

THE CATHOLIC VOICE

speaking for the vulnerable in Maryland's public square

March 31, 2017

Annapolis, MD

General Assembly Roundup

Today marks the 80th day of the 2017 General Assembly. If a bill passes by the 80th day of session, Gov. Larry Hogan must sign or veto the legislation within six days. If the Governor vetoes a bill, then the legislature can override the veto before the session ends on Monday, April 10. A three-fifths vote is necessary to override.

If a bill gets passed after the 80th day, the Governor has until the end of May to sign or veto legislation. If legislation is vetoed at that point, a veto override must wait until the 2018 General Assembly.

BOOST funding included in Approved FY18 budget

The Maryland General Assembly has given final approval to the state's \$43.5 billion budget for the next fiscal year, which begins July 1. Lawmakers voted in favor of the budget Tuesday after a conference committee worked out differences between the House of Delegates and the Senate.

The Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (BOOST) program has been funded at \$5.5 million for next fiscal year. The increase in this year's budget, together with the remaining funds from the current program, will provide nearly \$6 million for BOOST scholarships for the 2017-18 school year, almost \$1 million more than its inaugural year.

In 2016, the General Assembly expanded educational options for low-income students, who qualify for free and reduced price lunch, to attend the school best fit for their educational needs by providing scholarship assistance toward attending a Catholic or nonpublic school. The program is helping nearly 2,500 students this school year.

Students who received a BOOST scholarship award in 2016-17 and who still meet eligibility criteria shall receive a scholarship renewal award. For students who are receiving a BOOST scholarship for the first time, priority will be given to students who attended public schools this year.

Saying Goodbye

More than 1,000 people packed the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen on Charles Street in Baltimore Tuesday afternoon for a final tribute to William Cardinal Keeler, who passed away March 16 at the age of 86. Cardinal Keeler, who headed the Archdiocese of Baltimore from 1989-2007, was interred in the crypt at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Baltimore.

The Archdiocese of Baltimore compiled a detailed look at this week's media coverage on the life of Cardinal Keeler: <http://cardinalwilliamkeeler.com/media-resources/media-coverage/>



Archbishop William Lori leads mass at the funeral of William Cardinal Keeler (Photo courtesy of Kevin J. Parks/Catholic Review Media)

Women's History Month



In celebration of Women's History Month in March, the Conference is honoring the women of the Church by sharing a new story every week of inspiring female figures. We conclude this celebration by honoring Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini (1850-1917). Born in Italy, she became the first naturalized American citizen to be canonized.

Cabrini made her vows as a nun in 1877 and three years later she co-founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart to care for poor children. She was encouraged by Pope Leo XIII to become a missionary and go to the United States to care for Italian immigrants. She arrived in New York in March 1889 with six other sisters.

With little to no English skills, Cabrini relied on her faith and dedicated herself to working with the poor, sick and imprisoned and was given permission to open an orphanage. She opened New York's Columbus Hospital in 1896, one of 67 institutions (hospitals, orphanages, schools) dedicated to the poor and uneducated that she established.

Cabrini became a U.S. citizen in 1909. Thirty-three years after her death, she was canonized by Pius XII in 1950, and named patroness of all immigrants. When she was canonized, 120,000 people filled Soldier Field in Chicago for a Mass of thanksgiving.

Habitat for Humanity

For the 25th consecutive year, students from Notre Dame Prep, an all-girls school in Towson, will be spending spring break in Starkville, Miss. as part of Habitat for Humanity. Last week, the 15 seniors selected to participate were given a tutorial on how to use the tools that will be used on the trip.

[Watch the report by WMAR-TV HERE.](#)

Because We Are Catholic

During the General Assembly's Legislative Session, the Conference produces a short feature on the good things happening in the Church in the state of Maryland. This week's story introduces us to a woman determined to make a difference with the expansion of special education instruction in Maryland's Catholic schools: <http://bit.ly/2okvouB>



Students at St. John the Evangelist School in Silver Spring. St. John the Evangelist is one of 29 Catholic schools in the state affiliated with the Catholic Coalition for Special Education