

THE CATHOLIC VOICE

speaking for the vulnerable in Maryland's public square

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Annapolis, MD

General Assembly Roundup

We are officially two-thirds through the 90-day General Assembly. Crossover Day, the day when all bills must pass their original chamber and cross to the other chamber for consideration, is March 20. After that, the state has 21 days to conclude its business, which must be finished by midnight on April 10.

The Maryland Catholic Conference has worked on nearly 90 pieces of legislation during the session. You can find a list of all the testimony written by our lobbyists on our website at: <http://www.mdccathcon.org/2017testimony>.

Paid Sick Leave Debate

The Senate debated the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act (SB 230) on Thursday and Friday. The bill, which passed the House of Delegates for the second straight session, would require businesses with 15 or more workers to provide earned paid sick leave. The bill was debated for more than two and a half hours on the floor today and advanced to third reader for a final vote Monday when the last of the 15 amendments will be considered.

Fr. Campbell named new Auxiliary Bishop of Washington

On Wednesday, Pope Francis named Fr. Roy Campbell pastor of St. Joseph Church in Largo as an auxiliary bishop of Washington. Bishop-elect Campbell will assist Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, which includes five Maryland counties: Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's and St. Mary's.

"Father Campbell, who was born, grew up, worked and served in this archdiocese, brings to his new ministry recognized talent and demonstrated ability," Cardinal Wuerl said. "He also bears witness to the great cultural and ethnic richness of the Church of Washington reflected in all of the faithful, lay, religious and clergy. Personally I look forward to continuing to work closely with our new auxiliary bishop, who over the years has made significant contributions to the pastoral life of this archdiocese."

The Catholic Standard has more on the announcement, [read about it HERE](#).



Father Roy Campbell (Photo Credit: CS Photo by Jaclyn Lippelmann)

World-famous statue headed to Eastern Shore

The world-famous International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be visiting Saints Peter and Paul Church in Easton next month, as part of the Fatima Centennial U.S. Tour for Peace.

The statue, traveling worldwide since 1947, is on a historic two-year journey across America, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the apparitions at Fatima, visiting more than 100 dioceses in all 50 states. The statue will be on display at the Eastern Shore parish for a vigil from 10 a.m. Monday, April 3 until 8 a.m. Tuesday, April 4. The services are free and open to the public.

"We are happy to have the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue visit our Diocese," said Bishop Francis Malooly, Bishop of the Diocese of Wilmington, which includes the Eastern Shore. "Devotion to Our Lady is such an important aspect of our tradition as Catholics because she always leads us to a closer relationship to her son, Jesus Christ."



Archbishop Lori weighs in on PAS bill, St. Patrick's Day

PAS legislation

Archbishop William Lori, Archbishop of Baltimore and chairman of the Maryland Catholic Conference Board of Governors, praised the Conference for helping defeat the physician-assisted suicide bill for the third consecutive year.

"The withdrawal of the bill that would have legalized physician-assisted suicide is a victory for all Marylanders, most especially those whose lives would have been rendered disposable by the bill's passage," Archbishop Lori said. "As we give thanks for the defeat of this measure we also remember our call to give mercy, compassion and healing to those whose lives are nearing their natural end."

Lenten observances

Last week, Archbishop Lori granted also a dispensation from the obligation to abstain from meat on St. Patrick's Day (March 17), which falls on a Friday during Lent this year. [Read more HERE](#).

Because We Are Catholic

During the General Assembly's Legislative Session, the Conference produces a short feature not the good things happening in the Church in the state of Maryland. This week's story highlights a Harford County parish celebrating a milestone: <http://bit.ly/2nirIYV>