

RESPECT LIFE HOLY HOUR FOR MARYLAND REFLECTION FOR OCTOBER 22, 2024: Theo-Drama or Ego-Drama? It Makes a Big Difference!

THE AMENDMENT TO THE MARYLAND CONSTITUTION STATES:

Article 48: **That every person, as a central component of an individual's rights to liberty and equality, has the fundamental right to reproductive freedom, including but NOT LIMITED TO the ability to make and effectuate decisions to prevent, continue, or end one's own pregnancy. The state may not, directly or indirectly, deny, BURDEN, or abridge the right unless justified by a compelling state interest achieved by the least restrictive means."**

THE BALLOT will say (not required to match amendment language):

Question 1 - Constitutional Amendment (Ch. 245 of the 2023 Legislative Session)

Declaration of Rights – Right to Reproductive Freedom

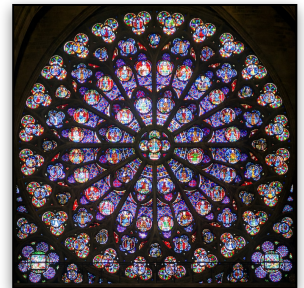
The proposed amendment confirms an individual's fundamental right to reproductive freedom, including but NOT LIMITED TO the ability to make and effectuate decisions to prevent, continue, or end the individual's pregnancy, and provides the State may not, directly or indirectly, deny, burden, or abridge the right unless justified by a compelling State interest achieved by the least restrictive means.

For the Constitutional Amendment

Against the Constitutional Amendment

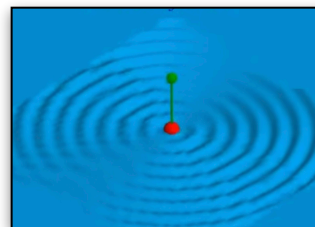
This November, Marylanders will be asked to vote on Question 1 - The Right to Reproductive Freedom. (The language of the law passed by the House and Senate, and how it will appear on the ballot are at the top of the page.)

Last week's reflection focused on the family. Such a communion was essential for man to be happy, because from the beginning man was created for relationship... with God first and then with one another. Bishop Robert Barron often refers to such an existence as a "Theo-drama"... a state of being in which all relationships are centered on God. Bishop Barron often uses a rose window to illustrate such a God-centered existence... a Theo-drama. Visualizing God at the center of the rose window, one can imagine all other elements and relationships being ultimately centered around Him. When one examines peripheral sections of the window in isolation from the center, however, although beautiful and complex, there is a lack of order and symmetry that only exists when they are arranged around the center. What Bishop Barron implies is that life without God at the center is incomplete and lacks order, completeness and beauty.

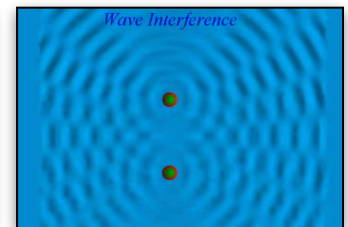


Notre Dame Cathedral Rose Window

Unfortunately western culture is increasingly dominated by a conflicting view of the human person... a view that claims that one's identity is the product of one's choices and rights... that we are the architects of our own identities. Frank Sinatra's hit song, *My Way*, pretty much says it all. Bishop Barron applies the term "ego-drama" for such an existence... an existence centered on the individual. And how would we illustrate an existence where everyone was his or her own center of existence? Such a state certainly wouldn't have the beautiful symmetry and order of a rose window, would it? Such an existence might be illustrated by dropping a rock into a still pond. The point of impact is the individual... the center of his own world... and radiating outward from the center are ripples indicating the person's area of influence.

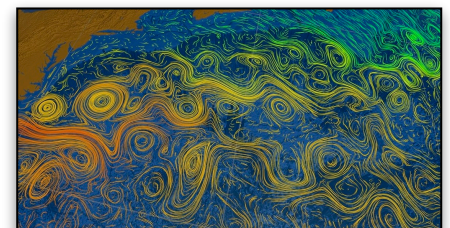


One Individual



Interaction of Two Individual's World View

Now lets add a second individual.. The waves generated by two individuals create a more chaotic situation where their waves of influence interfere with one another. Now imagine a city... a state... a country... where everyone had their own world view... their own reality... their own set of "rights"... What a chaotic mess it would be. It would certainly lack the symmetry and beauty of a rose window. And yet that is what many of



Chaotic Engagement Between a Myriad of World Views

our state referenda are proposing this election year. In Maryland our lawmakers are asking us to approve a constitutional amendment whereby “.. every person, as a central component of an individual’s rights to liberty and equality, has the fundamental right to reproductive freedom.” One can only imagine the legal confusion over what reproductive freedom means. On top of that layer of confusion is the fact that the amendment could treat all individuals equally because there is no distinction between individuals based on age, sex or gender. What would the ordering principle be? Clearly a world in which individual world views, realities and truths are equally valid will lead to social chaos and confusion. One need only look at the growing number of living spaces in our country marked by violence, disorder, addiction, suffering and loneliness to conclude that such a foundation for a society is untenable and diametrically opposed to God’s plan for humanity. The chaotic image that comes to mind is that of the apostles in the raging storm on the Sea of Galilee.... They had to turn to the Lord to restore peace and order.



Storm on the Sea of Galilee

St. John Paul II, pray for us.... Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us.

Bishop Barron develops the themes of ego-drama and theo-drama and applies them to modern culture in a 2015 Advent homily, Mary, David and the Theo-drama (<https://www.wordonfire.org/videos/sermons/mary-david-and-the-theo-drama/>).