

St. Agnes-St. William of York

Respect Life Newsletter - August-September 2019

Where has the summer gone? I hope your summer has been a blessed one. The coming Fall should be a very busy and exciting one. As I mentioned in the June-July 2019 newsletter, we are looking forward to Father Isaac attending our September 20th Respect Life Meeting.

ST. AGNES-ST. WILLIAM OF YORK RESPECT LIFE NEWS AND EVENTS:

- **Parish Respect Life News:**

- ✓ **Paul and Diane Madigan's Story:** Paul Madigan is one of our super-faithful year-round pray-ers outside of the Hillcrest abortion facility. Rain or shine, you can often find Paul praying outside Hillcrest from 10:00 - 11:00 am on Thursday mornings. One of Paul's trademark features is his beautiful smile and his dry sense of humor. He is also a regular adorer at Tuesday Eucharistic Adoration.

Paul and his wife, Diane, are the parents of adopted twins, Andrew Francis and Amy Michelle. Their story is one of perseverance and faith. Having married later in life and very much wanting to have children, they chose to adopt. The high demand for US children and their age led them to explore an international adoption. Their search first led them to Chile. However, shortly after making their initial inquiry into a Chilean adoption, Chile locked down foreign adoptions because of a black-market problem. They subsequently directed their inquiries toward El Salvador, which also shut down its foreign adoption program. However, as the saying goes, when God closes a door he often opens a window; and Diane and Paul redirected their search toward Paraguay. One Friday, shortly after beginning their inquiry with a Paraguayan adoption agency, they got a call asking whether they would take twins. They took the weekend to pray over their decision. The following Monday they called the agency and agreed to become the parents of fraternal twins. Within 6 weeks they found themselves in Paraguay meeting their daughter and son. They attribute much of their success in finding their son and daughter to St. Michael, to whom they had been praying the entire time. In gratitude to St. Michael, they baptized their new daughter Amy Michelle. Their son Andrew Francis, they named after Paul's grandfather. Thank you Paul and Diane for sharing your story.



Paul Madigan Outside of the Hillcrest Abortion Facility



Diane and Paul Madigan



Amy and Andrew's First Communion

- **Upcoming Parish Respect Life Events:**

- ✓ **Fri, September 20, 2019 - St. Agnes/St. William of York Respect Life Meeting:**

The St. Agnes/St. William of York Respect Life Committee will meet on September 20 between 10:00 and 11:30 am in the St. Agnes Activity Center meeting room. We have invited Father Isaac to the meeting so that he can meet the members of our ministry and become acquainted with what we do. We are also looking forward to hearing any ideas Father has which might further our ministry. In addition to brain-storming future activities, we will discuss our participation in the Fall 40 Days for Life Catonsville campaign, supporting Mary's Home Maryland and upcoming regional activities. October is Respect Life Month so we will also discuss activities we might promote during the month. All are welcome to attend. So that we can plan appropriately, please contact Paula Noeller (pnoeller@comcast.net) if you plan to attend the meeting.

We usually have beverages and breakfast items prior to the start of the meeting. Those who want to attend mass before the meeting are welcome to attend the 9:00 am St. Agnes School Mass. A detailed agenda will be available at a later date.

When: Fri, Sep 20, 2019, 10:00-11:30 am

Where: St. Agnes Activity Center

- ✓ **September 25 - November 3 - Catonsville Fall 40 Days for Life Campaign:**

The 2019 Fall 40 Days for Life - Catonsville prayer campaign runs from September 25 - November 3 and is held outside the Hillcrest abortion facility. (See the flyer on page 8 for details.) The Hillcrest facility is located on the 6th floor of the Suburban building at the intersection of Route 40 and Johnnycake Road. Although all prayer supporting the unborn is beneficial, your visible prayerful presence outside of an abortion clinic is particularly effective. In a 2013 article on why it is important to pray outside of an abortion clinic, Abby Johnson, a former manager of a Texas Planned Parenthood and now an internationally recognized pro-life advocate, wrote:

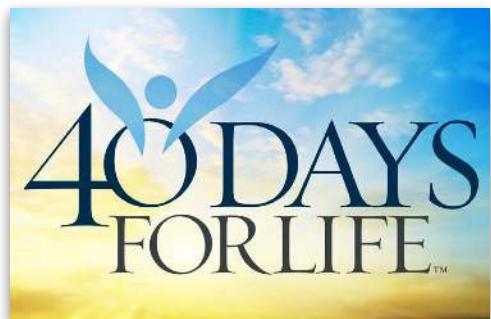
"You might wonder if your presence outside of an abortion clinic makes a difference. Well, let me tell you what Planned Parenthood announced at the last national conference I attended. They said this, 'Our no-show rate goes up to 75% when people are outside our clinics praying.'"



Pray-ers Outside of Hillcrest Facility

The above quote was taken from an article Abby wrote reflecting on the closure of the Planned Parenthood Clinic that she once managed. The entire article can be found on Abby's website at <https://www.abbyjohnson.org/abbyjohnson/september-7-2013>.

Kim Frazer of Resurrection Parish is the coordinator of the 40 Days for Life Catonsville campaign. [Here is a link](#) to her invitation to you to join us outside of Hillcrest. As in previous years, our parish community has agreed to cover as much of Thursday as possible. Thursday morning coverage is especially important since that is when abortions are performed. If Thursday is not a convenient day, by all means, choose another day.



40 Days for Life

- **Important Campaign Links and Dates:**

- * **Campaign and Sign-up Information:** Campaign and sign-up information for the Catonsville campaign is available at <https://www.40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/catonsville/>. You will be prompted to create an account, if you are a new pray-er, or to log-in if you have an existing account.
- Note:** There has been a major overhaul of the 40 Days for Life website. Therefore, if you haven't logged in recently, you may be asked to reset your password. If you have any questions or problems, contact either me, Paula, at pnoeller@comcast.net/443.570.5048 or Kim Frazer at vigilbaltimore@gmail.com/410.456.9544.

Why are we asking you to sign up to pray rather than to just show up? First, it is important that we know what hours are covered. A person signing up for the first time might want to sign up for a time during which others are praying. On the other hand, seasoned pray-ers may opt to sign up for times that are vacant so that we have continuous coverage. Second, signing up for a time lets campaign leaders know how many people are active in the campaign. An accurate number of participating pray-ers is a critical statistic used for promoting the campaign locally, nationally and internationally. Right now it looks like we have another record number of campaigns registered for this fall.

- * **Thursday, September 19, 2019 - 40 Days for Life Catonsville Kick-off Event:** The kick-off event for the Catonsville campaign is a free showing of the movie, *Unplanned*. If you did not see the film when it was released this past spring, now is your chance to do so. This film has changed the lives of many who have seen it. The film will be shown at 7:00 pm at Our Lady's Center in Ellicott City. You can read an account of a 40 Days for Life sponsored red carpet event coordinated by Kim Frazer this past spring and the powerful story behind the film on page 3 of the [April-May, 2019 Respect Life Newsletter](#). There are some graphic scenes so parental discretion is advised. See the flyer on page 9 of this newsletter for details. Please, direct all inquiries to Our Lady's Center - 410-461-5086.

When: Thur, Sep 19, 2019, 7:00 pm

Where: Our Lady's Center, 3301 S. Rogers Avenue Ellicott City, MD 21043, 410-461-5086.

Turn between the blue mailbox and the guardrail and follow the lane all the way back.

Our Lady's Center, for those of you who are unfamiliar with it, is a fabulous Catholic resource. Among other things, it houses a wonderful book and gift shop. The store will be open both before and after the showing of the film. You might get some early gift ideas for the holidays. The Center also offers a daily noon mass.

- * **Saturday, October 19, 2019 - 40 Days for Life Catonsville Eucharistic Procession:** Everyone is invited to participate in a Eucharistic procession which will mark the mid-point of the Catonsville campaign. It will take place after the 8:00 am mass at St. Agnes Church. The procession will take us from St. Agnes to Hillcrest and back. We have had several 40 Days for Life Eucharistic processions and each of them has been a powerful event. The sight of cars stopped by Baltimore County Police at major intersections and people pausing to observe the Blessed Sacrament being



2016 Eucharistic Procession

processed down Rt. 40 toward Hillcrest is a remarkable sight. Here is a link to a slideshow of the Fall, 2016 Eucharistic procession - <https://www.icloud.com/sharedalbum/#B0R52plgjovX88>.

When: Saturday, October 19, 2019 after the 8:00 am mass at St. Agnes Church

Where: St Agnes Church, 5422 Old Frederick Road, 21229

* **Sources of Local, National and International 40 Days for Life News:**

- Subscribe to 40 Days for Life and receive breaking news, devotionals, and prayers - <https://www.40daysforlife.com/#grdp-subscribe>.
 - Access the daily devotionals at <https://www.40daysforlife.com/resources-devotionals.aspx>. The preparational devotional for this fall's campaign can be found on page 10 of this newsletter.
 - Subscribe to the free 40 days for Life quarterly magazine at <https://www.40daysforlife.com/resources-magazine.aspx>.
 - Check out the 40 Days for Life Catonsville Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/40daysbaltimore>.
- ✓ **Tuesday, October 1, 2019 - Respect Life Holy Hour:** Our monthly Respect Life Holy Hour is held on the first Tuesday of every month at St. Agnes. The monthly Holy Hour begins at 5:45 pm and ends with Benediction at 6:45 pm. The Holy Hour includes praise and worship music, the Angelus, time to pray for private and special intentions and the respect life rosary. Now more than ever it is necessary that we pray for life and for our nation. We hope to see you there.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL RESPECT LIFE NEWS AND EVENTS:

• **Local and Regional Respect Life News:**

- ✓ **Mary's Home in Maryland** recently celebrated its second anniversary. Mary's Home provides a safe, pro-life environment to expectant mothers in crises and their children in need. Since its founding, Mary's Home has provided support for more than 22 moms and their children.

I was able to chat with Kimberley Roche, executive director of Mary's Home, this summer. One of the things that impressed me the most was the fact that, while having at her disposal various models used by other homes in the mid-Atlantic region, Kim has adapted Mary's Home's program to meet the specific needs of women in the Baltimore Metropolitan area. Mary's home is a wholistic program that engages the community and is designed to provide expectant and new mothers with a broad range of skills which will help them to be both good mothers and productive members of society.

On Saturday, September 7, Mary's Home opened its facilities for its 2nd Annual Open House. Jim Armshaw provided this wonderful summary of the event. Thank you, Jim!

"It was a wonderful and enjoyable time. A beautiful September day enabled a grand assembly of MHM moms, children, staff, active volunteers, supporters, and MHM Founder Michael Pfau. During the four hour event, there was ample opportunity for introductions facilitated by MHM director of volunteers and board member, Julia Stamerro, and MHM executive director Kim Roche, good conversation, and a tour of the facilities. The food was scrumptious! Original paintings, handcrafted jewelry and tie-dye shirts made by MHM moms were available for purchase, and orders were taken with Christmas in mind. Deacon Steve Sarnecki, a deacon at St. Lawrence Martyr parish, generously

offered his time and, following in the steps of Archbishop Lori, blessed all the rooms in both houses. It was a memorable time for MHM residents and all.

If you are interested in knowing more about Mary's Home or the products produced by its moms, contact Kim Roche at Kimroche@maryshomemaryland.org or 443-561-4476."

Mary's Home will celebrate its 2nd Annual Gala, "Hold on to Love", on Friday, November 8, 2019 at the Ten Oaks Ballroom in Clarksville, MD. Please contact Abigail Pfau at abbiemarysshelter@livingwatersforchrist.com or call (410) 660-7449 for questions or additional information about the gala. Additional information about Mary's Home is available at (<https://www.maryshomemaryland.org>).



Jim and Sabina Armshaw Accepting MHM's First Annual

- **Upcoming Local and Regional Respect Life Events:**

- ✓ **Saturday, September 14, 2019 - Talk on the "Connection Between Contraception, Abortion and Euthanasia" by Dr. Janet Smith:** Dr. Smith is an internationally recognized expert on St. Pope Paul VI's encyclical, 'Humanae Vitae', and its relationship to many of the moral and sociological issues of our time. She will be in Baltimore to serve as the keynote speaker at the annual Archdiocesan Respect Life Workshop. She will also give a talk at the Baltimore Basilica at 7:00 pm after the 5:30 pm mass. Her talk is free and open to the public. For detailed information on Dr. Smith, check out the article on her on pages 3 and 4 of the June-July issue of the newsletter (https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/062276_4009fd295c1544c28b0834e790cab04.pdf).



Dr. Janet Smith

When: Sat, Sep 14, 2019, 7:00 pm (after the 5:30 pm mass)

Where: Baltimore Basilica of the Assumption, 409 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

- ✓ **Saturday, September 21 & November 2, 2019 - Bereavement Ministry Formation Seminar at St. Paul's in Ellicott City:** The Archdiocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life is offering a bereavement formation seminar this fall. The seminar will include "the psychological and biblical foundations of grief, practical considerations for a parish-based bereavement ministry, and an opportunity to reflect on specific types of loss, including, miscarriage, terminal illness, and sudden loss." The seminar will be facilitated by Dr. Patricia Fosarelli. Participants are asked to attend both the September 21 and November 2 sessions. The cost for the entire seminar is \$50.00. Scholarships are available. See the flyer on page 11 for details.

When: Sat. Sept 21 & Nov 2, 2019, 9:30 am - 2:30 pm. Both sessions must be attended.

Where: St. Paul's of Ellicott City - Center for the New Evangelization, 3755 St. Paul Street, Ellicott City, MD., 21043.

- ✓ **Wednesday, September 25, 2019 - In Joyful Hope: Help for Essential Planning:** The Church of the Annunciation will host a panel discussion on the medical, spiritual, financial, practical, and legal issues surrounding end of life care. Speakers include a priest/theologian to address spiritual issues and Church teaching, a medical professional and/or geriatric care manager to address hospice & palliative care and other considerations, an attorney to address advanced directives, a funeral home director, and a financial planner. If you would like to attend, please RSVP with Kimberly LaValley at 443-224-8362 or 410-866-5255. See the flyer on page 12 for details.

When: Wed, Sept 25, 2019, 6:00 - 8:00 pm. **Where:** Church of the Annunciation, 5212 McCormick Ave, Baltimore, MD, 21206.

REFLECTION - The Canticle of Zechariah and Its Meaning for Us

The Canticle of Zechariah is prayed by everyone who prays the Morning Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours. The canticle comes from the Gospel of Luke (Luke 1: 68-79 - <http://www.usccb.org/bible/luke/1/>). Zechariah, a member of the Jewish priesthood and father of John the Baptist, was struck deaf and mute when his lack of faith led him to question the Angel Gabriel's pronouncement that a son would be born to him and his aged wife, Elizabeth, and that his son would be the harbinger of the long awaited Messiah. His hymn of praise is pronounced when Zechariah regains his speech after the birth of his son. Verses 76-79 have always stood out for me:

- 76 *And you, child, will be called prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord* to prepare his ways,*
- 77 *to give his people knowledge of salvation
through the forgiveness of their sins,*
- 78 *because of the tender mercy of our God^s
by which the daybreak from on high* will visit us*
- 79 *to shine on those who sit in darkness and death's shadow,
to guide our feet into the path of peace."*

The "child" referenced in those verses is John the Baptist, and the rest of the verses refer to the role he was to play in preparing humanity for the arrival of the Messiah.

When I read those verses I often feel that they are directed to me and to all of the baptized. Although Christ's saving mission has been accomplished, there are many people who have not yet been introduced to Him. Like John, we are being called to prepare 'the way' for those within our sphere of influence who have yet to encounter Christ and to enter into a relationship with Him. At the most basic level, we are being asked to bring Christ to members of our families, our friends and neighbors, and people in our workplace. However, it seems to me that what is being requested in those verses requires something more of us.

Earlier in Luke's Gospel, we read about John the Baptist's initial encounter with the Lord when Mary visited her pregnant cousin, Elizabeth. The infant John leapt in Elizabeth's womb when he encountered Jesus in the womb of Mary. As the saying goes, the rest is history. John served His Lord and Savior unto his (John's) own passion and death at the hands of Herod. Although most of us are not called to respond to Jesus in the way that John the Baptist did, as members of the body of Christ, we are asked to respond in our own unique way, and to take that next step.

That next step might be to participate in the 40 Days for Life Prayer Campaign. Several years ago, a St. Agnes parishioner praying outside of Hillcrest was exactly what one young woman needed. A brief conversation led to a relationship being established between the young woman and the pray-er. That relationship led to the establishment of a support group for the young woman. Months later she gave birth to a baby girl. The parishioner and her husband now serve as godparents to her daughter.

That next step might be to support *The Source of All Hope* missionary program which was inaugurated at the Baltimore Basilica this past August. This year Father James Boric, rector of the Basilica, and two young men are hitting the streets of Baltimore where they will serve as missionary disciples to those who live and work in Baltimore and may not know Christ... to the homeless and those suffering from addictions... and to those who attend mass at the Basilica. It is a bold step that he and the two men are taking, and he is asking others to join them in the ministry. It may not involve your hitting the streets with them, but it could involve providing material and spiritual support. To learn more about *The Source of All Hope* program, listen to Father Boric's beautiful homily in which he explains what led him to take this bold step - <https://frjamesboric.podbean.com/e/we-are-the-72-jesus-is-sending-out-will-you-go/>. Or go to *The Source of All Hope* website at <http://www.sourceofallhope.org>.

Finally, that next step might be to engage with your state and federal representatives to ensure that fair, just and pro-life laws and policies are enacted. One thing you could immediately do is help convince your representative to Congress to become one of the 17 members of the House of Representative still needed to sign a petition that would get the *Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act* (H.R. 962) out of committee and to the full House for a vote. The bill is a response to an increasing number of proposed and enacted state laws that would legalize the killing of babies that survive an abortion. It is currently stuck in committee. The organization, Maryland Right to Life, has an online form you can fill out that will generate an email directed to your Congressman requesting that he or she sign the petition - <https://www.mdrtl.org/takeaction.html>. You have the option to modify the email. You can get more information on this topic at <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/born-alive-bill-still-stalled-as-congress-returns-to-session-37188>.

Instead of closing with the traditional prayer for our nation, I will close with the Responsory in the Morning Prayer for September 11, 2019:

Incline my heart according to your will, O God...

Speed my steps along your path, according to your will...

Glory be to the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit...

Incline my heart according to your will, O God....



My Sister Julie Walking Through Her Beloved Fields in Germany... Summer, 2019

If you have a printed copy of the newsletter, you can access links to slideshows, websites and other linked resources by going to <https://www.stagnescatholicchurch.org/respectlife>. There you will find archived copies of the newsletter from which you can access the links.

To subscribe to the monthly St. Agnes-St. William of York Respect Life Newsletter, please email Paula Noeller at pnoeller@comcast.net. In the subject field enter 'Newsletter'.



September 25 - November 3
40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

Jay pictured above was saved during the 40 Days for Life vigil in Atlanta, Georgia

HELP SAVE LIVES IN Catonsville!

You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion!

Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 1,000,000 volunteers!

With God's help, here are the proven results in 24 coordinated campaigns:

- **16,004 babies** saved from abortion
- **191 abortion workers** converted
- **104 abortion centers** closed

Here's how to take part in 40 Days for Life in our community:

- **Vigil location:** Outside Hillcrest abortion facility 5602 Baltimore National Pike Catonsville
- **Vigil hours:** 7 am to 7 pm daily
- **Local contact:** Kim Frazer vigilbaltimore@gmail.com 410-456-9544
- **Learn more ... get involved ... and sign**

40daysforlife.com/Catonsville



Join us for a **free** movie screening and learn what really happens inside Planned Parenthood!

Date: Thursday, Sept. 19

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Our Lady's Center

3301 S. Rogers Avenue, Ellicott City, MD 21043

Turn between the blue mailbox and the guardrail and follow the lane all the way back. The Our Lady's Center Bookstore & Gift Shop will be open before and after the movie showing. "Unplanned" books and DVDs are available for sale along with many other pro-life items.

Questions, contact Our Lady's Center at 410-461-5086

Sponsored by Catonsville 40 Days for Life



**Parents – Unplanned is rated R.
Those under 17 should be accompanied by an adult.**



*Devotional for Preparation, Tuesday, September 24
Carmen Pate, former 40 Days for Life board member*

Intention:

For God's blessing upon the coming 40 Days for Life campaign.

Scripture:

If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and forgive their sin and heal their land. — *2 Chronicles 7:14*

Reflection:

Not unlike God's chosen people of Israel, we must humble ourselves, pray, seek His face, and turn from our wicked ways, if we expect God to hear from heaven, forgive our sin, and heal our land. The need for repentance has not been greater since the Supreme Court decision of *Roe v. Wade* in 1973.

The number one cause of death in America is the needless sacrifice of our children at the altar of convenience called abortion. Conservative estimates put the number of deaths at nearly 48 million.

And lest we think this is an issue outside the church walls, 43 percent of women obtaining abortions identify themselves as Protestant, and 27 percent identify themselves as Catholic. One in four women has at least one abortion by the age of 45 – both non-Christian and Christian alike. Where was the voice of Truth – the church?

Mary Comm of In Our Midst Ministries, Inc. sums up the issue best as she writes, "We (the church) have been an unintentional accomplice to the millions of lives lost and to the multiplied millions of lives devastated by abortion. We didn't want them to abort. We didn't mean for them to abort. But, because of our lack of knowledge, because of our fear, we have continued to stand by and do nothing."

"We, God's hands and feet in this dark and hurting world, have been unintentional, unknowledgeable accomplice, but an accomplice nonetheless."

May today mark the beginning of change within the church, as God's people, in unity, seek His forgiveness.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we have turned our backs on you and your principles in your Word. We have allowed man to usurp Your role as God over life and the number of our days.

But we come to you in brokenness and repentance over our sin.

We cry out for Your mercy and ask you to remove the scourge of abortion from our land. Use us as your vessels, Lord, to bring the light of Your Truth to our nation once again. Because of Christ we pray, amen.



BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY FORMATION SEMINAR

Facilitated by Dr. Patricia Fosarelli

St. Paul, Ellicott City – Center for the New Evangelization
3755 St. Paul Street
Ellicott City, MD 21043

SEPTEMBER 21, 2019 & NOVEMBER 2, 2019

Registration opens @ 8:30 a.m.
Seminar 9:00 a.m.– 2:30 p.m. (Lunch provided)

\$50.00 per person (scholarships available)

<https://www.regonline.com/bevreavementministryformationseminar>

For questions or assistance with registration contact:
Melissa Haigley @ 410-547-5406 or
melissa.hraigley@archbalt.org

OFFICE OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE • DEPARTMENT OF EVANGELIZATION





In Joyful Hope

*Embracing life and living it abundantly while preparing
for a natural transition to eternal life in Christ*



Join us for a panel presentation and conversation

Topics: Theology, Legal, Financial, Elder care, Hospice, and Funeral planning

Church of the Annunciation

5212 McCormick Avenue Baltimore, MD 21206

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

6:00pm - 8:00pm

Please **RSVP** to Kimberly LaValley at 443-224-8362 or 410-866-5255 by **September 18th**

www.injoyfulhope.org