

Lobby Night is Feb. 16

Catholics can make their voices heard on a wide range of legislative issues during the 25th-annual Lobby Night, held in Annapolis Feb. 16.

Sponsored by the Maryland Catholic Conference, legislative lobbying arm of the state's Catholic bishops, the event begins at 3 p.m. at St. Mary High School with briefings on the sanctity of life, the family, education, social justice and other issues of concern to the bishops.

Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien will participate, along with Bishop W. Francis Malooly of Wilmington, whose diocese includes Maryland's Eastern Shore. Auxiliary bishops from the Archdiocese of Washington are also expected to attend.

Participants will shuttle to legislative offices to meet and talk with their lawmakers. A legislative reception with state lawmakers will also be held from 6-8 p.m. in the Miller Senate Office Building West.

"Lobby Night is one of the very best avenues to communicate with legislators," said Mary Sullivan, communications director for the Catholic Conference. "Face-to-face contact is irreplaceable."

More than 600 people are expected to attend Lobby Night this year, Ms. Sullivan said. Participants must pre-register.

For more information, visit www.mdcathcon.org or call 410-269-1155.