

## Why Germantown?

### Who is LeRoy Carhart?

Just recently, Carhart found his late-term business seriously compromised through the passage of the Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act in the state of Nebraska. The bill bans abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy based on the well-established concept of fetal pain. Due to this legislation he had to look elsewhere to continue his practice of late term abortions.

### Why Maryland?

Carhart chose Maryland because its abortion laws are some of the most permissive in the nation. NARAL Pro-Choice America gives Maryland an "A" on its abortion legislation.

Maryland's Freedom of Choice Act prohibits the state from interfering in a woman's decision to terminate her pregnancy at early stages or at any time if the termination procedure is deemed necessary to protect the life or health of the woman or if the fetus is affected by genetic defect or abnormality. This effectively means that abortion is legal throughout the 9 months of pregnancy.

### Why late-term abortions?

The difficulty and confusion of an unintended pregnancy deserves loving and compassionate care. Women facing an untimely pregnancy do not want an abortion but they feel they have no other option due to the complicated circumstances surrounding this new life. Abortion is not an eraser for these difficulties; and it is certainly leaves a "scar" in its wake. The Church is acutely aware of the damage abortion leaves behind from the many women who share their stories and seek healing through Project Rachel ministry. Women deserve more options so that they truly have a "choice"; they need access to services that nurture and support them in these challenging situations and the life of their children.

# Summer of Mercy 2.0

July 30 - August 7, 2011

Nine Days of prayer for the end of abortion

**Archdiocese of Washington and Archdiocese of Baltimore**

In collaboration with MD Coalition for Life

## What is the Summer of Mercy?

Twenty years ago, thousands of Christians responded to a call from the Holy Spirit and came to Wichita, Kansas in the summer of 1991. They came to publicly stand as a peaceful and prophetic witness for life. The focus, then, was on ending the tragedy of late-term abortions, as Wichita was home to a notorious late-term abortionist.

Twenty years later, we continue to seek an end to this barbaric practice of late-term abortion. We have also seen the need to double our efforts here in Maryland, as another notorious late-term abortionist, LeRoy Carhart, decided to move his practice from Nebraska to our very own Germantown, Maryland. Thus, Summer of Mercy 2.0 – once again, inspired

by the Holy Spirit, people of faith from all over the state of Maryland will come together for a concentrated time of prayer and public witness to intercede before God for these most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters, the babies in the womb, and for their parents making the irrevocable choice of abortion.

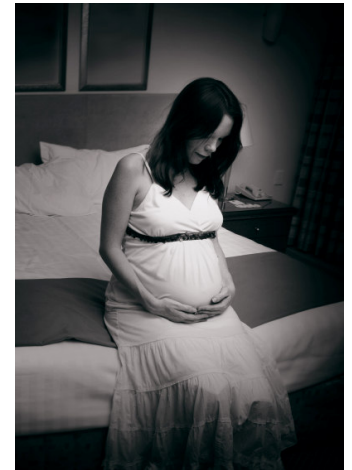
## Why Summer of Mercy 2.0?

"But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us" (Rom 5:8).

God loves all of His children so immensely and no matter what sins we have committed, no matter how serious, He reaches out to us with the desire that we will accept His merciful love and return to Him and away from sin. Does our culture – a culture so permeated with the culture of death – know this immense Love awaiting them? We are called to be witnesses of God's love to the world. Without His disciples spreading the Good News of His promise of mercy and forgive-

ness, how will people come to know Him so that they may be freed from their sin. St. Faustina felt this mission so deeply that she longed to accept the sufferings of others that they may know the compassion, love and mercy of God as she did.

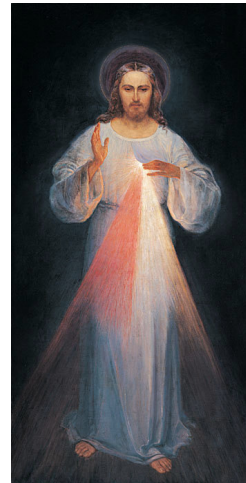
Blessed Pope John Paul II in his homily for the canonization of St. Faustina Kowalska stated: "It is this love which must inspire humanity today, if it is to face the crisis of the meaning of life, the challenges of the most diverse needs and, especially, the duty to defend the dignity of every human person. Thus the message of divine mercy is



also implicitly a message about the value of every human being. Each person is precious in God's eyes; Christ gave his life for each one; to everyone the Father gives his Spirit and offers intimacy" (April 30, 2000).

# Why 9 days?

We are all familiar with the importance of certain numbers in salvation history –the 12 tribes of Israel, the 12 apostles; the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert, and the 40 years the Israelites wandered in the wilderness. But what about 9? Tradition tells us that the amount of time the Apostles and the Blessed Mother waited, united in prayer in the upper room for the fulfillment of God's promise of the coming of the Holy Spirit was 9 days. This period of time has been recognized as the very first novena. A novena is a nine-day period of private or public prayer to obtain special graces or for a specific petition. The novena has always had more of a sense of urgency and neediness.



Blessed Pope John Paul II spoke to this powerful time of focused prayer in his homily during St. Faustina's canonization: "as the Apostles once did, today too humanity must welcome into the upper room of history the risen Christ, who shows the wounds of his Crucifixion and repeats: Peace be with you! Humanity must let itself be touched and pervaded by the Spirit given to it by the risen Christ. It is the Spirit who heals the wounds of the heart, pulls down the barriers that separate us from God and divide us from one another, and at the same time, restores the joy of the Father's love and of fraternal unity."

We, too, are being called by God to join in expectant prayer for 9 days with the same eager anticipation and hope that God will fulfill His promise, pleading with the same sense of urgency and neediness – that He will complete His work in us and through us for an end to the destruction of human life particularly through the hands of late-term abortionist LeRoy Carhart. We also pray for an outpouring of healing for all those who have been impacted by abortion, for the nation and in particular for our government officials who may have supported abortion legislation in the past, and above all, for abortion providers and their staff and most especially for LeRoy Carhart himself. Through our prayer and focused efforts, we can unite our prayer with the very will of God.

## Summer of Mercy 2.0 Events

### How can I participate?

#### July 30 – August 7, 2011. **PRAY throughout the Nine Days!**

Commit to pray the Divine Mercy chaplet each day and sign up to pray outside the clinic in public witness.

#### **Sunday July 31, 2011**

5:00 pm Mass at Mother Seton Catholic Church, Germantown, MD  
6:00 pm Rosary procession to Germantown Reproductive Health Services.

#### **Wednesday August 3, 2011**

5:30 pm Mass at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, Washington, DC  
6:00 pm Rosary procession to Planned Parenthood  
6:30 pm Catholic Information Center for a rooftop Happy Hour

#### **Saturday August 6, 2011**

12 - 3 pm at Mother Seton Catholic Church, Germantown, MD  
An Afternoon of Prayerful Remembrance and Intercession —  
Mass and Holy Hour for healing wounds of abortion

For events sponsored by MD Coalition for Life including daily rallies and prayer services, visit [www.summerofmercy.com](http://www.summerofmercy.com).

#### **Contact Information**

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