



DEFEND LIFE

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

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Abp. Lori orders LGBT activist priest to retire early Denies Fr. Muth's request to stay on; parishioners plan pushback

Archbishop William Lori has told Father Joseph Muth, pastor of St. Matthew and Blessed Sacrament parishes in Baltimore, that he wants the long-time LGBT activist priest to retire in September 2020, at age 72.

Father Muth told his parishioners that he asked the Archbishop to be allowed to remain until he was 75, but that Lori denied his request.

Muth, who was ordained in the Archdiocese of Baltimore in 1974 and has served in various archdiocesan churches since then, has labored indefatigably for years to promote not just acceptance but downright approval of active homosexual and other LGBT behavior by both St. Matthew Church and the Catholic Church in general.

The priest has been an active member of New Ways Ministry, a Maryland-based national organization founded in 1977 to push for acceptance of active gay and lesbian Catholics within the Catholic Church.

The Congregation of the Doctrine of Faith condemned the group's positions on homosexuality in 1999.

Father Muth's pro-homosexual efforts have met with payoff.

In 2015 Newsweek.com ran with a hugely sympathetic article and videos about the LEAD (LGBT



Father Muth (2nd from left) marches in Baltimore's 2016 Gay Pride Parade.

Educating and Affirming Diversity) Ministry, which Muth founded at St. Matthew.

The following year, the Baltimore Museum of Art hosted an exhibit featuring videos extolling Muth's efforts, through LEAD, to condone homosexual behavior.

"Count it all joy"

On February 18, about fifty people attended a meeting in St. Mat-

thew parish hall to launch a campaign opposing Archbishop Lori's retirement dictum.

"This is the first of three meetings we will have," explained former priest Peter McIver, who helped conduct the meeting. "We don't want to have a knee-jerk reaction—we want to get ideas and strategy."

Father Muth, present at the meeting, quoted from the Letter of

See RETIRE, page 10

Retreat for Gay Priests cancelled—for now

Concerned Catholics urge Abp. Lori to stand tall against Retreat

A scandalous and sacrilegious Retreat for Gay Priests sponsored by a powerful dissident group, scheduled for April 14-16 in Maryland, has been cancelled—for now.

The center where the retreat was to be held announced around March 15 that, following the guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on the coronavirus, it would immediately close the center until May 10.

But Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center, in Marriottsville, Md., left the door wide open for possibly rescheduling the Gay Priests Retreat:

“[W]e will be constantly reviewing the situation and make changes

as they apply to us.

“That means the Retreat & Conference center could reopen sooner—or later than the recommended eight weeks, depending on the spread of the virus in the population” (<https://rcbonsecours.com/us/bon-secours-response-to-covid-19/>).

But since January, when they learned of the impending retreat, several groups of concerned pro-life Catholics have worked to persuade Baltimore Archbishop William Lori to do everything in his power to stop it.

One group held an informational demonstration in front of the Basilica of the Assumption in Baltimore on March 15.

“Acceptance and love”

The retreat’s sponsor, New Ways Ministry (NWM), advertised it online as a “Retreat for Gay Priests, Bishops, Brothers and Deacons,” and titled it “Love Casts Out Fear: Finding Courage to Speak Our Truth.”

The Catholic Church has always condemned homosexual acts as extremely grave sins.

But New Ways Ministry makes no mention of the sinful nature of homosexual behavior on its website announcement.

Instead, it says that the retreatants will discuss:

- How can we speak the truth about ourselves?
- How can we find acceptance and love?

“Why am I afraid to tell you who I am?” NWM asks rhetorically.

“Gay men are disproportionately present in the Catholic clergy,” it goes on to say.

“The overwhelming majority serve the church with care and compassion. However some Catholics blame the sexual abuse of minors on the presence of gay men in ministry.

“In this atmosphere of blame and shame, gay priests are afraid to speak the truth of who they are. They are afraid of rejection and retaliation. But if the Church is really faithful to Christ, we would be a community of love, not fear.

Ditas Sison and Defend Life Director Jack Ames display signs in front of the Basilica of the Assumption in Baltimore informing Catholics of the Retreat for Gay Priests.



See RETREAT, page 13

Catholic school hosts workshop on starting pro-gay ministries

A workshop on how you can start a pro-LGBT “ministry” at your parish was part of an all-day event at Mercy High School in Baltimore February 29.

The event, the 41st Annual Social Ministry Convocation, was co-sponsored by Catholic Charities of Baltimore.

Attendees registering in advance online for the convocation could make their checks payable to CCHD/Archdiocese of Baltimore.

This year’s convocation was titled “Who Is My Neighbor: Confronting a Culture of Fear.”

Representatives from eight parishes in the Baltimore Archdiocese conducted morning and afternoon sessions of the LGBT workshop, titled “Why Our Parishes Need LGBTQ+ Ministries: Creating a Safe Place for Conversations and Shared Stories.”



arianaaragon.wordpress.com

At the workshop, Ariana Aragon spoke of how she wants to start an LGBT ministry in her parish.

A concerned Catholic, who has asked to remain anonymous, attended the morning portion of the Convocation.

“The tone [of the Convocation] was set at the opening ceremony,” she reported.

“One lay speaker recited by heart emotional excerpts from *Laudato Si* [Pope Francis’ encyclical on the environment and human ecology]: ‘Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us.’

“The speaker then went on into global warming, pollution, and global inequality, with a prayer at the end to ‘Mother of the Cosmos.’”

‘Very angry with the Church’

The goal of the workshop was “for more parishes in the Archdiocese to have LGBTQ ministries,” explained the concerned Catholic.

Speakers emphasized that the LGBTQ community “struggles to be recognized” in the Catholic Church, and that “They are very angry with the ‘Institutional Church,’” she said.

“One of the ways they appeal to gaining support is through emotional ‘story telling’ to ‘change people’s hearts,’ so the majority of the workshop was just that—different people from parishes telling their story.”

Most of the speakers in the morning session were parents or grandparents of LGBTQ individuals, she reported.

However, one speaker, Ariana Aragon, told of her struggle with Same Sex Attraction (SSA) when she was young.

Her parents said she would grow out of it, but she didn’t.



St. Vincent de Paul’s website displays this emblem for ALIVE, its LGBT+ ministry.

“She was strong in her Catholic faith, and was totally turned away from the Church in college when a priest in his homily said that Same Sex Attracted people are not welcome in the Church,” reported the concerned Catholic.

Depressed, confused, and looking for answers, she wrote a paper in college titled, “And the Word Was Gay,” which helped her explore what the Church teaches about the topic.

“She said she has struggled with her faith, loves Jesus, and wants acceptance,” said the Catholic reporter.

“She feels she has a vocation to create an LGBTQ ministry [in her parish] where people like her can find acceptance, love and open conversation and a safe space.”

Aragon has a blog at www.arianaaragon.wordpress.com/blog.

Speakers also praised “science and technology as taking the lead in removing SSA in the psychiatric journals as a mental illness,” the reporter noted.

See WORKSHOP, page 12

Catholic university-backed pro-abortion/LGBT gala wiped

Fears over the coronavirus caused the cancellation of a major women's festival to be presented by Notre Dame of Maryland University, scheduled for March 7 at Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

But not before pro-lifers—including Notre Dame alumni—had reacted with shock, anger and outrage over the event, which was to feature former Planned Parenthood CEO Cecile Richards as a keynote speaker.

And not before Archbishop William Lori had contacted the university and succeeded in getting Richards cancelled as a speaker.

The WOW Women of the World Festival had lined up an array of pro-abortion, pro-LGBT speakers and sessions, including:

- Sister Jeannine Gramick, a pro-LGBT nun condemned by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith for her disobedience.



WOW Women of the World Festival Baltimore was cancelled due to fears over the coronavirus.

- Lesbian ex-nun Patricia Dwyer, author of *Confessions of a Lesbian Ex-Nun*, in which she writes about her homosexual “marriage.”
- “Unruly Catholic Nuns: Faith and Feminism,” a session featuring “stories” of ex-nuns who promote homosexuality and attack the moral teaching of the Church.

- Vanessa Geffrard, vice-president of Planned Parenthood of Maryland's Education and Outreach, who teaches school-children about “contraceptive methods,” reducing “abortion stigma,” and “LGBTQ inclusion.”
- Former NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland board member Rachel Indek.
- TV talk show host and former TV anchor and reporter Soledad O'Brien, who says of her abortion in 2012, “It was the right choice for me.”
- A session called “Sex Café.”
- A “Gender Equality” session for children aged 6 to 10 only—no parents allowed.

“Blown away”

When area pro-lifers learned of the scheduled festival in mid-February, they took to the Internet and the news quickly went viral.

“I was blown away,” Notre Dame alumnus Liana Campanella told her huge email list.

“Right now, I am beyond shocked and truly disgusted! They're coming for our kids so hard and fast, it'll make your head spin.

“As a Notre Dame alum, I will be calling the school to make my voice heard.”

She urged other alums to do the same, “especially if they are donors!”

Notre Dame alum Nancy Burke blanket-emailed: “‘Catholic’ Campus Presents Worst Pro-Abortion Speakers—Protest NOW.

“This is an outrage!” she fumed,



Former Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards was scheduled to be a keynote speaker at the WOW Festival in Baltimore, presented by Notre Dame of Maryland University.

See WOW, page 13

In My Humble Opinion

Some thoughts—and some hard truths about COVID-19 panic

By Janet Baker

As I write this, we are in the throes of a governmental shutdown of many aspects of public life, stemming from reactions to the coronavirus scare.

Most egregiously, in this area, various local governments are permitting no more than 10 people to congregate—even on private property, such as homes and churches.

These orders are unconstitutional on their face.

Most of us tend to think of the First Amendment as protecting freedom of speech. In fact, that freedom is just one of several God-given rights protected by that amendment. Two others that are being trampled now are freedom of religion and freedom of assembly.

I urge one and all to obtain a copy of the First Amendment and read it. Please notice that there are no conditions placed upon those rights, save only that assemblies be peaceable.

Our Founding Fathers, having recently fought their way from British tyranny, were solicitous not to see the same governmental encroachments happen under their watch.

Yet here we are, with so many citizens almost begging for the institution of martial law, not understanding or perhaps refusing to acknowledge that their mewling and bowing and scraping are only serving to feed an ever-growing behemoth.

Begging the government for protection against COVID-19, the short-sighted populace fail to realize that a government big enough to protect them and give them false security is also big and arrogant enough

to deprive them of life and liberty.

Even more appalling is the spectacle of the bishops falling lock-step with the shuttering of their churches and the hampering of their own sacerdotal duties to see to the eternal salvation of souls.

Indeed, in many cases the bishops have gone over and beyond the already draconian demands of civil officials.

For instance, when this whole mess started, Governor Hogan forbade gatherings of more than 250 people. Washington's Archbishop

Even more appalling is the spectacle of the bishops falling lockstep, shuttering their churches and hampering their duties to see to the salvation of souls.

Wilton Gregory responded by shutting down all Masses in his Archdiocese.

We know that most weekday Masses don't come close to 250 people in attendance—the number is usually 25 or less.

Moreover, much of Gregory's diocese is in Washington, D.C., clearly outside the scope of Hogan's authority. So much for his claim of merely cooperating with Governor Hogan.

Some readers are undoubtedly wondering just what this has to do with Defend Life's mission to combat abortion. It's really quite simple.

I don't think anyone can doubt that with 60 million babies murdered since 1973 in the United States alone, we as a nation have incurred much blood guilt before God. World-wide the number murdered via abortion is astronomical.

This corona plague is world-wide. Italy is one of the hardest-hit countries. It is also the country where the Vatican and other Catholic churches were defiled by the Pachamama idols.

We desperately need the Sacrifice of the Holy Mass to offer atonement to Our Just God.

Yet now Masses are being curtailed. "But priests can offer private Masses," you say? Given the woe-filled state of seminary education, just how many priests do we think will really do that? In fact, how many of these priests even know what a "private Mass" is?

We need more Masses, not less, for the graces so desperately needed for conversion of souls to Him—conversion that will lead to eternal salvation and, among other benefits, the end of baby-slaughter.

Moreover, Confession is also being restricted, to the eternal peril of many souls in mortal sin.

I regret that many otherwise faithful Catholics do not accept the peril of their acquiescence and even agreement with the curtailing of sacraments, believing that such is necessary for safety against the coronavirus.

They state that God's grace will get us through this deprivation of sacraments, just as has happened

See SHUTDOWN, page 11

Heritage Pregnancy Center helps babies, moms, dads, teens—

By Bob Brown

A Planned Parenthood whistleblower, a pastor of a Missionary Baptist Church, a mother of six adopted children: These are just some of the members of one big happy family dedicated to protecting pre-born children, ministering to moms and dads, and stabilizing communities in and around Cecil County, Md.

Heritage Family and Pregnancy Health Center, with locations in Rising Sun and Elkton, has impacted its neighbors with a host of impressive programs in the short time since opening its doors.

The Elkton branch went live in November 2017. Its free services meet an entire range of family needs.

Of course, moms can come in to get diapers, formula, and clothes for their babies. Then, after the first visit, they must take classes—some consisting of video lessons less than ten minutes long—to continue receiving material benefits.

Heritage executive director Lisa Tallman said she wants the community to know that her center cares for the whole person—and not just moms and babies.

Teens can take a class on sexual integrity called “5 by 5.” If they complete all twenty-five units of the class, they earn a \$25 gift card.

Although Tallman said that attendance in the program can be “sporadic,” as of my January 23 visit to the center, eight teens had completed the program.

Dads can take a class called “Practical Fatherhood and Authentic Manhood.” Currently, Michael Moore, the youth and associate pastor at Nottingham (Pa.) Missionary



Sara, one of Heritage’s two Spanish client advocates (right), enjoys time with Carmen discovering milestones for her baby, Leo.

Baptist Church, holds the class each Thursday at the Elkton branch.

Tallman said Heritage hopes to expand the class to Mondays as well, and is looking for another male mentor to lead it.

Heritage also offers natural family planning classes via the Creighton model. Heritage board of directors president Jayne Werbrich, a nurse, runs the class. (More on her interesting story below.)

The staff at Heritage love to throw baby showers for moms, typically a month before a baby’s due date. And there’s one program at Heritage that you won’t find at many pregnancy resource centers: a newborn portrait studio. A photographer sets up a photo session at the Elkton center free of charge.

Heritage’s Rising Sun branch planned an official open house on February 24 of this year after its “soft” opening in January, but had to postpone it to June due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Clients can go there to receive free sonograms, overseen by medical director Lauren Dawson.

The Elkton branch, however, has not received permission to perform ultrasound work. When plans were initiated in 2017 for Union Hospital in Elkton to merge with ChristianaCare’s two hospitals, the town of Elkton put a moratorium on new medical centers.

This means that Heritage’s Elkton branch cannot offer sonograms, Tallman said. Even without sonograms, though, the Elkton branch is running on all cylinders. It’s a busy place.

Besides the programs mentioned above, Heritage has opened its doors to train nursing students. Tallman said the training must be done in a “secular way,” but students from Drexel University, Grand Canyon University, Cecil College, and the University of Maryland have received community-nursing practice at Heritage.

even nursing students!—with wide range of programs

The students have been surprised by what they've seen. Tallman said the three words she hears most often from expectant moms *and* nursing students is "I didn't know."

What didn't they know? For one thing, a preborn baby, no matter how small, is not a clump of cells but a marvelously complex, growing, and very human individual.

Abortionists know this fact, too, although it doesn't dissuade them from operating their barbaric business.

Jayne Werbrich can tell you this firsthand. She worked less than a month at Planned Parenthood's two Delaware locations, in Wilmington and Dover, before resigning in August 2012.

Because of what she saw, she feared she might lose her nursing license if she didn't get out, she told the *Washington Post* in a May 30, 2013 article.

Before a Delaware state senate

committee, Werbrich and another nurse testified about Planned Parenthood's "meat-market conditions": instruments not sterilized, blood and fluids of one patient not cleaned up before the next patient was brought in.

The whistleblowers also described how abortionist Timothy Liveright

Heritage's Jayne Werbrich blew the whistle in 2013 on 'meat-market conditions' at Planned Parenthood facilities in Delaware.

(could anyone have a more ill-suited name?) mistreated patients and harassed female employees.

In an August 2, 2013, article, the *Washington Post* likened Planned

Parenthood's Delaware operations to those of former abortionist and convicted murderer Kermit Gosnell, who in May 2013 had received three life sentences for (some of) his crimes.

The Delaware Planned Parenthood centers were closed temporarily, and the Delaware Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline called Liveright, who voluntarily surrendered his license in Delaware, "a clear and immediate danger to the public."

As all are who murder children.

Heritage, on the other hand, like every other pregnancy resource center, is a source of blessing to the public.

Visit Heritage on the web at Heritage-PHFC.com or call (667) 215-0143.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/she-the-people/wp/2013/05/30/nurses-describe-unsafe-conditions-at-delaware-abortion-clinic/>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/she-the-people/wp/2013/08/02/another-gosnell-in-delaware/>

<https://abortiondocs.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Liveright-Timothy-F.-Complaint-Delaware-Board-of-Medical-Licensure-5-30-2013.pdf>



A Heritage client (left) learns about his role as a dad and becoming a man of God with Pastor Mike Moore.

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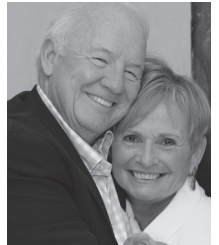


*April 6, 2020 Anno Domini
Feast of Saint Peter of Verona, OP*

Dear Friend of **DEFEND LIFE**,

I can't say enough about **Senator Frank Kelly**, a true American hero in this limited space, so that's why a complete review of his autobiography, **Surrender to Win: The Story of the Honorable Francis X. Kelly**, will be included in a future issue. But for now, here is what can be said about this remarkable man:

- He is a Godly, prayerful man — he puts God first in all he does
- He is a family Man — **4 Sons, Frank III, John, David, Bryan** and **21 Grandchildren**



- He is a consummate entrepreneur
- He is totally devoted to his college sweetheart and wife **Janet**, who also has tremendous business savvy
- After quitting his job for **moral reasons**, he began his **business empire** in the basement of his modest Timonium home with his 4 school-age sons and wife Janet

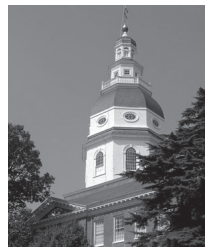


- After God and his Family, Frank's passion is **Public Service**. Here are 2 examples.

Defeating 3rd Trimester Abortion in Maryland

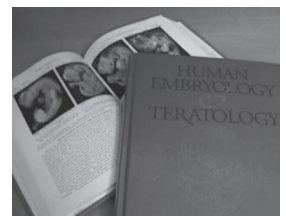
In **1990**, Kelly was a **3-term** Maryland State Senator. The very liberal pro-abortion State Senate introduced a bill permitting **unrestricted rights** to abortion until delivery, even for minors without their parents' consent. It was by far the **most permissive abortion bill** ever introduced in any of **our 50 states!**

There were **16 Pro-Life** senators in the **50-member** Senate who were willing to fight the bill, but not nearly enough for a **25-25** (tie-vote) to defeat it. With the help of the late Cardinal William Keeler and lobbyists like the **incomparable Pat(ricia) Kelly**, it became obvious that the only way to **Kill this Bill** was to **Filibuster it to Death**. That meant that these **16** stalwart, uncompromising **Pro-Life** senators had to speak 1 hour at a time, then handing it off to another, during the **12** hour daily sessions. **The marathon lasted 9 days.**



These heroes included state Senator **Jack Cade**, long-time **DEFEND LIFE** supporter **Frank Shore**, and **Frank Kelly**, who led the charge. During this marathon, **no other State business** could be conducted. Kelly was often interrupted by **Pro-Abortion** Catholic State Senate President **Mike Miller** and phone calls from the late **irate Pro-Abortion Governor William Donald Schaefer** with threats that this **fiasco was** going to cost Kelly his Senate seat. Kelly replied, **I know, but it's not going to cost me my soul!**

At one point, Kelly, speaking to the entire **50-member** Senate, held high a **Bible**, and said, **If you don't want to believe this book**, then believe this book from the University of Maryland Medical School (which you fund every year). It says that **Life begins at Conception**. There was dead silence.



Ultimately, his great filibuster succeeded. For details, read chapter 9 of his most readable book.

Keeping St. Joseph Hospital Catholic

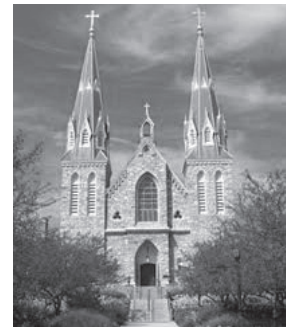
Back in 2012, a scandal involving the hospital's chief cardiologist broke. Reportedly, he had surgically implanted nearly **600** stents in patients when such stents were not needed. Supposedly, he implanted **30** of these stents in one day. All this resulted in **\$37** million in medical malpractice claims. Catholic Health Initiatives, who then owned St. Joseph's paid a **\$22** million fine to the Federal Government. Hospital admissions dropped **20%**. The hospital was losing **\$3 million** a month. Doctors and staff were leaving in herds, voluntarily or by layoffs. There was a chance that this nearly **150**-year-old Catholic hospital would be forced to close. Enter Frank Kelly, who was in charge of acquisitions for the University of Maryland Medical Systems (**UMMS**), which he had helped form with legislation while a State Senator in 1984. He loved Saint Joseph's, having taken his sons there, possibly to heal lacrosse injuries, not to mention **11** of his grandchildren who had been born there. He very much wanted to preserve its faith-based, high quality **Catholic** identity. With some great **belly-to-belly** negotiating, Frank Kelly was able to accomplish this merger even though **UMMS** was not the highest bidder.



Newly consecrated **Archbishop William Lori**, who had just arrived from Connecticut, was also a key player. He completely trusted Frank Kelly's promise to **Keep the Hospital Catholic!** But that was not the end of this story. **UMMS** then asked Frank to become Board chairman of the newly merged hospitals. He recruited great leadership, and, within **3** years, St. Joseph's was once again profitable and providing the highest quality health care.

Frank, unlike most board chairs, was active and **hands-on**. He told Dr. Mohan Suntha, CEO, whom he had recruited to lead Saint Joseph out of their problems, that he was available **24/7** if needed. They would talk daily for each other's benefit. Frank continues to gown up and watches surgeries in the operating rooms. He asks doctors and nurses and staffers what they need to perform their jobs better. Needless to say, such involvement is **highly unusual** in today's corporate America.

Here is another great example. On Monday of a Memorial Day weekend, a large water line bursts. Flooding occurs on the lower level of the hospital. By Tuesday morning, the operating rooms are closed. Frank is vacationing in Bethany Beach, Delaware. But by 4PM, he is back in the Command Center of the hospital in Towson, offering his and his Board's help to quell this emergency.



Frank Kelly and **Jack Ames** have a lot in common.

- Both grew up in Pennsylvania
- Both went to Villanova when it was first and foremost **Catholic**
- Both love Villanova basketball
- Both are tenaciously **PRO-LIFE**
- Both love **St. Joseph's Hospital**
- Jack is very proud to say his **85**-year-old wife, **Mary Lou**, is a Eucharistic Minister at St. Joseph's

Long Live Christ Our King!

Jack Ames

Jack Ames, P.E., Director

Enclosure

P.S. For a complimentary copy of this inspiring book, email FXKelly@KellyWay.com

RETIRE, from page 1

James 1, 2: “Count it all joy, my brethren, when you meet various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.”

His listeners responded with enthusiastic applause.

One of the meeting organizers then read aloud Father Muth’s lengthy statement, which he had given at his January 15-16 Masses.

“The Archbishop wants me to retire” in September 2020, he told his congregants.

Archdiocesan policy calls for a priest to notify the archbishop when he turns 70, he explained.

Muth said he wrote to the Archbishop that he would be 70 in 2018. He asked him for permission to stay until 2023, “when I turn 75.”

One reason for his request, he said, was to see his pastorate “through the final stages of its strategic planning process.”



Father Muth gives Communion at St. Matthew Church.

The Archbishop, in a January 2020 letter, replied that “after careful consideration,” he thought it would be “in the best interests” to keep the original retirement date of September 2020.

After the organizer finished reading Father Muth’s statement, the priest commented to the audience, “Messengers come and go—

however, the message stays the same: All are welcome.”

“Why pick on Father Muth?”

The organizer then fielded questions for Muth from the audience, which two helpers posted on large sheets of paper.

Many of the questions revealed the questioners’ anger and frustration at the Archbishop’s retirement mandate.

“What is meant by ‘after careful consideration?’” asked one person.

“Why did they pick on Father Muth?” asked another.

“Is this the only parish that has a reputation of being as liberal and welcome to all?” a woman asked.

Another woman asked Muth directly, “Do you have the sense that you know that [Lori’s retirement mandate] is because of your activism to the immigrants and the LGBT community?”

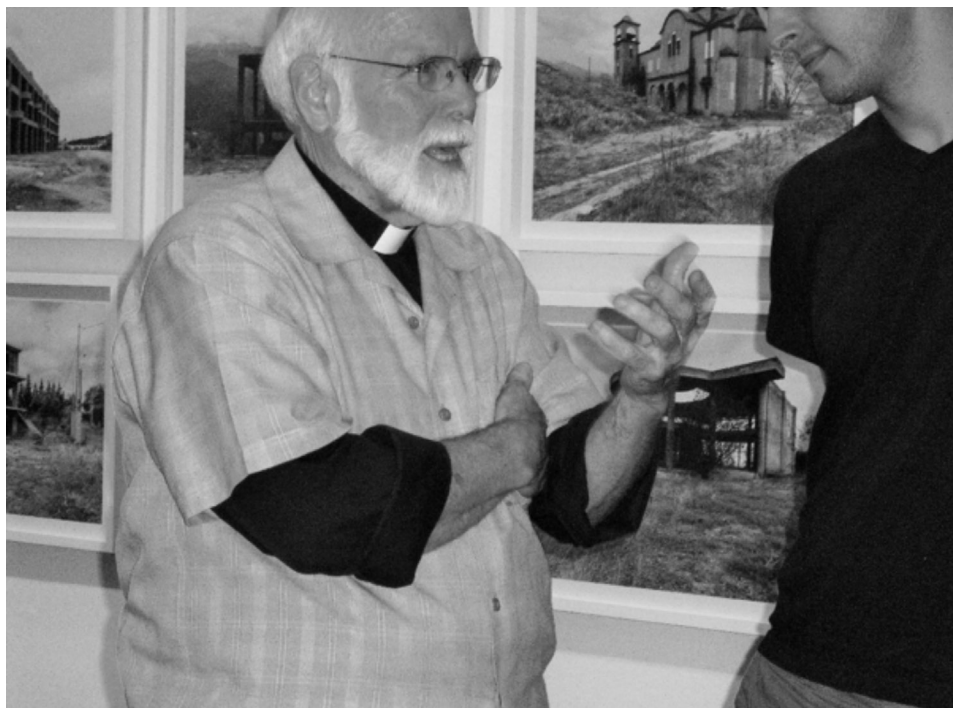
“I have a sense that that is part of it,” Muth admitted. “But there are three other parishes with an active LGBT group, and five others are considering it.”

Defend Life reporter ejected

While the questioning was proceeding, a man in the audience, who earlier had mentioned that he was part of the LEAD Ministry, saw a *Defend Life* reporter sitting next to him taking notes, and asked if she was a reporter, and with whom.

When she told him, he immediately got up and walked over to Father Muth, who was standing nearby, and whispered to him.

A few minutes later, the woman conducting the questioning announced, “This is a safe place, where a person can give their thoughts and opinions freely. We’re



Father Muth attends the Baltimore Museum of Art’s exhibit on his pro-LGBT work in 2016.

going to pause for several minutes and ask that anyone who is planning on reporting the meeting to respect that and leave.”

She looked straight at the reporter.

The reporter objected to the term “safe place,” saying that she was not going to use names, and no one’s “safety” was going to be violated.

The organizer repeated that this was a planning and strategy session for the parish, and parishioners

wanted to be able to speak freely.

“But this is a newsworthy event,” the reporter objected. “It’s of rightful interest to Catholics in other parishes in the Archdiocese! What about freedom of the press?”

The organizer continued to insist that she leave.

“So I’m being ordered out,” the reporter retorted. She put on her coat and left.

Defend Life has reported critically for four years on the LGBT activities of Father Muth and the

LEAD Ministry, and of Archbishop Lori’s tacit permission, by his silence, of those activities.

Those reports included a photo revealing Father Muth marching in the 2016 Gay Pride Parade in Baltimore in 2016.

Defend Life also published a photo of LEAD Ministry members marching in Baltimore’s 2018 Pride Parade with signs identifying them as from St. Matthew Catholic Church, despite Lori’s asking Muth that no such signs be carried.

SHUTDOWN, from page 5

during times of persecution. However, during those times, it was not bishops who were depriving people of the sacraments.

Let’s not forget that the Sacraments were instituted by Our Lord Himself to be channels of His grace. Should we persist in downplaying the importance of sacraments for the sake of temporal safety, by what logic do we expect God’s grace when we don’t value the prime channels of His grace? Some priorities are in definite need of realignment.

However, even in this corona cloud there are some glimmers of silver linings.

A few weeks ago, Notre Dame of Maryland University was slated to hold a feminist gab-fest at the Inner Harbor in Baltimore.

A keynote speaker for this meeting was to be Cecile Richards, former long-time president of Planned Parenthood. Other debaucheries were scheduled to occur. Out of fear of the coronavirus, Notre Dame and other organizers canceled their shindig.

Also canceled, or at least postponed, was a gay priests retreat

scheduled for mid-April. It was to be led by gay-enabling DC-area priest Father Peter Daly, and Father James Martin is believed to have been invited as well. It was to occur at Bon Secours Retreat Center in Marriottsville, Md. Happily, Bon Secours has been shut down until mid-May.

Please note that we expect the retreat is merely postponed, so we will keep an eye on things.

I saved the best for last. Many states shut down what they consider “non-essential businesses.” That included elective surgeries. Obviously I think that was another constitutional overreach.

However, some states put the kibosh on abortion. (All states should have done so decades ago, as the existence of abortion is a clear violation of the U.S. Constitution.) So far the states prohibiting abortion include Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Ohio, and (please be sitting down!) MARYLAND!

Never in all the decades of my pro-life activism did I ever dream I’d see the day when abortion would be shut down in Maryland, of all places.

Maryland, to be frank, is a cesspool of progressivism and permissiveness regarding abortion. That is

why Leroy Carhart set up shop here.

If it can happen here, it can happen anywhere. Of course I realize that this is temporary and that there will be violations galore, but at least the shedding of innocent blood will be greatly stanching here. Let us pray that more locales will put a halt to baby-murder. Some lives will be saved and at least some blood-guilt will be averted.

At this time we don’t know how and when this situation will end. What is clear, though, is that too many U.S. Catholics are forgetting who they are, both as Catholics and U.S. citizens. Too many don’t appreciate the need to be physically present at the sacraments.

We badly need to educate ourselves on both these topics and to devote ourselves to prayer and the sacraments, else we will be just as ill-prepared for the next calamity as we were for this one.

Editor’s note: When Janet Baker wrote this column, news outlets were incorrectly reporting that abortion clinics in Maryland had been ordered closed. They were not ordered closed; they remain open.

WORKSHOP, from page 3

They cited two writings: “Always Our Children: A pastoral Message to Parents of Homosexual Children and Suggestions for Pastoral Ministers,” by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and the book, *Building Bridges*, by pro-homosexual Jesuit priest James Martin.

Priest wears ‘hippy shirt’

Of the eight parishes with representatives at the workshop, four already have active pro-LGBT ministries:

- St. Matthew, Baltimore
- St. Ignatius, Baltimore
- St. Vincent de Paul, Baltimore
- St. Bernadette, Severn, Md.

Of the four, St. Matthew’s ministry, LEAD (LGBTQ Educating and Affirming Diversity)—began ten years ago by Father Joseph Muth—ranks first in seniority and standing.

“Father Joe Muth spoke,” reported the concerned Catholic; “he was outfitted with a very colorful hippy shirt between his priest collar and black suit jacket, and sported a rainbow beaded bracelet.”

A man named “Gordon” attended the afternoon workshop session for St. Ignatius’ pro-gay ministry, Embracing God’s Gifts, which started in 2018, said the reporter.

The LGBT ministry coordinator at St. Ignatius is Gordon Creamer.

Creamer and his “partner,” Brian Fitzek, were “married” in 2014 and co-own a residential property in Maryland.

St. Vincent de Paul’s LGBT ministry is called ALIVE (Affirming the LGBT+ community in an Inclusive, Valuing Environment.

“Alana” reportedly represented



Gordon Creamer reportedly represented St. Ignatius Church’s pro-gay ministry at the workshop at Mercy High School.

the ALIVE ministry at the afternoon workshop session.

Alana Florio is listed as a “contact” for ALIVE (stvchurch.org/community/alive),

Its mission statement reads, “The ALIVE ministry assists the parish of St. Vincent de Paul in serving the spiritual needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender+ individuals, their families and friends, in affirming their intrinsic value and self-worth, and in welcoming them into full participation in our faith community.”

The workshop schedule indicated that the “story” for Allies Ministry at St. Bernadette parish in Severn was to be told by “Dan,” but the Catholic reporter said that “Dan” was not present at the morning workshop.

However, St. Bernadette Church’s website lists Pastoral Associate Dan Miller as the contact person for Allies – LGBT Ministry (www.stbernadette.org/allies-lgbt.htm).

“Allies – LGBT Ministry is an outreach to LGBT Catholics to let them know that we are a welcoming and inclusive Parish,” states the website: “An opportunity to educate ourselves and the community to speak out where there is prejudice and discrimination against gay and lesbian persons.”

Its Mission Statement reads: “Allies is a ministry for LGBT persons and those who care about them.

“It provides a welcoming environment, pastoral outreach, a positive social outlet and dialogue reflecting on relevant issues including the dignity and gift of each and every person.

“Allies strives to promote and live the Christian call to healthy relationships, compassion, and justice.”

The concerned Catholic did not report any instances in which the “story-tellers” reminded their listeners that the Catholic Church has condemned homosexual acts as gravely sinful, or that the Church calls on Same Sex Attracted persons to live lives of chastity.

Members of Faithful Catholics of MD/DC leafletted cars outside the Convocation.

Their flyers reminded attendees that “Sexual relations between two people of the same sex are never licit.”

“Faithful Catholics are appalled that the CCHD of the Archdiocese of Baltimore is actually sponsoring a meeting where LGBT people are clamoring for their mortal sins to be accepted and even celebrated,” the flyer stated.

“Similarly, we cannot see how the administration of a Catholic school would ever allow their facilities to be used for the condoning of such sins.”

“We all have a responsibility

to speak against evil when we see it,” explained one of the leafletters: “Gone are the days when we can simply shrug our shoulders, and pretend ‘it’s not my problem.’”

WOW, from page 4

calling on her fellow pro-lifers to take action.

Pregnancy Center North Director Cindi Ritter forwarded Burke’s email to her large email list, urging them to read it, and commenting only, “I am without words.”

Pro-lifer Mary Hollingshead emailed that she had alerted “several of my home schooled families and prayer groups,” encouraging everyone to “flood Archbishop Lori’s office and email with letters and concerns about this matter.”

One of Hollingshead’s friends responded, “Good news—I just got an email from Sean Caine, Vice Chancellor at the Archdiocese, who said they also just learned of this



Vanessa Geffrard of Planned Parenthood of Maryland was scheduled to speak at the festival.

and are making inquiries at the university. YESSSS!”

On February 28, pro-lifer Marty Taylor, who had contacted the Archbishop to protest the Festival, received the following email:

“Thank you for your recent email to Archbishop Lori, who has been out the past several days to care for his dying father and to celebrate his funeral.

“I can confirm that the Archbishop was not consulted about this event and when he learned of it, his office contacted the University, which has since informed him that the program has been altered, including that Ms. Richards is no longer a part of it.

“Thank you for writing.

“[Signed] Sean Caine, Vice Chancellor, Executive Director of Communications, Archdiocese of Baltimore.”

WOW cancels Festival

Five days later, on March 4, WOW Festival Baltimore cancelled its March 7 Festival, “[i]n response to growing concerns and uncertainty regarding COVID-19, Coronavirus (wow-baltimore.org/news/wow-2020-cancellation-statement).

“Although, as of this morning, there have not been any confirmed cases in Maryland, we believe, because of Baltimore’s positioning just north of Washington, D.C. and south of large cities such as New York and Philadelphia, it would be prudent to side with safety and mitigate potential further spread among the more than 1000 expected attendees—with some traveling from across the nation,” the statement read.

Major conferences and conventions around the nation, some as close as Washington, D.C. and New York, had already been cancelled or postponed,

the WOW statement noted.

It finished with the promise, “We will have more news as we assess the next steps for the WOW Festival Baltimore 2020”—indicating that it might still be held at a later date.

WOW festivals did not originate in Baltimore. The first WOW Women of the World Festival was launched in 2010 in London by Southbank Centre Artistic Director Jude Kelly.

WOW’s aim is “to mark the centenary of International Women’s Day, as a major global festival that celebrates women and girls and looks at the obstacles they face . . . energizing and providing inspiration and tools to make change” (wow-baltimore.org/about/).

According to WOW’s Facebook page, WOW events have taken place in thirty locations, in countries including Australia, Brazil, China, Egypt, Finland, Nigeria and Pakistan.

RETREAT, from page 2

“The retreat is designed to assist gay priests, bishops, brothers and deacons in developing better self-understanding, spirituality, friendships, and a more honest relationship with the institutional Church” (www.newwaysministry.org/programs/upcoming-programs/love-casts-out-fear/).

The goal of the retreat was clearly to coach priests how to openly admit they are homosexually active and how to demand acceptance by both faithful Catholics and the Catholic Church.

Repeatedly condemned

New Ways Ministry, a national organization headquartered in Mt. Rainier, Md., claims to be a Catho-

lic organization, but it has been repeatedly condemned and rejected by various Church authorities.

In 1984, the Archbishop of Washington (the diocese in which New Ways Ministry is located) denied approval or authorization to the ministry for any of its activities in the archdiocese, due to its violating Church teaching on the immorality of homosexual acts.

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith condemned New Ways Ministry in 1999.

In 2010, Cardinal Francis George, then-archbishop of Chicago and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said, “I wish to make it clear that New Ways Ministry has no approval or recognition from the Catholic Church and that they cannot speak on behalf of the Catholic faithful in the United States.”

The scheduled retreat facilitator, Father Peter Daly, a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., has promoted homosexual behavior in his homilies and his writings.

Kevin Wells, a leader of one group of concerned Catholics protesting the retreat, noted that Father Daly has condemned priestly celibacy and is an advocate for female and married priests.

“He has called homosexuality natural and one of God’s gifts,” said Wells, author of the book, *The Priests We Need to Save the Church*.

“I agree with you”

Another group of concerned Catholics, hoping to inform fellow Catholics of the upcoming Gay Priests Retreat and urge them to ask Archbishop Lori to oppose it, held a demonstration in front of the Church of the Basilica in Baltimore on Sunday, March 15.

Their plan was to hand out informational flyers to Catholics entering the Basilica for the 10:45 a.m. Mass.

But as sometimes happens with “the best-laid schemes of mice and men,” the COVID-19 pandemic led to the Archbishop’s announcement

the night before that, starting March 15, all Catholic Masses would be cancelled until further notice.

The group went ahead with the demonstration anyway, hoping to reach Catholics who, not hearing of the cancellation, might show up at the Basilica.

They displayed signs and gave flyers to the few Catholics who did unknowingly appear for Mass.

One Catholic man angrily told the protesters, who were on the public sidewalk outside the Basilica gates, that they had no right to be handing out the flyers.

Father James Boric, rector of the Basilica, watched the demonstrators for a while from the church steps, then came down and led the pro-lifers in several prayers.

“He’s one of the best priests in the Archdiocese,” commented Defend Life Director Jack Ames, one of the demonstrators.

Father Boric declined to accept a flyer, saying he already knew about the retreat.

He advised the protesters to act charitably in their actions and not always be focusing on “bad things,” but on positive things as well.

Robert Shephard, a deacon at the Basilica who had been standing on the steps with Father Boric, also came down and engaged the demonstrators in friendly conversation.

“I agree with you,” he told them; “it [the Gay Priests Retreat] is a problem.”

One of the demonstrators took some flyers and drove to the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, where she handed them out to the few Catholics coming out of the Cathedral after attending a “private” Mass officiated by Archbishop Lori.

“I gave out about seven flyers,” she reported.

“A lot of people didn’t know



Ron Herning gives a flyer about the Retreat for Gay Priests to a woman who had intended to go to Mass at the Basilica of the Assumption.

about [the Gay Priests Retreat]; some seemed pretty disgusted!" she reported.

Following the demonstration at the Basilica, two of the participants drove out to Christ the King Catholic Church in Towson, Md.

They arrived just as a Eucharistic Procession, held after the church's 10:00 a.m. Mass, was winding up.

After the procession was completed, the two pro-lifers gave out flyers to the laity who had taken part in the procession.

“Zero authority”

The group that Kevin Wells helped lead mounted a vigorous campaign that included a March 11 press release and text exchanges with Archdiocese Communications Director Sean Caine.

As the concerned Catholics repeatedly pressed Archbishop Lori to cancel the Retreat, Caine texted that, because it was not going to be held on diocese property, the Archbishop had no authority to force its cancellation,

“The Archbishop is aware of their concerns and has taken steps he feels are within the limits of his authority, given the circumstances and canon law,” wrote Caine.

Challenged further, Caine replied, “The point is that the Archbishop can jump up and down all day and say anything he wants but he has zero authority over a retreat held off diocesan property.

“We all agree it's wrong and causes confusion and shouldn't be happening,” Caine admitted.

The group urged concerned Catholics to participate in a protest they planned for March 18, during 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. “rush hour” traffic, in front of the Archdiocese Chan-



Christ the King holds Mass, Eucharistic Procession

A Catholic church in Towson legitimately held its usual 10:00 a.m. Mass on March 15, followed by a Eucharistic Procession, even though the night before, Archbishop Lori had ordered all Masses in the Baltimore Archdiocese to be cancelled until further notice.

In 2012, Pope Benedict XVI established an “ordinariate”—a structure similar to an archdiocese—for Anglican groups and clergy across the United States who wish to become Catholic.

That same year, Anglican Pastor Ed Meeks—married and with four children—and his Christ the King Anglican parish joined the Catholic Church as part of this new ordinariate.

The March 15 Eucharistic Procession (above) was offered “as a way of humble supplication to God, to ask him to intervene and protect everyone from the coronavirus,” explained Father Meeks. “I was motivated by a tweet from Bishop Joseph Strickland of Tyler, Texas, who encouraged Eucharistic Processions at the end of that Sunday's Mass. And I knew that that Sunday would probably be the last public Mass we would be able to offer.”

On March 17 Father Meeks announced the cancellation of all Masses and other activities at Christ the King Church until further notice due to the coronavirus.

cery office on Cathedral Street in Baltimore, a block over from the Basilica.

On March 16, however, the

group announced they were postponing the protest, due to the spreading COVID-19 pandemic.



INSIDE:
Abp. Lori orders LGBT activist priest to retire early

MAILING LABEL HIGHLIGHTED

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See tribute to Senator Frank Kelly

pages 8 -9



DEFEND LIFE needs your financial support!

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

from **Mary Beth Terrell**
Parish Nurse of St. Peter's Libertytown, MD

- *Hope will not be cancelled*
- *Conversations will not be cancelled*
- *Gardening will not be cancelled*
- *Watching the moon filtering through the trees will not be cancelled*
- *Love will not be cancelled*
- *Music will not be cancelled*
- *Reading will not be cancelled*
- *Self-care will not be cancelled*
- *Prayer will not be cancelled*
- *Everyone keep moving and eating right*

and Jack Ames added:

- *Breath-taking sunrises and sunsets will not be cancelled*
- *Miracles will not be cancelled*
- *Watching EWTN and listening to Catholic radio will not be cancelled*
- *Reminiscing about the good times and learned lessons of our lives will not be cancelled*
- *Walking in the woods will not be cancelled*
- *Giving thanks for our parents, our siblings, our friends, our freedoms, our great teachers, our Godly priests, and our Godly nuns will not be cancelled*
- *Watching great movies on DVD such as It's a Wonderful Life will not be cancelled*

EUCHARISTIC PROCESSIONS SHOULD NOT BE CANCELLED!

We know of **4** in the Baltimore area including one at **St. John's** in Westminster where a flatbed truck was used to transport the Eucharist in a Monstrance, one at the **Basilica** in Baltimore, another in Towson at **Christ the King**, and one in Bowie at **St. Edward's**.



A *National Catholic Register* article lists processions in at least **21** cities throughout the world, but there are many more.

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MEMORARE PRAYER

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that any one who fled to thy protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, We fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins my Mother; to thee do we come, before thee we stand, sinful and sorrowful; O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer them. Amen.

PRAY 9X DAILY TO END CORONA VIRUS!

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