



**District Captain &  
Legislative Ambassador  
Project**

— FOR PARISHES —

MARYLAND CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



# Introduction

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## **Maryland Catholic Conference**

The Maryland Catholic Conference advocates for the Church's public policy positions before the Maryland General Assembly and other civil officials. The Conference represents all three dioceses with territory in the state – the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Archdiocese of Washington, and the Diocese of Wilmington – and is directed by a Board of Governors which includes all of Maryland's bishops.

## **The Church in the Public Square**

There are universal truths that are recognized by all people of good will and that are shared across all faiths and cultures. The most basic truth is the dignity of the human person. This truth is of such fundamental importance that it touches almost every aspect of public policy. The Church has a legal right and a moral obligation to defend these truths throughout our culture, including in the public policy arena.

Maryland has a rich history of religious tolerance and is the birthplace of the Catholic Church in the United States. Today, Maryland is home to more than 200 Catholic parishes and more than 1.2 million Catholics.

The Church has a unique political voice: she is neither Republican nor Democrat and she cares for all individuals from the womb to the tomb and everything in between.

## **Maryland General Assembly**

The Maryland Catholic Conference strives to unite Catholics across the state into a cohesive voice before the Maryland General Assembly.

Each year, Maryland considers more than 2,000 pieces of legislation during its 90-day session, which begins in mid-January and ends in early-to-mid-April.

Passing a bill is a very complicated process, and legislators rely heavily on their constituents to speak up and voice concerns or support for bills.

## **District Captain & Legislative Ambassador Project**

The Conference created the District Captain and Parish Legislative Ambassador Project as a grassroots initiative to engage Catholics in the legislative process. This project works within the districts and the parishes to create an active and engage a network of Catholics who represent the faith throughout Maryland.

The District Captain and Parish Legislative Ambassador project mobilizes and unites Catholics across the state to take part in this process and represent the Church's position in the public square.

# Parish Legislative Ambassadors

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A Parish Legislative Ambassador is appointed by each pastor to be the Maryland Catholic Conference's liaison to the parish community. Each ambassador will work with their District Captain to assist in disseminating information from the Conference and engaging parishioners in activities and events organized by the Conference.

## Qualifications

- Organizes and works well with people in the parish
- Social media savvy

*See attached Parish Legislative Ambassador form. (NOTE: This can be filled out by the Ambassador, but MUST be signed and returned by the parish's pastor.)*

## Duties

- Work with the pastor to distribute materials from the Conference
- Use resources provided by the Conference to become familiar with the Church's position on issues
- Coordinate with the District Captain to distribute information from the Conference to the parish, such as bulletin and pulpit announcements, legislative alerts, and bulletin inserts and flyers
- Attend meetings and organize events hosted by the Conference or the District Captain with other parish advocates in the legislative district as needed
- Assist in conducting a registration drive for the Conference's online Catholic Advocacy Network. Additional materials, including **How to Conduct an Advocacy Drive** can be found on the Conference's website at **[www.mdatholic.org/CAN](http://www.mdatholic.org/CAN)**
- Recruit parishioners and community members to attend the Conference's Catholics in Annapolis event in February and to assist in advocating on issues
- With direction from the Conference and the District Captain, maintain communication with legislators during the legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly (January – April)

# District Captain

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District Captains work directly with the Conference to organize all parishes in their legislative districts with the help of a legislative ambassador in each parish. District Captains will be asked to commit to the position for one year (open for renewal). They receive a small quarterly stipend, and attend periodic training sessions in the spring and fall.

## Qualifications

- Energetic interest in Church teaching and public policy
- Recommendation from pastor
- Social media savvy
- Reliable transportation

## Perks

- Small quarterly stipend
- Professional and social networking

*You will find the complete Application for District Captain attached.*

## Duties

### ***Coordinate communications between the Maryland Catholic Conference and parishes***

- Contact all pastors in the district
- Identify a legislative ambassador at each parish
- Ensure material from the Conference gets distributed in the parishes
- Conduct registration drives for the Conference's online Catholic Advocacy Network (CAN). (Additional materials, including ***How to Conduct an Advocacy Drive*** can be found on our website at **[www.mdccatholic.org/CAN](http://www.mdccatholic.org/CAN)**)
- Recruit parishioners and community members to attend the Conference's Catholics in Annapolis event in February and assist in advocating on issues
- Hold parish education events on Conference issues as needed
- Be available to visit parishes as needed

### ***Facilitate relationships between parishes and officials***

- Identify influential people within the parishes who have relationships with legislators
- Invite legislators to parish festivals and events, etc.
- Organize parish-district event with legislators as needed

### ***Support the Conference's work during the legislative session***

- Recruit parishioners to attend the Conference's annual Catholics in Annapolis event in February
- Help set up appointments between constituents and legislators on Catholics in Annapolis night
- Bring constituents to Annapolis, as needed, to testify as witnesses at hearings
- Make sure Catholic Advocacy Network (CAN) alerts to legislators are being sent

### ***During primary/general elections***

- Disseminate voter education materials to parishes
- Organize voter registration drives
- Host candidate forums as needed

### ***Other***

- Attend trainings as needed

# Maryland Catholic Conference Staff

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www.mdcatholic.org

facebook.com/mdcathcon

twitter.com/mdcathcon

# Parish Legislative Ambassador Application

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Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Parish Information

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor's Phone/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Legislative Ambassador Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

State legislative District: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you want to serve as a Parish Legislative Ambassador? \_\_\_\_\_

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Send completed application to **Kate Alexander** at the Maryland Catholic Conference:

**Email:** [kalexander@mdcatholic.org](mailto:kalexander@mdcatholic.org)

**Fax:** 410-269-1790

**Online:** You can also complete this form online at [www.mdcatholic.org/commongood](http://www.mdcatholic.org/commongood)

**By Mail:** 10 Francis St. , Annapolis, MD, 21401





# District Captain Application

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish/City/(Arch)diocese: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Legislative District: \_\_\_\_\_ Education Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you registered to vote in Maryland?  YES  NO

Are you part of our Catholic Advocacy Network (CAN)?  YES  NO

Do you own reliable transportation?  YES  NO

Can you drive in the evenings?  YES  NO

If selected, would you be able to commit to the position for one year?  YES  NO

**Where did you hear about this program?** \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Do you currently use social media? If so, which platforms do you use?**

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\_\_\_\_\_

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**Short Answers (If space is insufficient, attach a separate sheet)**

**What particular skills or talents would you bring to the position? What relevant professional or volunteer experience do you have that would be useful in performing the duties of the position?**

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**Describe how you live out your faith in the public square.**

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**What issues related to the Church's public policy advocacy are you most passionate about? Why?**

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**Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about yourself that you think would be helpful?**

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***\*Please attach your resume and a letter of reference from the pastor at your parish.***

Send completed application to **Kate Alexander** at the Maryland Catholic Conference

**Email:** [kalexander@mdcatholic.org](mailto:kalexander@mdcatholic.org)

**Fax:** 410-269-1790

**By Mail:** 10 Francis Street, Annapolis, MD 2140