

THE CATHOLIC VOICE

speaking for the vulnerable in Maryland's public square

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Annapolis, MD

Maryland Bishops Issue Immigration Statement



The Catholic bishops in Maryland issued a joint statement three weeks ago calling for all people of faith and good will to come together in a spirit of compassion, prudence and cooperation in addressing the issue of immigration. The bishops also urge state and local elected officials to consider several guiding principles when determining the appropriate relationship between federal immigration officials and local law enforcement.

In the United States, the Catholic Church was founded by immigrant communities who have always found a home in their local parish. Today, the Church in Maryland continues to welcome and embrace newcomers to our country, and to advocate on their behalf.

The statement from the Most. Rev. William E. Lori, Archbishop of Baltimore, Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, the Most. Rev. W. Francis Malooly, Bishop of Wilmington, and auxiliary bishops Mark Brennan, Roy Campbell, Mario Dorsonville, Barry Knestout and Adam Parker can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2r8vgSf>.

The statement has generated interest in the community: <https://cruxnow.com/church-in-the-usa/2017/06/03/maryland-bishops-call-compassion-prudence-immigration/>.

2017 Summer Parish Visits Underway



The Maryland Catholic Conference represents all three dioceses with territory in the state – the Archdiocese of Baltimore (Central and Western Maryland), the Archdiocese of Washington (Montgomery and Prince George's counties and Southern Maryland), and the Diocese of Wilmington (Eastern Shore)—advocating for the Church's public policy positions before the Maryland General Assembly.

The Conference has been working on a project to identify legislative ambassadors in each parish in the state. The role of the legislative ambassador is to coordinate the involvement of the parish in the legislative advocacy efforts of the Conference.

For the third consecutive summer, the Conference staff has hit the road, visiting parishes in search of legislative ambassadors and meeting with pastors/parish leaders throughout the state in an effort to review the key issues that will be coming up the following year. The outreach has reached parishes in nearly half of the 47 districts throughout the state.

The first trip of 2017 took us to Jesus the Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Owings on June 13. Led by pastor Fr. Michael King, the parish has been serving 1,400 registered families in north Calvert County since 1983.

With more than one million Catholics in Maryland, it is critical that we do all we can to ensure they are informed and actively engaged in communicating with lawmakers on the issues critical to the Church. To learn more about the project or to volunteer, please visit <http://www.mdcathcon.org/commongood>.

Anne Zmuda Joins MCC Team



Anne Zmuda joined the Conference's staff Monday, June 19 as the associate director for Social and Economic Justice. An Anne Arundel County native, Zmuda was the legislative aide for Del. Sheila Hixson (Montgomery County) for the last two and a half years and has extensive contacts in Annapolis. She is a parishioner at St. Mary's in Rockville.

"Anne was looking for something that more closely aligned with her Catholic faith, and that allowed her to use her considerable talents in advocating for the vulnerable," Maryland Catholic Conference executive director Mary Ellen Russell said. "We were impressed by her intelligence, poise and solid legislative experience and are very excited to welcome her to the Conference's staff."

Maryland Welcomes Six New Priests

During a Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on June 17, Cardinal Wuerl ordained four new priests for the Archdiocese of Washington: <http://www.cathstan.org/Content/News/Homepage-Rotating-Articles/Article/Cardinal-Wuerl-ordains-four-new-priests-for-archdiocese-including-pioneer-members-of-Saint-John-Paul-II-Seminary/2/409/7929>.

Archbishop Lori will ordain Deacon Kevin Ewing for the Archdiocese of Baltimore on June 24. Bishop Malooly ordained Fr. Richard Jasper for the Diocese of Wilmington on May 20.