



Faith in action through advocacy and education

Weekly Update • January 29, 2026



Countdown to Advocacy Day

Virtual Catholic Advocacy Day, our largest annual one-day, multi-issue advocacy outreach, is Wednesday, Feb. 11.

How It Works:

- The MCC advocacy team prepares action alerts for up to six bills under consideration by the Maryland General Assembly.
- Alerts span life, education, and social and economic justice issues
- We unveil the alerts in our [Action Center](#) on Feb. 11.
- You select one or all, sign and send to the legislators who represent you. That's it!

Help others put their faith into action. Use our [social media](#), [Flocknote](#), [prayer](#) and other resources.

[Maryland Catholic Advocacy Network members](#) will get advance notice of the topics and day-of emails that you can just click and send to your legislators.

USCCB President Urges Holy Hours for Healing

Bishop Paul Coakley, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, is urging holy hours for reconciliation. Here's an excerpt of [his full message](#):

"The current climate of fear and polarization, which thrives when human dignity is disregarded, does not meet the standard set by Christ in the Gospel....

"As a step toward healing, I invite my brother bishops and priests across the United States to offer a [Holy Hour for Peace](#)....Let us pray for reconciliation where there is division, for justice where there are violations of fundamental rights, and for consolation for all who feel overwhelmed by fear or loss."

From Maryland's Archbishops

- Archbishop William Lori: [Message on violence and unrest in Minneapolis](#)
- Cardinal Robert McElroy: [Interfaith message on immigration enforcement](#)

Weekly Legislative Update

Here are just a few of the bills on which the Maryland Catholic Conference provided favorable testimony:

Affordable housing for persons with disabilities: [SB 22](#) would establish and support foundation-linked housing programs that are accessible and affordable for people with disabilities.

"Longevity Ready Maryland Act" for aging Marylanders: [SB 113](#) focuses on implementation of the Longevity Ready Maryland Plan that transforms programs, services, policies, institutions and systems to address the growing population of older adults in the state. This approach would help ensure that aging is not seen as a burden but as a vital stage of life that contributes to the common good.

Prerelease facility for women: [SB 187](#) mandates the development of a comprehensive prerelease facility for women in the Baltimore area that provides both a setting and services designed to reduce recidivism and support reentry to the community after incarceration.

We typically [post the week's testimony online](#) on Fridays.

Of News and Note

Black History Month Celebrations:

Josephite Father Anthony Bozeman and the Washington Women's Chorale will lead an inspiring afternoon of music in celebration of Black History Month on Sunday, Feb. 8, 3 to 4:30 p.m., at **Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic Church**, 8428 Opossumtown Pike, Frederick. All are welcome to this free event.

Washington Auxiliary Bishop Roy Campbell will celebrate a Mass for Black History Month on Saturday, February 21, 5 p.m., at **St. Joseph Catholic Church**, 2020 St Joseph's Dr., Largo. [Get details and resources for observing this special month.](#)

Reminder: A Mass to End Human Trafficking is Feb. 7, 4 p.m., at St. Mary's, 7301 Annapolis Rd., Landover Hills. Washington Auxiliary Bishop Evelio Menjivar will be the principal celebrant. A presentation on human trafficking in the context of major sports events will follow Mass at 6 p.m. and be available via Zoom ([register here](#)).

This event is being held on the vigil of the Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita, patron saint of victims of human trafficking.

Notre Dame University of Maryland announced plans to build a new [senior living community on the University's campus](#) in partnership with Brightview Senior Living.

The State of Maryland Department of Human Resources accepts applications for state **energy assistance programs**, and has links to external programs, for low-income residents struggling with energy bills [on its website](#).

Interested in learning more about **restorative justice**? The [Catholic Mobilizing Network is offering an evening workshop](#) on Feb. 11 to introduce the fundamentals in the context of Catholic teaching.



The Maryland Catholic Conference is the public policy voice for the Catholic Church in Maryland, home to 1 million+ Catholics living in the Archdiocese of Baltimore, Archdiocese of Washington and Diocese of Wilmington. You received this email because you joined the Maryland Catholic Advocacy Network, took action or hold a ministry position in the (arch)dioceses.

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