semester. "Debbie was wonderful!" she declares.

Then she got two pro-life groups to pay for Ashley's airline ticket.

“We flew down to Charlotte and had a whirlwind tour and interview. Everything was brand-new; it was beautiful! So Ashley could see that it could happen.”

Ashley moved in to Mira Via in time to start the spring 2014 semester at Belmont Abbey College. She delivered a healthy, beautiful baby boy later that year.

After nearly two years living there, she graduated from Belmont Abbey in 2016.

‘We’re pioneers!’

When Mira Via began construction of a new building adjacent to the campus of Belmont Abbey College in 2011, it was breaking ground in more than one way.

The Charlotte, North Carolina, Catholic non-profit was building the nation’s first college-based residence exclusively for college women so they could continue their education while they had their babies.

“We’re pioneers!” says Capen.

Belmont Abbey, the Benedic-

tine monastery adjacent to the college, donated four acres for the project—a 10,000 square-foot facility with two residential wings—one for pregnant women and one for young mothers and their babies.

Mira Via began as a non-profit corporation in 1994 named Room at the Inn with a modest residence for pregnant women and their children in Charlotte.

As the years went by, Room at the Inn added professional counseling for its residents and a variety of material and counseling help for non-resident pregnant women and young mothers.

In 2005 the organization’s board of directors began a long-range planning process that eventually led to the Belmont Abbey College residence.

The inspiration for the residence began with the college’s chancellor, Benedictine Abbot Placid Solari, on finding that Room at the Inn served mostly college-aged women.

The capital campaign for the Mira Via residence launched in



Photo by Regina Passalacqua

Sister Mary Jacinta holds a young Mira Via resident.

2008, with major help from the Knights of Columbus in North Carolina.

In 2013 Mira Via received its maternity home license from the state of North Carolina and welcomed its first resident.

A ‘miraculous way’

Women who stay free at Mira Via for up to two years must be 18 or older, pregnant, and enrolled in college, but they don’t have to be a student at Belmont Abbey College.

They can commute to colleges or universities in the greater Charlotte area or take transferable credits at Belmont Abbey.

Mira Via provides professional counseling and a wide range of life

See MIRA VIA, page 14



Mira Via offers pregnant college students who think they have no choice but abortion or dropping out of college an opportunity to finish their education and keep their babies.

Bill to require Plan B in college vending machines fails—for now

The University of Maryland College Park Student Government Association voted 30-0 in favor of it.

NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland's executive director told a State Senate committee that UMCP students were "thrilled" at the thought of it.

But on March 14 the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee voted for a "Favorable with Amendment" recommendation for a bill that would have mandated state public colleges to make emergency contraception available 24/7 on campus via vending machines "or other similar devices."

If Senate Bill 969 had passed, UMCP and all Maryland public colleges with on-campus student housing would be required to sell "the morning-after pill," (Plan B or its equivalent) in vending machines as of July 1.

But the April 9 deadline for the passage of bills in this year's session of the Maryland General Assembly came and went without further action on the bill; the committee's vote effectively tabled it—for this year at least.

NARAL 'reaches out'

Everything at the committee hearing on SB 969 on March 7 seemed stacked in favor of its easy passage.

Senate Majority Whip Roger Manno (D, Montgomery County) was its chief sponsor.

Six of the 11 committee members were co-sponsors, including the committee chair, Joan Carter Conway.

All 14 of the bill's sponsors were



Maryland's State Senate has recommended a bill that would mandate the sale of EC on college vending machines 24/7.

Democrat, making it a partisan bill. Of the 11 committee members, seven were Democrats. In the Maryland General Assembly, Democrats outnumber Republicans by almost 2 to 1.

All of those who went before the committee at the hearing spoke in favor of the bill.

Senator Manno began the hearing by disputing "the misunderstanding that many people have that they [emergency contraception pills] terminate pregnancies.

"They don't," he assured the committee. "They prevent a pregnancy from even being able to occur."

"Senate Bill 969 comes after a couple years of work we've been doing with college campus organizers across Maryland," NARAL Pro-

Choice Executive Director Diana Philip told the committee.

"We reached out to find out what were their most pressing needs," and learned that a big concern was timely access to emergency contraception.

"Plan B is good up to 72 hours after unprotected sex, but it's most effective in the first 12 hours," she explained.

So if a student has unprotected sex—or the condom breaks—at 10 o'clock at night or on weekends, when the campus health center isn't open, it can be a major problem.

"The students say it's very difficult to go to [an off-campus] pharmacy seven miles away when you don't have a car," she added.

"This is a very simple bill," said Philip. "It provides 24/7 access to emergency contraception on public colleges with on-site student residency.

"The students are really thrilled about having that access!"

The bill stipulates that access "can be through vending machines, which might also have other health items like tampons, condoms, pregnancy tests and dental dams," she noted.

(Dental dams are latex or polyurethane sheets used between the mouth and the vagina or anus during oral sex.)

Providing Plan B and similar emergency contraceptives on-campus 24/7 through vending machines is "a national movement right now," said Philip.

'Scary situation'

"When I called the University of Maryland pharmacy, they told

me they were entirely out of stock of Plan B that day,” a University of Maryland Baltimore graduate student told the committee.

“To me, this is a scary situation! I’m the first person in my family to go to college. My parents didn’t get the chance to, because they had my sister and I when they were very young, and that interrupted their plans to go to college.”

Going to college is a path to financial security and upward mobility,” she said: “The thought that a mistake could jeopardize that path is very worrying.”

A second-year student at University of Maryland Baltimore County told the committee that at the UMBC health center, you must meet with “a health care professional” before they will dispense emergency contraception.

The requirement “reflects a paternalistic attitude toward women’s sexual health and increases the stigma around EC, which is a problem if it’s your first time getting it,” she said.

‘Medical malpractice’

“There is no downside” to providing quick access to Plan B, declared Dr. Sharon Camp.

Dr. Camp, who was president of the Planned Parenthood-founded Guttmacher Institute from 2003 to 2013, told the committee that she developed Plan B and brought it to market in 1999.

“I no longer have any financial interest in the product, however,” she said.

In 2006 the Food and Drug Administration switched Plan B from prescription to over-the-counter availability, she said.

“It’s very safe for all women; there are no side effects,” she as-

sured committee members.

To delay access by requiring counseling “would be unconscionable!” she exclaimed. “Any delay would be medical malpractice, in my mind.

“Senate Bill 969 is urgent legislation,” she concluded.

“Planned Parenthood worked with NARAL on this bill,” Robyn Elliott, a paid lobbyist for Planned Parenthood, told the committee.

The bill is worded so that a university doesn’t have to offer counseling itself, but can refer a student to outside counseling, she said.

‘Would you mind a friendly amendment to track abortions in Maryland to see if they’re being reduced?’

‘We’ve heard stories’

Committee member State Senator Bryan Simonaire (R, Anne Arundel County), was a lone voice of doubt at the hearing.

“How many unwanted pregnancies were there exclusively because they couldn’t get emergency contraception at colleges?” he asked Senator Manno.

The bill’s sponsor hesitated before answering. “We’ve heard stories. I couldn’t even tell you,” he admitted. “I’m not sure if we’ll ever know.”

“I did read all the [submitted written] testimony, and I didn’t see any evidence of an unwanted pregnancy; it was more of an issue of inconvenience and a cost factor,” said Simonaire.

“What is the shelf life of Plan B?” he asked.

“Five years,” said Camp.

“So they could have one of these pills in their dorm room,” he observed.

He then asked Camp, “I was looking at your data, Doctor. How many abortions were there in Maryland? The latest data I saw was for 2014. Is that a hard number, or is that an estimate? It seems like an estimate.”

“I don’t have that data, but we could get it for you,” Camp told the senator.

Maryland is one of only two states that does not require any annual reporting of the number of abortions.

“Would you mind a friendly amendment [to the bill] to track the abortions in Maryland to see if they’re being reduced?” Simonaire asked the committee.

“This bill doesn’t deal with terminating pregnancies!” Senator Manno protested.

“There’s a common misunderstanding that this is a pregnancy termination drug; it’s not. If it were, it might be appropriate to track the statistics,” he conceded.

“Well, if you’re sending them [students] on to Planned Parenthood for counseling, there’s a chance it *could*” lead to abortion, Simonaire pointed out.

Lobbyist Elliott admitted that Planned Parenthood was one of the entities to which students might be referred for counseling under the bill.

Committee members discussed possibly amending the bill to make the dispensing of “morning-after pills” from vending machines “optional” rather than required, if other means of assuring 24/7 access were available.

Editorial

Why the Plan B vending machines bill is a ‘snake’

Maryland’s Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee has tabled a bill that would have mandated the sale of Plan B on public college campuses 24/7.

For this year, anyway.

The committee voted on a straight party line (7 Democrats in favor, 4 Republicans against) to recommend the bill, but “with amendment.”

With a little change in wording, the bill to give college kids super-easy access to Plan B at any hour of the day or night will very probably be back at next year’s Maryland General Assembly.

Why, you might ask, would any sensible person be against easy access to “emergency contraception”?

Well, for starters, there is considerable dispute over whether Plan B acts not only as emergency contraception, but can also cause early abortions.

According to Plan B One-Step’s own website, planbonestep.com, the medication “works mainly by stopping the release of an egg from the ovary. It is possible that Plan B One-Step may also work by preventing fertilization of an egg (the uniting of sperm with the egg) or *preventing attachment (implantation) to the uterus (womb)*.” (Emphasis added.)

Virtually every human embryologist and every major textbook of human embryology states that the beginning of the life of a new individual human being occurs at fertilization of the egg by the sperm.

In recent decades, however, manufacturers and advocates of

abortifacient forms of birth control—and of so-called “emergency contraception”—have led the push to simply redefine “conception” as “implantation,” so they can proclaim with impunity that “the pill” and EC don’t cause abortions.

More recently, Plan B’s cheerleaders point to several studies in 2007 that conclude that Plan B does *not* prevent implantation.

But a 2011 study by a Chilean reproductive biologist indicates that it *does*.

So the question of whether Plan B can cause abortions is far from

In legislative lingo, a ‘snake’ is a bill that has a hidden purpose.

“settled science.” Senator Manno (and other Senate Bill 969 sponsors), please take note.

Plan B has made great marketing strides since 1999, when the Food and Drug Administration gave Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. the green light to market Plan B as a prescription-only drug.

In 2006 the FDA gave the okay for Plan B to be sold without a prescription to women 18 and older.

In 2013 the age restriction was lifted; now girls of all ages can buy all versions of the “morning-after pill” without a prescription.

Four colleges and universities have installed Plan B vending ma-

chines since 2010.

But wait—might there be another motive driving the Plan B vending machine advocates besides the altruistic desire to help young college women at risk of an unwanted baby?

In 2017, Teva Pharmaceutical Industries completed its \$675 million sale of Plan B One-Step and other EC products to Foundation Consumer Healthcare.

Plan B developer Dr. Sharon Camp told the Senate Committee, “I no longer have any financial interest in the product.” Which means that she did, at one time.

With money to be made with the increased sale of Plan B, one may legitimately question the motives of the Plan B apologists.

That includes Planned Parenthood, which benefits financially through the sale of contraceptives or abortions brought on by promiscuous sexual activity.

In legislative lingo, a “snake” is a bill that has a hidden purpose.

Yes, one hidden motive behind the Plan B vending machines bill is likely the profit motive.

But give certain of its backers credit for a more profound, ultimate ideological motive—the complete breakdown of the family and God-based-morality.

University of Maryland College Park is already selling Plan B 24/7 in one of its on-campus convenience stores.

Maryland college students don’t need the stamp of approval to the tragic moral level that would be advanced if the Maryland General Assembly enacts this “snake.”

‘If we don’t help them, who will?’ says Littlejohn —

Reggie Littlejohn’s introduction to China’s one-child policy happened when the young Yale Law School graduate, working as a litigator at a prominent San Francisco law firm, took on a pro-bono case of a Chinese refugee seeking political asylum in the U.S.

“I don’t think she actually violated the one-child policy, Littlejohn told listeners at her Defend Life-sponsored talk at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Ellicott City April 19.

“She actually had a boy and a girl, but the one-child policy was relaxed in certain areas,” she explained.

But there were also sterilization quotas that the “family planning police” had to meet each year—“plus, they didn’t want her to have any more kids,” she added.

The young woman didn’t want to be sterilized. She knew that the people doing these sterilizations were not highly trained gynecological surgeons, but people with minimal training, said Littlejohn; “and out in the countryside, they don’t have an antiseptic environment, so when the women got infections, their entire health was ruined.

“So she resisted and resisted and resisted. She said cadres would come to her door every day pressuring her, but she would say no.

“Finally, they just picked her up—literally—she was a small woman, dragged her out of her home, screaming and crying, held her down to an operating table, cut her open and tied her tubes, all without anesthesia. She said that the pain was unimaginable—like somebody had a blow torch inside of her.



This little baby girl was rescued by Women’s Rights Without Frontiers’ Save the Babies campaign in China.

“Sure enough, like other women in her village, she ended up with a massive infection. She had chronic back and abdominal pain and chronic migraines from that moment on, up to the point when I met her 15 years later.”

Pressure from mother-in-law

China’s coercive sterilization policy is part of its population control program, begun in 1979, that limits couples to one child through forced abortion, sterilization, or exorbitant fines.

Because of the cultural preference for boys in China, pregnant women, often under pressure from their mother-in-law or husband, will undergo an ultrasound, and if they are carrying a girl, will submit to abortion—either willingly or forcibly.

Women who refuse “are literally dragged out of their homes and off the streets,” said Littlejohn.

Because ultrasounds can’t determine the sex of a child until 5

months, these are late-term abortions.

“They can be jailed in family planning jail cells and forcibly aborted up to 9 months. Some of these abortions are so violent that the women themselves die.”

China’s one-child policy has led to a severe sexual imbalance, with 35 million more men than women—about 123 boys to 100 girls, noted Littlejohn.

The scarcity of women “has had a very dark, domino effect” that has led to human trafficking and sexual slavery, she said.

“China’s policy causes more violence against women than any other policy in the world; I call it China’s war on women and girls,” she declared.

While Littlejohn was representing Chinese women seeking asylum in America, she suffered two miscarriages, which although not on a level of forced abortion, “made me more sensitive to their plight, on a visceral level,” she said.

A convert to Catholicism, Littlejohn had spent six weeks one summer volunteering with Mother Teresa at a home for abandoned babies in Calcutta. “It was an enormous inspiration to me,” she recalled.

As Reggie learned more about the suffering of women under China’s brutal, totalitarian regime, she felt “an absolute moral imperative to raise my voice, because they can’t,” she explained, adding, “If we don’t help them, who will?”

In 2008 she founded the non-profit, Women’s Rights Without Frontiers, with the goal of exposing and opposing forced abortion, genocide, and sexual slavery in China.

Her group fights forced abortion, sex slavery in China

Horrendous forced abortions

On January 1, 2016, China announced that it had abandoned its one-child policy in favor of a two-child policy. But forced abortions and sterilizations still continue, maintains Littlejohn.

The Chinese government has always suppressed such information, so it's very difficult to obtain and document.

But with the help of a man whose wife had been forcibly aborted, "We have documented forced abortion in eleven provinces," said Littlejohn; "he documented horrendous cases of forced abortions."

Littlejohn has spoken on China's abusive policies before Congress, at the White House, the State Department, and at the British and European parliaments.

Baby girls bring luck!

On the ground in China, Women's

Rights Without Frontiers has a Save the Babies campaign that, rather than fight Chinese culture and customs head-on, works with them to save baby girls.

"We have a network of field workers—Chinese nationalists—who knock on doors and tell pregnant women, 'Please don't abort or abandon your baby girl! We will give you a monthly stipend for a year if you keep her.'"

"This is enough for her to go to her mother-in-law and say, 'I can't abort this baby girl; she's already bringing us luck!'"

"We save hundreds of babies this way!"

Reggie's work became very personal in the case of Zhang Lin, a well-known Chinese dissident who threatened to kill the family planning police who came to his home and tried (unsuccessfully) to force his wife to abort their second child, a girl they named Anni.

They jailed and tortured him

repeatedly, said Littlejohn. When Anni was 10, they kidnapped her and later put her and Zhang under house arrest.

"With the help of Congressman Chris Smith and others, we were able to get Anni out of China," she recalled.

Reggie and her husband raised Anni as their own.

"We got her English lessons; she didn't speak a word of English!"

Anni also received piano lessons, won an international competition, and played piano in Carnegie Hall in 1916.

Helping abandoned widows

Women's Rights Without Frontiers also helps Chinese widows in their seventies or eighties who, as a result of the one-child policy, have no children to take care of them and are left abandoned and destitute.

"Our field workers knock on their doors and say, 'We're here to help you!'"

"This is a mind-blowing thing for these women; no one has ever come to help them. They say, 'Why are you doing this?'"

"When our field worker explains that she's Christian, they want to find out about God.

"So that's pretty cool, saving souls as well as bodies!"

Littlejohn would like to expand her group's work into India, where millions of baby girls are routinely aborted, or murdered or abandoned at birth.

For more information, see womensrightswithoutfrontiers.org.

To see Reggie Littlejohn's talk, go to [Defend Life's Facebook page](#) and click on "Videos."



Women's Rights Without Frontiers has documented the tragic results of China's one-child policy; above, women mourn the death of their friend who died during a forced abortion.



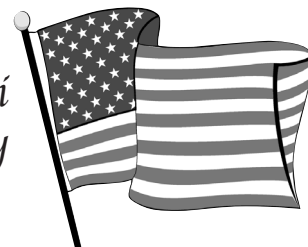
DEFEND LIFE

*Proclaiming the Culture of Life and
Fighting the Culture of Death since 1987*

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June 14, 2018 Anno Domini
Flag Day



Dear Friend of **DEFEND LIFE**,

Believe it or not, it's time for our **18th Annual Face the Truth Tour, July 23 -27**. Once again, we plan three Major **STOPS** five days in a row exposing the ugly **Evil Face Of Abortion**. In addition to Maryland, we plan to visit West Virginia and Washington, D.C., where we will go to the **White House**. Visit **DefendLife.org** for the 15 locations and times. Addresses will be posted later.

It's been **10** years since we refused to back down on **August 1, 2008** and when **18** of us were illegally arrested by the **Maryland State Police!** It was like **Nazi Germany**. They could not tell us why they had arrested us! We were proved right by a **\$385,000** settlement with the Maryland State Police, who violated our **First and Fourth Amendment** rights.



Fr. Frank Pavone of **Priests for Life** says it best when he states that **Until Americans see Abortion, Americans will not Reject Abortion!** It's that simple! The victim images we use cut through the media and academia blackout on abortion.

I urge you to **save these JULY 23-27 dates** and to actively participate in as many stops as possible. We also urgently need more **CORE TEAM** members. Core Team members go with us all **5** days to all **15** stops, **3** each day. Each day we have **Holy Mass**, a great luncheon speaker, and wonderful camaraderie.

Anyone who is passionately **PRO-LIFE**, can hold a sign, and who will be at least **15** by this September can be a **CORE TEAM** member. Those younger than 15 can still come if they **stay glued** to an older sibling or a parent. As of this writing, we have **13** signed up. We need at least **16** more. Please contact **Therese Rodriguez**, our Tour Director, **301-512-7451** Therese@DefendLife.org to sign up. We furnish everything including meals and overnight housing and transportation.



As in the past, we need your generous financial support. We need to raise \$16,000 just as we did last year. Believe it or not, there are substantial expenses including air fare for some speakers, **\$1,800** for the Truth Tour Truck from Ohio, **\$2,000** for our beautiful **PRO-LIFE** T-shirts, **\$1,600** for bus rentals, **\$2,000** for radio ads on **Rush Limbaugh's** local affiliates, fuel for our vehicles, stipends for our Director, and lots of other expenses.

The good news is that several generous donors have once again promised to match **YOUR** donation **\$ for \$ up to a total of \$8,000**. To qualify for this matching grant, please send your donation **TODAY!** It must be dated **no later than August 1**. So please give, give generously and ask others to give. **Remember, our Good and Gracious God is never outdone in generosity!** Please use the enclosed envelope, or you can donate online at **DefendLife.org**. I thank you for your generosity. Remember, your donation is **TAX DEDUCTIBLE!**

St. Philomena – The Princess Saint



Around 290 A.D., Philomena's father was apparently a King in Greece reporting to **Diocletian**, the very evil Emperor of the Roman Empire. The Roman Empire extended all over the colonized world. It extended from England to the Holy Land and beyond and from what is now Germany to Egypt and Northern Africa. **Greece** was a part of that Empire. As best as we know, Philomena's parents had secretly become Christians. They had only one child, Philomena.



Philomena's father was facing some sort of serious political crisis, so serious that he took his wife and young Philomena to Rome to seek a solution. Diocletian told him he would easily handle this serious crisis. There was only one catch, however. **He wanted to take their beautiful young daughter, Philomena, as his wife and Empress!**

She refused adamantly because she had already made a vow of perpetual virginity to Our Lord. No matter how much her parents prodded her, manipulated her, and threatened her, she would not change her mind. So they took her back to Rome where Diocletian unsuccessfully did the same things. He then chained her and put her into a dungeon for **40** days, visiting her daily and urging her to give up her vow of virginity and become his Empress. **Still she would not give in to his threats!** Then he chained her to a ship's anchor and tried to drown her in the Tiber. Somehow, Angels intervened and her life was spared. Then he had his archers shoot flaming arrows at Philomena. Somehow, these arrows turned around in mid-flight and came back and killed their respective archers. Ultimately, Philomena did die a martyr.

Fast forward **1500** years to **1802** when Vatican archaeologists found a tomb in one of the catacombs. The bones were determined to be those of a 13-year-old girl. The only other clue was a vial of blood typically entombed with martyrs. But they had no clue who this young martyr was.

Then a priest from a small village near Naples, whose parish was failing badly, went to Rome, and begged the Pope to take back these bones to the failing parish. **And then countless miracles began.** The church's bells rang as her bones were brought in. The village paralytic came running up the center aisle yelling that he had been totally cured. The woman who was dressing her bones to give her a more human appearance was instantly cured. Pauline Jaricot, who founded the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in France, and was suffering from a surely fatal disease, walked all the way to this village and was instantly cured. But still nobody had a clue who this young saint was during her earthly life. Then three different Mystics prayed independently to God that her identity be revealed. The same story, as described above, was revealed to each of them. That is how we know it was Philomena and the details of her earthly life.

Philomena has been responsible for thousands of miracles since then and is the **only Saint canonized solely because of her miracles.** Her Feast Day is August 11.

In today's morally decadent culture, **she is a shining example of Purity for all of us.**

Saint Philomena, Pray for Us!

P.S. Thanks to Home Schooling mother **Kelly Molino** who gave a **Light House Media** CD to me to give to our March speaker, **Zachary King**. Somehow, it wound up buried in my back seat. I was **blown away** when I listened to it.

Long Live Christ Our King,

Jack Ames
Jack Ames, Director

Enclosure

Book Review

How political savvy (and hard work) can reclaim the republic

By Diane Levero

In the 2017 general election in Virginia, State Delegate Bob Marshall had a target on his back.

The Republican candidate had won in 13 prior elections for the Virginia House of Delegates in a state legislative district that had voted twice for Obama.

But progressives were testing out tactics they could use to win in the 2018 U.S. Congressional elections.

Marshall's Democrat opponent, a male who claimed to be female, was funded almost entirely by the homosexual lobby and outspent him 3-to-1.

Volunteers, many from out-of-state who supported the LGBTQ agenda or Planned Parenthood, swarmed the district, knocking on doors to get out the vote for their transgender candidate.

In contrast, Republican voters failed to be equally active or to turn out in sufficient numbers in this off-year election.

The progressives' tactics and massive support from the homosexual lobby worked. Marshall, along with 14 other targeted Republican Virginia state delegates, lost his seat.

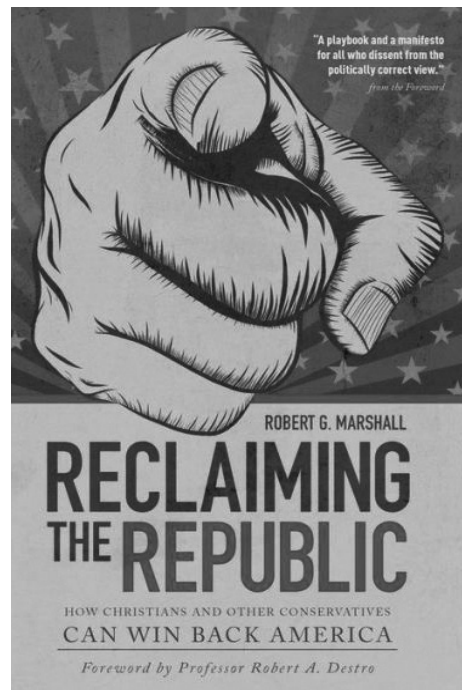
The consistent political conservative and devout Catholic hopes that the November 2017 elections in Virginia will be a wake-up call to conservatives who are concerned about the future of their country.

The impeachment threat to Donald Trump's presidency—and the threats to our nation's traditional values and welfare if the leftist progressives gain control of Congress

are very real, he warns.

Conservative Christians must fight back, says Marshall; they must become politically savvy and active in local politics.

In *Reclaiming the Republic: How Christians and Other Conservatives Can Win Back America*, Marshall first spells out the dire consequences that will ensue if we fail to act.



Then he details the nuts-and-bolts steps the average citizen can take to navigate precinct politics like a pro.

Progressives are already well on their way to achieving their agenda, Marshall points out.

Over 40 percent of all births in the U.S. now occur outside of marriage.

Since *Roe v. Wade*, we have been failing to protect the first right in the Declaration of Independence, the

right to life. And with *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the Supreme Court overturned the traditional understanding of marriage, “affirming as good, gravely destructive behaviors that contradict the ‘Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God,’” notes Marshall.

Congress acts as if they have no power to stop these Supreme Court “power grabs” that are shredding America’s moral and social fabric, but Marshall explains that they actually can.

He lays out fascinating historical facts and insights on the intent of our founders regarding the power and limited role of the Supreme Court.

He also explores the history and intent behind the Constitution’s clause protecting religious freedom and the erroneous concept of a “wall of separation” between church and state.

“The role of the Supreme Court as provided for by the Founders was to decide cases; it was not authorized to finally decide and impose a uniformity of public policy and non-appealable, judge-made law,” he declares.

He shows how Congress can limit the applications of Supreme Court decisions through “the power of the purse.”

A good example of this is the Hyde Amendment (which Marshall had a hand in writing), which curtails the use of Medicaid funds for abortion.

Surprisingly, Congress can also limit the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court to decide certain cases.

See **RECLAIM**, page 15

In My Humble Opinion

Let Alfie Evans and Charlie Gard deaths serve as warnings

By Janet Baker

We trust that all pro-lifers are aware of the murder of Alfie Evans on April 28.

He is a toddler who was a patient—perhaps “victim” is a better word—of Alder Hey hospital in Liverpool, England.

He was born in May 2016. The following December his parents took him to Alder Hey hospital when he started having seizures.

He was on life support for over a year. After that time the hospital petitioned the courts to be allowed to overrule his parents and remove him from life support. They never produced a specific diagnosis of his illness.

After many legal battles within the UK court system, his parents, Tom Evans and Kate James, lost their bid to save their son’s life.

His ventilator was turned off on April 23 and he died on April 28 within hours of being given very suspicious injections.

The whole British medical system, being socialized, has been shown in this situation (and that of Charlie Gard last year) to be quite brutal in asserting its interests over that of its patients.

When Alfie’s situation was made known world-wide, the government of Italy offered to take him to Jesu Bambino hospital in Rome with no charge whatsoever to England.

The hospital dug in its heels and refused to release Alfie to them. They even refused to let Alfie’s parents take him home to die surrounded by his family.

British authorities threatened to arrest anybody—even the parents—who approached Alfie with the intent of removing him from the hospital. They claimed it was “in Alfie’s interests,” even though they had already consigned him to death.

Since in the eyes of the British leviathan, Alfie was going to die anyway, why would they insist that his removal from the hospital would be harmful to him?



Alfie Evans was taken off life support in a British hospital against the wishes of his parents.

Their real concern was that Alfie’s removal from their control might have exposed any malpractice that they might have inflicted upon him—be that malpractice unintended or intended.

Some facts should be known to understand all the ramifications. Alfie had received his vaccinations per schedule. England’s system gives parents the right to pursue for legal remedy in the case of vaccine damages—provided the child attains the age of two years.

Alfie died just a few days shy of his second birthday. That was not a coincidence. There was no autopsy, even though autopsies are mandated for those who die in the charge of

government.

Clearly the British tyrants did not want toxicology reports to detail not only possible vaccine damage, but the nature and thus the purpose of the injections that Alfie received just hours before his death.

During the time that Alfie was breathing on his own, he was given nutrition only when the hospital was compelled by public attention and outrage.

Socialized medicine inherently gives government the power of life or death over its citizens. Those who run that system, and their government cohorts, become de facto gods. All checks and balances are removed.

As the saying goes, “Power corrupts. Absolute power corrupts absolutely.”

We have seen that in Alfie’s case. Clearly they didn’t acknowledge a higher power, i.e., God, and their role as His servants.

Their concern was the covering up of their malfeasances and/or the exercise of incredible hubris in denying parental rights to Alfie’s parents.

Where were the Catholic bishops of England in all this?

They spoke out in affirmation of the hospital, essentially cooperating in their outrageous and sinful conduct in overriding the parents of Alfie as they sought to exercise their rights to care for him. They actively undermined Alfie’s parents as well as the others who came to their assistance.

Moreover, they showed themselves to be operating in collusion

with the NHS/governmental cabal that operates in fashions reminiscent of Roman emperors giving the “thumbs down” in Roman coliseums.

It is fair to ask if the British bishops are receiving money from the government on condition that they obey the whims of the government as opposed to the commands of God whom they vowed to serve.

Even more mysterious, in my opinion, is the relative silence from the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child, a leading pro-life organization in England.

They released this one statement on their Facebook page on April 25: “Our hearts go out to the parents, whose proposals should be listened to unless they are very clearly against the interests of their child.

“As an absolute minimum, we hope that Alfie will continue to receive hydration, and hope he will also receive any nutrition from which he is still able to benefit overall.

“Regardless of whether Alfie is well enough to travel, he has a right to basic nursing care. As with any sick child or adult, the benefits and burdens of any course of action must be weighed, while of course, no medical decision should ever have the aim of hastening death.

“In assessing such cases, and patients’ ability to benefit, we must always ask if those referring to the ‘quality of life’ of the patient are in fact presuming some lives have little or no value. Such presumptions have no place in medical assessments, and should never be allowed to influence decisions on treatment or care.”

I saw no statement from them after Alfie died. A close reading of that statement makes plain that too much “wiggle room” is being given to the British medical authorities.

They mentioned correctly that “no medical decision should ever have the aim of hastening death.”

Why then, did they not deplore those injections given to Alfie just hours before his death? I contacted SPUC on their Facebook and Twitter pages about the matter; to date I have received no response.

Not so mysterious is a statement written by “New Pro-Life Movement” that essentially gives a carte blanche pass to the hospital (see [facebook.com/notes/rebecca-bratten-weiss/the-new-pro-life-movement-does-not-have-a-statement-on-alfie-evans/101561277305_04003/](https://www.facebook.com/notes/rebecca-bratten-weiss/the-new-pro-life-movement-does-not-have-a-statement-on-alfie-evans/101561277305_04003/)). NPLM is known to be left-wing.

We can never allow the government to hold so much much sway in our lives; we just saw how deadly that turned out for Alfie.

England is just a little bit further down the road to evil socialism than is the United States. Let us look at this one sad episode and draw some lessons.

First, we can never allow the government to hold so much sway over our lives; we just saw how that turned deadly for Alfie.

Our system of government is that of a constitutional republic, with checks and balances designed to restrain government officials who often develop appetites for power while in their positions.

With the election of Donald Trump, we may have dodged a bullet, as Obamacare is at least stalled in its tracks. We can never allow it to take root or it will be the murder-

ous monster that is England’s National Health Service.

Several years ago, many mocked Sarah Palin as she warned of the death panels that Obamacare would bring. Now that we saw England’s death panels carry out the murder of Alfie Evans, will we finally listen to Ms. Palin?

For the record, Alfie and Charlie are not isolated cases; tens of thousands have died in England under similar circumstances (see lifesitenews.com/blogs/alfie/evans-not-alone-hundreds-of-patients-starved-to-death-in-uk-every-year).

Second, in many cases we cannot trust the Church establishment, particularly if they take money from government agencies.

In England most of the bishops came down on the side of the murderous institutions while abandoning completely Tom Evans and Kate James as they attempted to save their son. The bishops even had the chaplain who was tending to Alfie evicted from the country.

Unfortunately, in Maryland we see that quite frequently, although not so drastically—yet.

Just this month, Governor Hogan signed into law a measure that will prevent gay reparation therapy from being administered to minors. In other words, parents would not be able to seek professional help for their children in combatting same-sex attractions.

Do any readers remember hearing a peep about this measure from the pulpit as it was making its way through the legislature? How about from the Maryland Catholic Conference? Nor did I.

We laity have to take initiative on our own and not wait for guidance from the pulpit, and this includes all facets of pro-life activism.

Ask questions, tell stories, Gray advises pro-lifers

By **Bob Brown**

How many pro-lifers have taken the stage in front of audiences at Yale University, UC Berkley, and Google headquarters? I think it's safe to say: Just one.

Stephanie Gray brought her formidable pro-life apologetics expertise—she has given more than 800 talks—to Mt. Zion United Methodist Church in Bel Air, Md., on May 5, for that church's first annual pro-life conference.

Gray's goal in her 50-minute presentation was not the defense of preborn children per se but *how* to make a defense of preborn children.

She did incorporate the basics of pro-life apologetics into her lecture, but she focused more on how to get those basics across in a winsome and successful manner.

The keys, Gray said, are to ask questions and tell stories. Her insights come from two decades' worth of pro-life interactions.

Gray grew up in British Columbia. Almost twenty years ago, she heard Scott Klusendorf, author of pro-life "bibles" *The Case for Life* and *Pro-Life 101*, speak at the National Campus Life Network Symposium.

Gray said she was challenged to rethink her career plans when Klusendorf pointed out that there were "more people willing to work full-time to kill babies than to save them."

Within two years, in 2001, Gray co-founded the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform (CCBR). She served as the organization's executive director for the next twelve years.

During that time, Gray also organized and directed the Genocide

Awareness Project. GAP participants engage students on college campuses across the United States and Canada with large, graphic images of abortion, the Holocaust, and other forms of genocide.

For a time, before Gray would agree to a speaking engagement, the host had to guarantee to play a 30-second video clip of an abortion in progress that she provided.

Several years ago, I made arrangements for Gray to debate a philosophy professor at the community college where I was teaching. After initially okaying the debate, the col-

**Gray pointed out
that telling a story
was a favorite strategy
that Jesus employed.**

lege's philosophy department got cold feet and said they were declining to show the video. Gray cancelled the debate.

Although Gray said she continues to believe in the validity of showing graphic images in pro-life outreach, after leaving CCBR she began a different work that has de-emphasized use of those images.

Love Unleashes Life, also the title of a recent book Gray authored and her YouTube channel, is the name of her new ministry.

She still travels extensively, giving presentations and equipping audiences with pro-life arguments *and* communication tools.

In recent months, she provided training for future doctors at a medical school in Alabama, debated a former

ACLU president at the University of Virginia, and spoke on euthanasia at the Oregon Right to Life conference.

As Gray told her audience of almost fifty people at Mt. Zion, when discussing abortion with someone who isn't pro-life, there are three essentials to making a strong pro-life case.

First, you must put yourself in that person's shoes. Didn't the Son of God do that very thing to save us? Secondly, you must be versed in the philosophical and scientific arguments that support the pro-life position. You do have to be able to make the intellectual case.

But, thirdly, you must reach that person's heart, not just her head. This can be done most powerfully by asking questions and telling stories.

Asking questions compels that other person to be an active participant in the discussion. Questions draw out responses from that person, enabling her to construct the pro-life case on her own, instead of being handed a finished product.

Telling a story, as Gray pointed out, was a favorite strategy that Jesus employed. Syllogisms and data have their place, but stories can be far more memorable and effective.

Gray gave several examples of questions that pro-lifers can use. For example, in cases where the intellectual argument is not getting through, Gray recommended open-ended questions to reposition the dialogue on more personal terms: "Where does your passion come from?" "Do you know anyone who went through an abortion?"

Gray offered many other good questions for specific scenarios, many of which can be found in her book and in videos on her website.

MIRA VIA, from page 2

skills classes on topics such as baby care and parenting, cooking and nutrition, and finance and budgeting.

In the spacious home, each mom gets her own room, which is larger than regular dorm rooms.

There is a laundry room, a very large kitchen and dining room, a nursery/playroom, a small chapel with the Blessed Sacrament, a large screened-in porch, a garden and an

outdoor playground.

Mira Via currently houses seven mothers and four children.

“There is a *lot* of beautiful bonding that goes on between the mother residents of Mira Via,” says Sister Mary Jacinta.

Sister Jacinta is a member of the Daughters of the Virgin Mother, a religious order in the Charlotte diocese that helps out the moms from 9 to 5 Monday through Friday by preparing meals, helping with child

care, and providing love and emotional support.

Other staff and volunteers are there to help on evenings and weekends.

The new mothers “become sisters and friends,” says Sister Jacinta. “They encourage each other all the time and have fun together, goofing off and being normal college kids.

“It has also been so beautiful to see them taking advantage of the Catholic resources here to grow in their faith,” she reflects. (She added that one doesn’t have to be Catholic to be a resident at Mira Via.)

Many pregnant college students who wind up at Mira Via learn about it through the health center staffs at nearby colleges.

“We make sure the health centers have our brochures,” says Capen.

In fact, Mira Via’s first resident was a student at University of North Carolina Charlotte when she went to its health center for a pregnancy test. It came back positive.

“They did what they always do, and handed her a packet of options, resources which included Planned Parenthood, but also Mira Via,” says Capen.

“The South having such a Christian culture, many of these sweet nurses at the health centers want to help these women, but don’t always know how,” she adds

The name Mira Via derives from Latin and means “miraculous way.”

“It is a ‘miraculous way!’” declares Missy Smith.

“It covers an enormous unmet need for college women who are pregnant and single, and who think they must choose between their babies and their college education.”

For more information see miravialife.org.



“God’s best gift!”

Passersby at Defend Life’s monthly demonstration on April 18 protesting the committing of abortions at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center in Baltimore got heartfelt support from many passersby.

Above, Inger Smith, who is vision-impaired due to congenital cataracts, shows sign holder Ron Herning her rosary, declaring, “I’m Catholic, and I’m against abortion!”

Another passerby thanked the pro-lifers for being there. “Children are God’s best gift!” he exclaimed. “Satan’s all over the place any more—these people doing the abortions are going to have to answer to God one day.”

“It’s wonderful to have people give us this support,” said pro-lifer John Lewis; “it warms the heart on a cold day!”

RECLAIM, from page 10

Moreover, asserts Marshall, Congress can't compel states to carry out federal law unless the states agree.

“Since many federal programs depend for their success on state cooperation, state refusal to assist the implementation of federal programs is an effective and constitutional way to practically suspend the operation of a federal law within those states,” he says.

But how can we elect legislators at state and federal levels with the guts to stand up and fight to implement our conservative ideals?

By understanding a fundamental truth, says Marshall: All politics is local.

It begins in the precinct—sometimes called a ward—the smallest political subdivision in the U.S. for selecting elected officials.

“‘Working the precinct,’ either by walking door to door or by making live phone calls, is still the most efficient and effective way to win elections,” he maintains.

Marshall delves back into his years of campaigning to provide very concrete, down-to-earth advice for citizens who are new to the political game to work at a precinct level to get their candidate elected.

“It is no exaggeration to say that your children and grandchildren's future for family formation, employment, and every other aspect of life is being decided today by LGBTQ and transgender zealots,” declares Marshall.

The outcome will be decided by what people of faith decide to do or not to do, he predicts.

“What is at stake is not merely who wins or loses a game, but the republic itself.

“Let's reclaim it before it is too late.”



May Crowning honors Our Lady of Fatima

Our Lady of Fatima Church in East Baltimore honored Our Blessed Lady on Mother's Day, May 13, the 101st Anniversary of Mary's first apparition at Fatima, with a Mass, a May procession and the crowning by Petrina Maria B. Maximiano. August "Buzzy" Stockman (bottom photo, left) and Jim Bocklage of Knights of Fatima Council 10137 performed as Color Guard. Both men are regular participants in Defend Life's monthly demonstrations against the committing of abortions of up to 24 weeks at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center in Baltimore.



INSIDE:
College provides home for pregnant students, babies



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18th Annual Maryland Truth Tour
Your generous donation doubles \$ for \$! *DETAILS ON PAGE 8*




18th Annual Maryland Face the Truth Tour

MONDAY, JULY 23 – FRIDAY, JULY 27

- Americans will not reject abortion until Americans see abortion!
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- **Join our Core Team! Be with us for ALL 5 days and ALL 15 stops.***
- **Core Team Members must be at least 15 by this September.****
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- **Training the future leaders of the Pro-Life Movement!**

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West Virginia, Home Schooling Mother of 5
- TUESDAY: Monica Miller, PhD.**
Author, Theologian and Activist
- WEDNESDAY: Bob Marshall**
Author, *Reclaiming the Republic*
- THURSDAY: Moira Sheridan**
President, Delaware Right To Life
- FRIDAY: Day Gardner**, Pro-Life Advisor,
National Diversity Coalition for Pres. Trump

*For a list of STOPS, visit DEFENDLIFE.org
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FALL LECTURE TOURS



Irish Born Author ANN McELHENNEY
is available to speak at your parish or KofC Council the evenings of
Thursday, September 13 & Friday, September 14

CONTRACEPTION: The Untold Evil That Has Led to the Abortion Holocaust

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is available to speak the evenings of
Thursday, October 18 & Friday, October 19
on the 50th anniversary of *Humane Vitae*, proclaimed by Pope Paul VI, which predicted this holocaust.

CARDINAL JOHN O'CONNOR
was installed as the Archbishop of New York on March 19, 1984. Few Archbishops in America had near the stature of O'Connor as he led the faithful Catholics of that great city and dealt daily with the hostile New York Media.

Author and Historian, who served directly under then Bishop of Scranton FATHER CHARLES CONNOR
is available to speak the evenings of
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To book one of these great speakers in the Baltimore, Washington, Northern Virginia and Harrisburg areas, contact
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