



DEFEND LIFE

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

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Openly gay judge convicts pro-lifer of assault; appeal filed

A gay Baltimore District Court judge on June 8 found pro-life sidewalk counselor Mark Des Marais guilty of second-degree assault against a “pro-choice escort.”

Judge Mark Scurti placed Des Marais on two years’ probation and fined him \$500.

The judge’s decision left Des Marais shocked and his attorney, Charles Balint, angry.

“The deck was stacked from the beginning,” Balint told *Defend Life*: “This was not a good draw” for a judge—“Judge Scurti is openly gay, and most gays are liberal.”

Both the defendant and his attorney had been optimistic going into the June 8 trial.

Things had gone well for them at a Petition for a Peace Order hearing in U.S. District Court for Baltimore on April 19.

There, pro-choice escort James Rives had asked for a Peace Order against Des Marais to keep him away from Planned Parenthood’s abortion facility on Howard Street in Baltimore.

Rives charged that on March 11 the pro-lifer had assaulted him twice, shoving him, punching him, and pushing him against a wall.

“In addition, he has previously threatened to kill me,” Rives wrote in his complaint.

The judge, however, had dismissed Rives’ Petition for a Peace Order case due to legal irregularities regarding the manner of its filing.

To buttress his charges, Rives had gotten clips from Planned Par-



Judge Mark Scurti (above) found pro-lifer Mark Des Marais guilty of second-degree assault.

enthood’s surveillance videos outside its facility that, he alleged, showed Des Marais had assaulted him twice.

But after the Peace Order hearing, Balint obtained longer segments of the surveillance videos that, he believed, exonerated his client, showing that Rives was ac-

tually assaulting the pro-lifer.

Self-defense pushback

At the June 8 criminal assault trial, Judge Scurti was able to view the surveillance video clips on a small screen set up on a table below his bench.

“The judge got off the bench, went down and looked at them,” Des Marais recalled.

The video clips showed two encounters between Rives and Des Marais in front of Planned Parenthood on March 11.

The first occurred at the corner of Howard and Mulberry streets, when Des Marais approached a woman getting out of her car to hand her a pro-life brochure.

The video clearly shows Rives forcing the pro-lifer to take steps backwards, with Mark then pushing Rives back in self-defense.

The second encounter between the two men took place at the front door of the abortion facility.

“I was trying to give literature to a lady,” said Mark. “Rives claimed I was blocking the door, which I wasn’t.

“When he opened the door, he pushed me backward. I reached out, to retain my balance. They used that to say I pushed him.”

After viewing the video and returning to the bench, “The judge said there was no question that Rives obviously made the first contact on the corner,” said Des Marais.

Then the judge continued, “*However . . .*”

“I knew I was in trouble when he said, ‘*However,*’” recalled the pro-lifer.

Judge Scurti went on to declare that, based on the video of the encounter at the front door, it looked like Mr. Des Marais was guilty of “throwing a punch” at Rives, and found him guilty of second-degree assault.

Scurti dropped the fine from a possible \$1,000 to \$500, “because I was a Vietnam vet,” said Des Marais.

After the guilty verdict, “I was sitting there like I was in shock,” he said; “I couldn’t believe it!”

When Judge Scurti offered him probation before judgment as an alternative to the guilty verdict, Balint “passed a note to me to choose to appeal the guilty verdict instead.”

“Bogus” argument

Balint was angry.

He was angry that the state prosecutor asked if Des Marais had called the Planned Parenthood escorts, including Rives, “*these ladies.*”

Mark did not do that, said Balint; but, he believed, the question would tip off the gay judge that

Rives himself was also gay.

He was angry the prosecutor kept calling the pro-lifers “these protestors.”

“They are ‘counselors,’ not ‘protestors’”—a word which calls to mind negative images of protesters such as those at the January 6 riot at the Capital, said the attorney.

“I objected, but was overruled.”

Balint was also angry at Judge Scurti’s reasoning behind his guilty verdict.

“The judge admitted that the initial contact at the corner was the fault of Rives; but then he posed the question: when Des Marais went back to the entrance of Planned Parenthood after that, wasn’t he just consenting to that type of possibly violent confrontation?”

“It was so bogus an argument,” fumed Balint.

And he was angry at the amount of the fine Scurti had imposed.

“\$500 for someone who has never had any brush with the law was excessive!” said the attorney. “I’ve been doing this for 45 years; it should have been \$150 at the most!”

Des Marais filed an appeal on June 23. His arraignment is set for August 18 in Circuit Court for Baltimore City.

Balint is contemplating possibly asking for a jury trial, rather than one before a judge.

“I’d rather take it in front of a jury than risk getting another judge like this!” he explained.

Rives reportedly was planning to move to Georgia at the end of June.

“Whether he’s vindictive enough to come back to testify at the appeal or not remains to be



In this screen shot from a Planned Parenthood surveillance video, Mark Des Marais, with a “blessing bag” in his left hand, is holding onto James Rives as Rives opens the door for a woman.

See ASSAULT, page 14

Truth Tour touches hearts, minds with facts about ‘choice’

Spotting a man wearing a Roman collar can elicit many different reactions from passersby.

When a woman driver saw Father Denis Wilde holding a sign at the Face the Truth Tour stop in Roland Park on July 29, she reacted by pulling over, parking her car, rolling down her window—and pouring out her heart.

“I talked to her for about an hour about her past abortions,” recalled the priest.

The woman, a nominal Catholic who does attend church, “hates herself for what she did; she was overwhelmed with emotion,” he said.

Father Wilde gave her information on Rachel’s Vineyard, a group that offers retreats to help post-abortive women and men heal from the pain of abortion.

“She needed healing,” commented Defend Life Director Jack Ames; “talking with Father was the first step toward her healing.”

On Defend Life’s 21st Annual Face the Truth Tour, pro-lifers held



Father Denis Wilde and George Spence take part in the White Marsh Stop at Defend Life’s Face the Truth Tour on July 30.

up large, graphic posters of aborted babies along roadways at 15 stops from West Virginia through Maryland July 26-30.

“It was a great tour!” said Ames.

“It couldn’t have gone better.

“We picked stops that had a lot of heavy traffic, and exposed the truth about abortion to many thousands of people who would never see it otherwise, due to the total cover-up in the media and academia.

“They’re not going to learn about it at Loyola University or your local high school, or in the *Baltimore Sun* or *The Catholic Review*!”

The “Honk for Life” signs held by some of the pro-lifers generated a cacophony of positive beeps, including long, bass-level honks and friendly waves from Fed Ex drivers and tow truck operators.

“It was noisily honky!” said Truth Tour Core Team member Bob Brown.

“There has definitely been an increase in horn honking compared to prior years,” agreed veteran Truther



Ronnie Gonzaga holds signs at the Truth Tour stop in White Marsh.



Larrita Burr (left), driving by and seeing the Face the Truth Tour at White Marsh, impetuously joins Jack Ames with a church poster that she happened to have in her car.

Joan McKee. “Sadly, we still get a lot of middle fingers and nasty words!”

“At least they don’t get violent!” said Truther Kelly Frederick, after receiving a middle finger from a male motorist.

“I just had somebody say, ‘It takes courage to do what you’re doing,’” she added cheerfully.

At the stop in Lafayette Square in front of the White House, more foot traffic allowed for some spirited interchanges.

While Core Team Member Barry Sullivan was holding a poster of an aborted baby there, a couple walked by him.

“The man said to me, ‘It’s *her* body, *her* choice!’”

“I pointed to my poster and replied, ‘At least she knows what her choice *is* now!’”

That morning, at the Bethesda stop, a woman walking by Sullivan with her high school daughter told him quietly, “Thank-you for being here—these people need to see this!”

In addition to the veteran Core

Team members, Ames was happy to have some “new blood” on the Core Team, including Peyton Olszewski, a young fourth-grade teacher at the Heights School in Potomac, Md.

“He’s on fire!” exclaimed Ames.

Also new to the Core Team was Paul Kayanan, from the Philippines, who is active in several apostolates, including the Legion of Mary.

On Thursday night, said Ames, “One of our trucks carrying our signs

broke down—but we transferred the signs in it to our other truck and it didn’t impact our remaining stops.”

At the final stop, in Catonsville, he recalled, “A man in an SUV, with a beautiful wife and two beautiful children in the car, gave us \$40 on the spot!”

With the grueling, energy-draining heat and humidity throughout the Truth Tour, the Truthers especially appreciated “our wonderful overnight hosts, and the people who provided food for us at our various stops,” said Ames.

“It was hard work,” admitted Core Team member George Spence, “but it was definitely worth it!”

First-time Core Teamer Ronnie Gonzaga agreed.

“Overall, it was a good experience,” said Gonzaga. “I learned a lot from the luncheon speakers’ talks, and we received Jesus every day at Mass!”

As for the drivers “that curse or give you the finger, I think they’re basically unhappy people; I offer a Hail Mary for them!” he said.

For Barry Sullivan, this year’s Truth Tour was “very spiritually uplifting; it was a total joy to be here!” he concluded.



Face the Truthers relax at the end of the Tour at the closing picnic Friday evening, hosted by Maria and Joe Hayden at their home in Ellicott City.

Founding Divine Mercy Academy takes blood, sweat and prayers



By Ali Ghaffari

The story of Divine Mercy Academy begins three years ago. I'll never forget the day, October 13, 2017; we were driving down the highway in our minivan packed with screaming kids on a road trip to Ohio, listening to an audio book entitled "The Benedict Option."

In the book, author Rod Dreher tells the story of a school called St. Jerome's Academy in Hyattsville, Md.

Back in 2001, St. Jerome's was a bustling diocesan Catholic School with 530 students.

By 2009, however, the student population had dropped to 297 and the school was nearly \$118,000 in debt. Parents had been pulling their children out of the school because it seemed little different than a public school with an overlay of religious instruction.

The Archdiocese of Washington told the school administrators that the school would need to be closed at the end of the year if something dramatic didn't happen.

One night that winter, parents and teachers gathered in their school lunch room to hear the bad news. That's when a father of a middle-schooler came up with an idea. He discussed it with other parents and parishioners, who reacted positively. Together, they brought the idea of returning to a Classical Liberal Arts Curriculum to their parish priest, Father James Stack, and Assistant Principal Mary Pat Donohue.

Father Stack and Mary Pat em-



Divine Mercy Academy middle schoolers have fun on mats used for after-school self-defense lessons.

braced the idea, and with little to lose, the team began planning the new curriculum. The questions they asked when they developed the now-famous St. Jerome Curriculum included, "Is it True? Is it Good? and Is it Beautiful?" If it wasn't, then it didn't make it into curriculum.

They unfurled the new curriculum in the fall of 2010 and within five years, St. Jerome Academy was full again and had waiting lists to boot!

Hearing this story triggered in me a desire for that kind of education for my own children. A flood of frustration welled up in me over our kids' education and over my own. Where was this classical education when I was growing up? Where was this education now, when my wife and I were battling it out every night over Common Core math and a child who thought she was stupid because she didn't un-

derstand it? Why was I paying so much for a Catholic School when my kids could get virtually the same education at a public school?

I wanted my children to recognize Truth, Beauty, and Goodness—to see God clearly—and to love school. I wanted them to be taught by teachers who aspired to be saints and surrounded by families who took their faith seriously.

I wanted the best for my daughters—to become both saints and scholars, but saints first.

I wanted a Classical Liberal Education for them. I immediately researched how far Hyattsville was from my home in Annapolis. Unfortunately, it was too far.

I looked around to see if there were any other Catholic schools offering a Classical Liberal Education. I found St. Thomas Aquinas Tutorial, a two-day a week school whose founders were also inspired by St. Jerome Academy.

We went to check it out. I was blown away by what I saw. Classroom discussions were centered on the question, “Why?” But not just one “Why?” The teacher asked the question, “Why?” with all the persistence of a three-year-old! To my amazement, I saw kids drawing deep connections and coming up with novel insights.

I fell in love with the Classical method and curriculum. Unfortunately, they had a waitlist and it was unlikely that our kids would get in for the next school year. Moreover, the two-day a week model would have been hard for us to do given my wife and I both work full time.

Incredibly impressed by the curriculum but increasingly frustrated that it wouldn’t work for us, I spoke with Ruth Popp, the head of the school, at the end of the visit. I asked Ruth about the chances STAT would become a full-time school. Unlikely, she said.

But then Ruth looked me straight in the eye and said, “The time is right for a full-time classical school in the area, and all that

is needed is the right person to start it.” That was the first time it became clear to me that I might need to start a school.

In the meantime, I heard of another effort starting up, Chesterton Academy of Annapolis. We attended their introductory meetings, hopeful that they would cover elementary

**We offered the
headmaster position to
three different people,
all of whom, after
initial enthusiasm,
turned us down.**

and middle school. I was particularly impressed with their curriculum. The problem again was that this would be a high school and our daughters were a long way away from being able to attend.

After discerning for several more months, I attended the annual

conference of the Institute of Classical Liberal Education. There, I decided, I’d make my final decision. After being inspired by a number of talks, at lunch, Amy Zaleski, a military mom of one of the tutors at STAT, sat down next to me. She had heard that I was thinking about starting up a school and said, “I’d be willing to help you.”

That was all the push I needed. Amy and I organized a meeting for August of 2018 and we recruited our first group of volunteers.

At first it was fun and easy—dreaming about what the school could be, coming up with surveys, and speaking theoretically. But then it came down to the real work of starting a school.

I met with the founders and board members of Chelsea Academy, a Classical School in Front Royal, Va. Their message to me: Don’t do it—it’s too much work. They told me it would be easier to drive my kids back and forth to Hyattsville than to start a school. It turns out they were right.

Our first bit of business was to find a location. After briefly looking at commercial space and determining it was way too expensive, we pulled together a list of 35 churches which might have additional space we could use. Thirty-four told us no. One said yes, and the space and price were perfect for us. We took it as a minor miracle from God.

Our founding board continued to meet regularly and we pulled together the legal framework fairly quickly. But when it came to fleshing out teachers and a student body—that’s when things got tough.

Fast forward to April of 2019—we had one teacher and 11 stu-



Divine Mercy Academy students Makenzie Yarnell (left) and Eva Densham enjoy a swing and a snack on lunch break.

See ACADEMY, page 14

Hundreds hold first Men's March to End Abortion in Capital



Hundreds of men march in the first Men's March to End Abortion on June 12 in Washington, D.C.

The first ever Men's March to End Abortion began at 11 a.m. June 12 in front of the Washington Surgi-Clinic, a late-term abortion facility in Northwest Washington, D.C.

There, Jeff Joaquin read aloud a gut-wrenching letter he had written to his son, aborted in 1987, in which he imagined his unborn child watching "as your father secretly borrowed two hundred dollars from a friend to pay for your first trip to the doctor.

"It must have been difficult for you when your mother entered the building for your appointment, and your father didn't have the courage to join you.

"It must have been unthinkable for you when you saw your mother lying on the table in unadulterated fear as the doctor began the procedure . . . *Why is my mother and father letting this happen to me?*"

The repentant father ended his letter with, "Jonathan Andrew Joaquin, I am so sorry for what I have done to you!"

When he finished, Joaquin's listeners—all men—some three hundred strong, marched in complete silence behind a large banner read-

ing, "Let's Stop Murdering Our Pre-born Children."

Despite temperatures in the hot and sticky nineties, the marchers wore business suits and ties—to bring dignity, class, and a sense of professionalism and impress onlookers with the gravity of their cause.

"If you dress sharp, you immediately give a higher reputation for your position; you establish credibility," explained march co-organizer Fr. Stephen Imbarrato.

Many of the men prayed silently as they strode the five or six blocks to Lafayette Square, in front of the White House.

Girlfriend had abortion

There, beneath a statue of Revolutionary War hero Tadeusz Kosciuszko, who rallied American men to defend their families against a foreign foe, pro-life speakers urged the men to defend their women and unborn children from the abortionist's scalpel.

Father Imbarrato told the men how it took him fifty years to get from "the point of complicity" with abortion to "the point of reparation."

Father has taken part in three Red Rose Rescues at the D.C. Surgi-Center, risking arrest and jail time.

But his journey began fifty years ago when, as a layman, his girlfriend had an abortion "at my encouragement."

Decades later, he found out that she had aborted twins.

"We're not as righteous as we think we are," declared Imbarrato; "we do not pray as we ought!

"When you pray about abortion, what do you pray about?"

"If you think about these little babies with their arms being ripped off, if you think about the horrible reality of abortion, you *have* to be moved to do something!

"We can gaze upon the crucifix and meditate on the pain and suffering that Jesus went through.

"We're called to do the same thing," he urged: "If we unite ourselves to Christ on the cross, how can we *not* be moved to do more?"

Msgr. Charles Pope pointed out to the men that 85% of abortions are performed on single women.

"That means that an act of forni-

See MARCH, page 15



DEFEND LIFE

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*August 15, 2021 Anno Domini
Feast of the Assumption*



Dear Friend of **DEFEND LIFE**,

Thanks to all of **YOU** who so generously supported our **\$8,000** matching grant campaign to fund our **21st Annual Maryland Face the Truth Tour**. We met and slightly exceeded that amount.

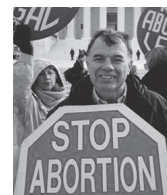
Except for a few glitches, this tour was better in many respects than our first **20**. Some examples:



- Our leadership team of Therese, Sylvia, and Ambrose was outstanding. **Therese**, the mother of **6**, whom I have known since her undergraduate years at Catholic University of America, did her usual great job. **Sylvia** did wonderfully arranging overnight housing. This was a very challenging task since we didn't know exactly how many we had on our Core Team until **2** days before we began. **Ambrose**, son of heroic West Virginia State Senator Patricia Rucker, did a great job of getting out our signs, putting them in sequence, and spacing them properly.
- We had seven brand new Core Team members who added so much, including **72-year-old Paul** who is a natural leader and who has lived all over the world because he is an **army brat**; **Peyton**, who is a Steubenville alum, and now teaches 4th grade at The Heights School (Opus Dei) in Potomac; **Matthew**, who is a young attorney, a revert, and lives in McLean; and **George**, who is a rising high school senior in Calvert County, plays numerous musical instruments, did Facebook Live for our 5 luncheon speakers, and hopes to study for the priesthood.
- The Godly priests who celebrated Mass every day, including Father Bill Kuchinsky, Father Jamie Morrison, and Father Denis Wilde of **Priests for Life**. Father Wilde celebrated three of the Masses and gave outstanding homilies for each.. If you are looking for a great speaker at your church or K of C Council, contact him **FrWilde@PriestsforLife.org**.
- The persons we met along the way, including a young family who stopped to give us **\$\$\$40** in quarters; the Godly lady who joined us at White Marsh and brought her own Biblically inspired sign with her; the enthusiastic persons we met at Lafayette Square, including a man from Omaha who was exporting used cars to his native country in West Africa; and the Miami grandson of Cuban refugees who is working to **FREE CUBA** from the failed Communism inflicted upon Cubans by Fidel Castro in the **1950s**.
- The **5** wonderful luncheon speakers we had, including:
 - **Dr. Onalee McGraw** who is using the Love, Truth, and Beauty epitomized in the classic films of the 40s, 50s and 60s to bridge the gap in our severely divided Church and society.
 - **Chen Guangcheng**, the blind human rights activist who escaped Communist China.



- **KC Schnitker**, mother of 7, operator of Cristo Rey Farm, founder of Chesterton Academy (St Mary's County), and outstanding teacher of Natural Family Planning.
- **Barry Sullivan**, who inspired his audience as usual, urging all present to do more to fight the multitude of evils surrounding us.
- **Jack Ames** spoke about his **36-year** friendship with the late **Joe Scheidler**, who went to his Eternal Reward on January 18. Without Joe, **DEFEND LIFE would never have existed.** Joe's motto was **Ora et Labora, Pray and Work.** Neither by itself is sufficient! Jack would be delighted to give that same talk in person at your church or K of C Council. Email Jack@DefendLife.org or call **410-337-3721.**



- But most important of all were the **tens of thousands of persons** who saw the pictures of abortion victims, so cleverly and consistently ignored by **academia** and **fake news.**

There were several glitches along the way, but we persisted:

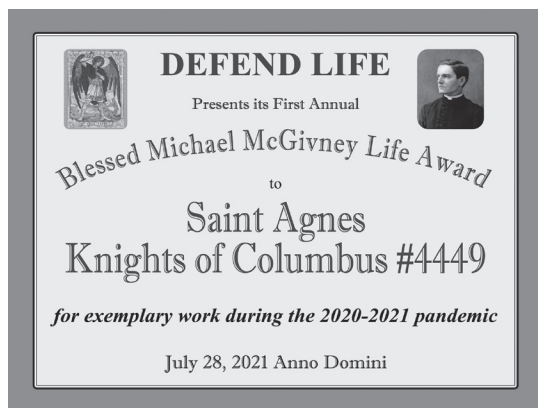
- One of our 2 trucks carrying our **victim image** signs broke down Thursday night. Fortunately, we were able to transfer all these signs to the 2nd truck and to another vehicle. The adage **Never put all your eggs in a single basket** was never more true!
- When the Tour was over, I was driving to my North Baltimore home in my 2011 Toyota Camry. I heard a sickening grinding sound on a secondary road about **2 miles** from home. **My rear brakes had failed!** Thanks be to God it happened then and not in the middle of our Tour or on the **Beltway.**

Congratulations to St. Agnes Knights of Columbus Council #4449

As you know, nearly every Church and commercial business except for the **big box** stores, super markets, liquor stores, and abortion mills **were forced to close** during the early days of the **2020 pandemic.** We had **great difficulty** finding places to host 2020 Truth Tour luncheons and evening picnics. We had to settle for outside picnics and pavilions, as most churches and K of C councils were **closed.** There was at least one notable exception, however. It was **St. Agnes K of C** located in Ellicott City, Maryland. They gladly hosted our 2020 Face the Truth Tour Luncheon. They continued to hold **3** monthly meetings. They also carried on with

their wonderful works of charity. They are currently completing a prayer garden for memorializing victims of abortion.

For all this, **DEFEND LIFE** awarded them its first annual **Blessed Michael McGivney Life Award** on July 28. We intend to make this an annual award. If you believe your Council or group is deserving of this award, please contact me in writing and tell me why. Thank you!



Long Live Christ Our King!

Jack Ames

Jack Ames, P.E., Director

Enclosure

In My Humble Opinion

Pope's motu proprio restricts Tridentine Mass celebration

By Janet Baker

Most of us cannot have helped but notice the uproar caused by the Pope's motu proprio Traditionis Custodes, which greatly constrains the celebration of the Tridentine Mass.

Pope Francis' moto proprio (which is an edict issued by the Pope personally to the Roman Catholic Church) was issued on July 16.

It restricts the celebration of the Tridentine Mass of the Roman Rite, sometimes colloquially called the "Latin Mass" or the "Traditional Latin Mass."

A solidly pro-life Catholic friend of mine lamented on Facebook the attention spent on this matter as opposed to the concern, or lack thereof, evinced on behalf of babies endangered by abortion.

I replied that as far as lamenting the apathy shown by many Catholics to the plight of the endangered babies, I was most definitely on the same page as she.

However, I questioned why she appeared to be setting up a dichotomy between the babies and the Tridentine Mass.

The phrase that came immedi-

ately to mind when I read her original post was "lex orandi, lex credendi, lex vivendi."

This Latin phrase can be translated thus: "The law of prayer is the law of belief; the law of belief is the

I caution against a simplistic mindset that says one's worship of God has little bearing on pro-life activism.

law of life" or "as we worship, so we will believe and so we'll live."

I think many of us can attest that among those attending the Novus Ordo, that there is a high percentage of those who dissent from Catholic faith and morals, and probably a low percentage of young children.

At the Traditional Latin Masses, the opposite holds true: much more orthodoxy and quite a few more youngsters.

I will also attest that during the lockdown, I did not have to miss Mass once owing to those offering Traditional Latin Masses. I now

attend Traditional Latin Masses on Sundays, and attend Novus Ordo during weekdays because no TLMs are available in my area during the week.

Although my beliefs on the matter might be rather obvious, it is not my purpose to pit one rite against the other.

However, one can no longer argue that our mode of worship is inconsequential as long as we are saving babies. Such a mindset is simplistic and short-sighted.

It is Our Lord who both directs and animates our efforts. Our pro-life activism stems from our relationship with, and worship of, the One True God, not vice versa.

There have been some notable exceptions to that rule, where pro-life activism has led to conversion to the Catholic Church. I'm thinking of people such as the late Bernard Nathanson, the late Norma McCorvey, David Bereit, Randall Terry, Lila Rose, Abby Johnson, Bryan Kemper, and I'm sure there are others.

I have never known anyone to convert away from Catholicism because of their concern for the unborn.

Again, I don't want to set up a contest between the Novus Ordo versus the Usus Antiquior. But I caution against a simplistic mindset that says one's worship of God has little bearing on pro-life activism.

Just the opposite is true, and it is most inadvisable to dismiss concerns about the impact of Traditionis Custodes or any other attempts to trivialize Holy Mass.

Until America Sees Abortion, America Will Not Reject Abortion

This is a challenge to the pro-lifers across America to get out of their comfort zones!!! If DEFEND LIFE could do Face the Truth Tours in Maryland (*one of the most pro-abortion states*) 21 summers in a row, you can do them in the other 49 beginning this fall!

Contact Jack Ames • 410-337-3721

***Jack@DefendLife.org* for a simple how to do it plan**

Book Review

Can anything good come out of D.C.? How ‘bout a saint!

By Diane Levero

Father Aloysius Schwartz arrived in Seoul, South Korea, on the morning of December 8, 1957.

Waiting in the frigid cold and icy wind for a train to take him to his new parish in the port city of Busan, he spotted a young boy, dressed only in mud-spattered, paper-thin rags, stagger past with a little girl, about 3 years old, tied to his back.

The semi-conscious girl—probably his little sister—was clearly very sick. Her hair was matted and had fallen out in patches.

The boy’s eyes were sunken and listless, his expression one of patient, hopeless animal-like suffering and pain.

Unable to go on, he stopped near Father Al and slowly lay down on his side so as to not smother his pathetic passenger.

In the bustling crowd about them, a few passersby crouched down to speak to him; a few offered him money.

Finally, for some inexplicable reason, a woman dragged the boy to his feet, and he wandered off with his pitiful burden, disappearing before the stunned, 28-year-old priest had figured out what to do.

The brief, heart-wrenching scenario hit the just-ordained priest like a punch in the gut.

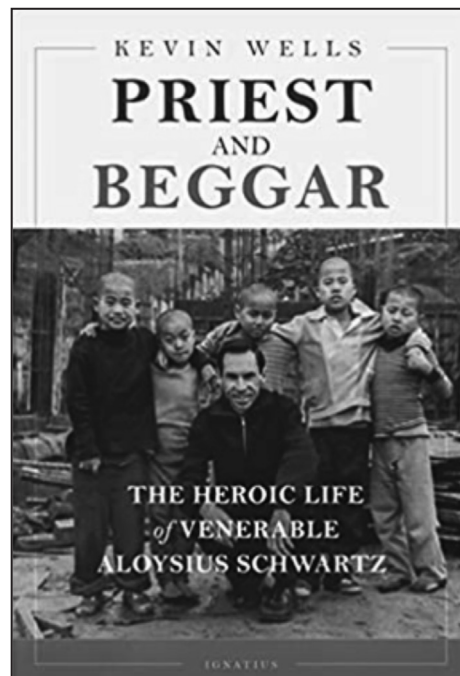
Waiting for his train, he took a walk into the countryside outside Seoul.

The bloody Korean War had ended in 1953, leaving much of South Korea a devastated land of homeless orphans and other war

refugees.

They lived on the edge of starvation, wallowed in filth, in one-room hovels pieced together with scraps of wood, cardboard and tin—surrounded by the stench of sewage, decaying animals and human waste.

This was exactly where the neo-



phyte priest wanted to be

In *Priest and Beggar: The Heroic Life of Venerable Aloysius Schwartz*, veteran sportswriter and author Kevin Wells masterfully tells the amazing, often electrifying story of Father Al’s epic battle to serve Christ through His poor.

Raised in a large, devout, working-class Catholic family in Washington, D.C., young Aloysius knew by the time he was 12 that he wanted to be a missionary priest, serving the poor.

He had been inspired by his aunt, Sister Mary Melfrieda, of the

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, who taught poor black students in a mission school in D.C.’s Anacostia neighborhood

His journey began, prosaically enough, at St. Charles College, a diocesan preparatory seminary in Catonsville, Maryland, when he was 14.

Now, you would think that a bright, likeable young guy with an engaging smile, on fire to follow Christ’s command to spread the Gospel, would get unmitigated support from everyone, right?

Not so. Even at St. Charles, his missionary aspirations were actively discouraged by seminary officials, who pressured their charges to stay home and serve as priests in the local diocese.

Nonetheless, after graduating from St. Charles, Aloysius went on to obtain his bachelor’s degree with the Maryknoll Society, the prestigious Catholic missionary group dedicated to preaching the Gospel throughout the world, especially to the poor.

Al liked his Maryknoll classmates and instructors, their sound doctrinal framework, and their spirit of hospitality, warmth and joy.

But despite all these virtues, in his eyes, something was terribly lacking

The Maryknollers were way too soft.

“The life at Maryknoll was too rich, comfortable and luxurious,” he later explained.

He couldn’t help noticing how some of their overseas houses provided hot showers, three square

meals, a radio or TV, modern plumbing and furnishing, and even a mirror or two on the walls.

To the would-be priest, this was a scandal!

Christ Himself was poor and lived poor, he reasoned; so a true imitator of Christ should embrace poverty, and live with the poor just as they lived.

After almost four years with the Maryknollers and much searching, Schwartz found a missionary order in line with his ideals.

The Société des Auxiliaires des Missions in Louvain, Belgium, required its priest missionaries to eat the same food, wear the same threadbare clothing, and embrace the customs, poverty and humble ways of the people they served.

His years at the SAM seminary were grueling. His instructors spoke only in Latin (of which he knew little) and French (of which he knew nothing).

A major conflict with his superior general at SAM, Father Dieudonné

Bourguignon, nearly resulted in his failure to be ordained.

But on June 29, 1957, at St. Martin of Tours Church in Washington, D.C., Aloysius Schwartz was ordained a Roman Catholic priest.

The rest, as they say, is history.

Father Al would indeed live his dream of serving Christ through the poor and forsaken—as a faithful, hardworking parish missionary

**For five years, he
subsisted in a one-room,
rat-infested shack
with no windows,
running water,
electricity or plumbing.**

priest—but as much, much more.

He humbly lived, as he had longed, in the poverty that surrounded him.

For five years, he subsisted in a one-room, rat-infested shack with no windows, running water, electricity or plumbing.

While he served his parishioners' spiritual needs, he also worked hard to serve the catastrophic physical needs of the people around him.

On a trip back to the U.S., several months of strenuous personal fund-raising efforts, going parish to parish, netted him a grand total of \$27,000.

Then, at a Trappist retreat in Virginia, while drying the dinner dishes, he was joined by fellow retreatant Gratian Meyer, who offered to help out.

It's hard not to see the hand of God in this "chance" meeting.

Gratian, the owner of a direct mail and marketing company, showed him the mysteries and techniques of direct mail fund-raising—and Korean Re-

lief, Inc., was born, bringing in many millions from generous Americans to help the Korean poor.

With these funds, Father Al set up Boystowns and Girlstowns in Busan and Seoul, to house, educate and care for thousands of Korean orphans.

To care for the orphans, he founded the Sisters of Mary, an order made up of poor young Korean women who wanted to serve God.

He also built free medical dispensaries, homes for beggars, hospitals for the poor, a tubercular clinic, a boys' technical school, a middle school for five hundred students, and retirement homes for the homeless and aged.

He did all this despite vicious attacks from his once-friend and ally, Busan's Bishop John Choi—and while battling Busan's notorious gangster, Lee Soon Young, who abused, starved and tortured his helpless charges in a phony welfare set-up.

In the mid-1980s, Father Al expanded his work to the Philippines, building a hospital for the poor, followed by Boystowns and Girlstowns.

Despite being diagnosed with crippling amyotrophic lateral sclerosis ("Lou Gehrig's Disease") in 1989, he went on to build a Boystown and Girlstown in Mexico. Father died of ALS in 1992.

His intrepid and dedicated Sisters of Mary went on to found Boystowns and Girlstowns in Guatemala, Honduras, Brazil, and Tanzania.

Father Aloysius Schwartz was declared Venerable—a title given to those who have lived lives of heroic virtue—by Pope Francis in 2015.

Beggar and Priest is a moving, riveting book, one I found hard to put down.

Father Aloysius, pray for us.

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Red Rose Rescuers ‘go limp,’ get arrested, carried out

By Bob Brown

Pro-life activists affiliated with the Citizens for a Pro-life Society (CPLS) carried out Red Rose Rescues at two abortion centers in the greater Cleveland and Akron, Ohio, metropolitan areas during the first weekend of June.

Several were arrested when they defied police orders to leave the premises.

This writer participated by distributing pro-life literature outside the abortion facilities, but did not attempt to enter them.

On June 4, four activists took roses, pro-life literature, and contact information for local pregnancy resource centers into the Northeast Ohio Women’s Center in Cuyahoga Falls and gave them to women in the waiting room.

Two activists had made (false) appointments, and the others walked in through unlocked doors. Stephanie Berry, Laura Gies, Audrey Whipple, and Fr. Fidelis Moscinski lay down on

the floor and “went limp” when police asked them to leave the building.

The police handcuffed the activists and had to carry three of the four outside to patrol cars.

All four were released later in the afternoon after posting \$250 bonds and being charged with fourth degree criminal trespassing. CPLS paid for the bonds.

The activists stood trial on July 9 before Magistrate John Clark, who did not permit a “defense of others” justification for their actions, but did allow the rescuers to explain why they were at the abortion center.

On July 13, Clark recommended all four rescuers be found guilty, saying, according to the *Akron Beacon Journal*, “evidence of when life begins is irrelevant in a criminal trespass proceeding.”

Clark also recommended a \$100 fine and a suspended 10-day jail sentence. A Municipal Court judge is scheduled to review his decision on July 28.

CPLS director Monica Miller and other activists have carried out about 30 prior rescues in Grand Rapids, Mich., Baton Rouge, La., Washington, D.C., and other cities.

Miller said the rescues have two immediate purposes.

“We talk with the women to help them gain confidence that they can go ahead with the pregnancy,” Miller told me.

The activists defy police orders to leave in order to be “in solidarity with that [unborn child] victim” for as long as possible. They remain inside the abortion center even after staff move clients into a room away from the activists, as happened at Cuyahoga Falls.

Miller said they were unable to make June 5 appointments at the Planned Parenthood abortion center in Bedford Heights.

The activists could not gain entrance into the building that morning either, so they undertook a “parking lot rescue.”

Miller and Red Rose Rescue veteran Lauren Handy were arrested and released in the afternoon. They are facing a more serious aggravated trespass charge, which covers alleged conduct of “causing another person to believe that the offender will cause physical harm to that person.”

Walter Moss, a retired pastor of Canton Foursquare Church in Canton, Ohio, said the weekend’s rescues were the first that he and his wife had taken part in.

Moss, who is African-American, told me they had recently felt called to speak out against abortion.

“We don’t see many black faces in the pro-life movement,” he observed.



Photo by Bob Brown

Police carry Red Rose rescuer Stephanie Berry to a squad car after she refuses to leave an Ohio abortion center.

ASSAULT, from page 2

seen—he may be!” Balint reflected.

“But without him, there will be no case”; he has to testify that he was assaulted, or the charges will be dropped at the appeal.

Beyond reasonable doubt?

Defend Life has viewed the video clips showing the front door encounter between Rives and Des Marais on March 11.

In the video, as a woman client approaches the front door, Mark is standing about 6 feet away from the door, bearing his heavy, shoulder-hung sign.

He is not blocking the door.

In the foreground, pro-lifer Dick Schaefer reaches out past an escort who is trying to block him, attempting to give a “blessing bag” (with small gifts and pro-life information) to the woman. She does not take it.

Meanwhile, Rives is blocking Des Marais; his right hand is close up to Mark and the pro-lifer’s shoulder sign.

As Rives goes to open the door for the woman, he backs up on Mark, causing Mark to step backwards. Rives’ knees are bent as he arches his back into Mark.

Mark says that when Rives backed him up, he lost his balance, causing him to reach out and grab onto Rives to regain his balance.

The video shows that as he grabs onto Rives, he is holding a “blessing bag,” indicating that he had been planning to try to give it to the woman.

There is no evidence in the video of Des Marais—who is 75 and has had two knee replacements—punching the 29-year-old escort.

John Roswell, who heads the pro-life advocates at the Baltimore Planned Parenthood, contends that Rives’ case against Des Marais is part of Planned Parenthood’s effort to “pick off” the pro-lifers one-by-one.

As for Judge Scurti’s verdict against Mark, Roswell comments, “Whatever happened to the concept that when you find someone guilty, it’s supposed to be ‘beyond a reasonable doubt?’”

“Inclusion and equality”

Judge Scurti, who is currently president of the Maryland State Bar Association, has a long history of gay involvement and activism.

Prior to becoming a judge, in private law practice, Scurti handled estate planning for LGBT couples and individuals, bankruptcy and family law.

“Through that work, I created the largest LGBT law firm in the MD/DC/VA area that operated for 10 years,” said Scurti.

“As soon as I was appointed to the bench [in 2013], I immediately joined the International Association of LGBTQ+ Judges because it was an organization that I felt I could contribute to and learn from other judges around the world.”

Scurti believes that having the visibility of an openly LGBTQ judge on the bench “sends a strong message of inclusion and equality” (lgbtqjudges.org/december-2020-spotlight-judge-mark-scurti-md/).

ACADEMY, from page 6

dents. We offered the headmaster position to three different people, all of whom, after initial enthusiasm, turned us down due to the amount of work involved.

That’s when I got a phone call from one of our core families who, concerned about the low enrollment, wanted to pull out. Already stinging from the headmaster failures, this may have condemned the school to an early death. I literally begged the family to stay with us and leave at least one child in.

They agreed reluctantly. Shaken

but seeing still a small sign of hope, I gave it over to God.

“God,” I said, pointing at the heavens, “This is your school—I’m doing everything I can for it to succeed, so if it fails, it’s on You! Jesus, I trust in you, but I need 20 kids to make this happen.”

No kidding, the very next day I got a call from Mary Etta Jeske, who was a classical artist, had an administrative background, and three children. Most importantly, she wanted to be heavily involved in the school. I looked up to Heaven and shook my head, “God, you really have a sense of humor.”

Grateful, we pressed forward. In May, we had a meeting. Enrollment was picking up and we had a couple more teachers at this point—but the financial numbers just weren’t working out.

There was a growing voice among board members to slide the opening a year to give more time to recruit and raise money. I knew that sliding a year risked losing momentum—we were at an impasse.

That’s when Monica Ruppert, one of our board members and a teacher, spoke up. “I’ll teach for

See **SCHOOL**, page 15

MARCH, from page 7

cation preceded each of these abortions,” he reminded his listeners.

“We have an obligation not only to practice chastity, but as men, to insist on it, especially from our sons: too often we have been silent; we have not spoken up in many of our family situations.

“Our women deserve better than our lust; they deserve better than to be taken to an abortionist!”

The outspoken pastor of Holy Comforter-St Cyprian Church in D.C. added that “as priests, we need to speak up as well.

“Too many people tell me that they never hear their priests speak from the pulpit about abortion, or about fornication or adultery or homosexual acts. Why this silence?” he demanded.

In a fiery speech, former U.N. Ambassador Alan Keyes charged that our country’s widespread acceptance of abortion has deadened our conscience as a nation. “We started out killing unborn children in the womb; we thought we were just killing unborn babies—but we have killed our conscience!” Keyes declared.

With a pro-abortion leader in the highest office in the nation, he said, “We have in fact, killed our laws; we have, killed our rights. We have killed our nation!”

March set for Baltimore

The June 12 Men’s March Against Abortion in Washington was the brainchild of pro-life activist Father Imbarrato and Catholic radio host Jim Havens.

Havens, who hosts “The Simple Truth” on Station of the Cross radio each weekday, has had the priest co-host the show with him every Friday for about a year.



Photo by Grace Sims

Clerics and lay speakers gather at Lafayette Square to urge all men to join the fight against abortion.

“Jim called me up about a month ago and said, ‘I really feel compelled to organize and do a men’s march in D.C.,’” recalled Imbarrato as he stood in front of the Surgi-Center on June 12.

Father had agreed to the march, “But I’m thinking, in the fall; it’ll take five, six months to put it together! But two days later, he tells me, ‘Not the fall, we need to do it in June!’

“So here we are, less than a month later! To bring out this gathering of men in less than one month

has to be the work of the Holy Spirit!” he exclaimed.

Father Imbarrato and Havens are planning a second Men’s March to End Abortion, on November 15 in Baltimore, Md.

The men will march from the Planned Parenthood of Maryland abortion center on Howard Street to a rally point outside the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ fall conference site.

For more information and updates, see themensmarch.com.

SCHOOL, from page 14

free until you have money to pay me,” she offered. It was the thing we needed to guarantee we could get started. In August, our enrollment was up to 19, and on the final day before school began, a 20th child was considering joining. God had fulfilled His promise.

As I look around now with great love and pride at a family of amazing and dedicated teachers, parents, and kids; when my children come home

reciting poetry, singing beautiful songs in Latin, and crushing math, I know that all of this was completely worth it.

Divine Mercy Academy, now located in the former school building of St. Frances de Chantal Church in Riviera Beach, Md., will begin its fall semester on August 30 with 74 students.

For more information, go to divinemeracyacad@gmail.com or divinemeracy.md.

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Read Jack Ames' comments about our 21st Maryland Face the Truth Tour pp. 8 & 9

DEFEND LIFE Needs Help!

HERE ARE THE REASONS WHY:

- Jack Ames will be **80** in November
- After founding DEFEND LIFE 34 years ago, Jack **needs your help** if we are to continue to grow
- Jack's wife **Mary Lou** has serious medical issues
- In addition to our numerous great volunteers, here is what I believe is needed NOW: 4 Assistant Directors whom Jack will mentor to organize the following:
 - **Lecture Tours** (We have had 6 in the past, for now we are cutting back to 2)
 - **Special Events** such as our annual March for Life Kickoff Lecture, networking meetings concurrent with the November Bishop's meeting, etc.
 - **Annual Face the Truth Tour**
 - **Publicity** (reaching out to news media to publicize all our events)



For more information, please contact
Jack • 410-337-3721
Jack@DefendLife.org

LONG LIVE CHRIST OUR KING
JACK AMES, DIRECTOR

P.S. Please spread this word and pray that motivated persons will step up to answer this call!

Stay tuned to www.DEFENDLIFE.org for the announcement of an October Lecture Tour featuring nationally known speakers such as:



Dr. Monica Miller



Taylor Marshall



Fr. Richard Hellman



Eric Scheidler

THINKING LONG-TERM?

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See: <https://www.churchmilitant.com/video/episode/even-2021-08-06>