

ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE



4TH ANNUAL

GUN BUYBACK

KEY OBJECTIVES

Reduce the number of guns in the community.

Provide a safe and legal way to dispose of firearms.

Bring hope to our neighbors that together we can end violence.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a gun buyback?

Gun buybacks allow people to voluntarily turn firearms over to the police in exchange for cash as an incentive. In turn, the number of guns in a community is reduced and the unwanted weapons are disposed of in a safe and legal way.

Do buybacks work?

Yes. They're effective, because they take firearms out of circulation, off the streets and out of people's homes. Every gun that is turned in brings with it the potential to save a life. Buybacks also raise awareness and bring hope to communities effected by crime and violence, including those in Southwest Baltimore surrounding the Westside Shopping Center that is the site of our event. With every person who sells a gun, we reduce the chances someone will die by suicide, the firearm will be involved in an accidental shooting or an intruder will have an opportunity to use it in a violent act. Clearly, while gun buybacks are not a singular solution to solving gun violence, they do create a number of positive outcomes.

Why do some people say gun buybacks don't work?

It's complicated. Empirical evidence on the impact of gun buybacks is limited, in part because events are typically small in scope and geographic reach. The benefits also are not entirely captured using standardized scientific methods. And by design, buybacks are anonymous, so studying individual outcomes is challenging, especially when gathering the data relies on voluntary surveys. What we do know is, these events are meaningful to the communities where they are held. Buybacks empower residents, create community engagement and coalitions, connect participants with services, raise awareness for gun safety and take guns out of homes where the owners do not want them.

How does a buyback honor our Catholic social teaching?

Gun buybacks reduce the number of firearms that could be involved in a theft, injury or fatality. This aligns with the Catholic Church's belief that every human life is sacred. How much is it worth to prevent one homicide, one suicide or one accidental shooting?

"With every gun that we get off the street and out of a home, we reduce the risk a depressed widow will die by suicide, an impulsive teenager will find an old revolver in his grandparent's attic or an intruder will use a stolen weapon in a violent act.

With every gun we buy back, we do, indeed, make a safer city, in one way or another."

—THE MOST REV. WILLIAM E. LORI, ARCHBISHOP OF BALTIMORE

Excess funds will go to the needs of families of homicide victims.

SCAN HERE TO MAKE A DONATION

Mail a check to Our Lady of Victory Parish

4414 Wilkens Ave, Baltimore, MD 21229

(Indicate on the memo line that the contribution is for the gun buyback event.)



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