



DEFEND LIFE

Proclaiming the Culture of Life and Fighting the Culture of Death since 1987

P.O. Box 5427 • Baltimore, Maryland 21285 • www.defendlife.org

Jack Ames, Director • 410-337-3721 • jack@defendlife.org

*August 15, 2008 Anno Domini
Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary*



Dear Friend of Defend Life,

Our **8th Annual Maryland Face the Truth Tour** was the best of times, until the very end when it **seemed** like the worse of times. I emphasize the word **seemed**. Let me tell you all about it.

But first, let me thank you for your financial support which made it all possible. Because of your financial support, we met and exceeded our goal of \$8,000. As a result, we received an \$8,000 matching grant from **Michael and Stephen Peroutka**. Thanks be to God for your and their most generous support.

This Truth Tour was the best ever for the following reasons:

- Great leadership by **Beth and Joanie Walsh** who worked as our Director and Assistant Director.
- The **best Core Team ever** recruited by Beth and Joanie. We had students from 7 states including **Indiana, Ohio, Iowa, Pennsylvania, New York, New Mexico, West Virginia, and Maryland**. Nearly all of them had been home schooled, many through 12th grade. Many were about to enter great schools like Franciscan and Christendom. Laura will begin at New Mexico State next month and Brian will matriculate at West Virginia.
- Fantastic stops! I'll tell you about some of the most memorable.



MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS



Hagerstown, organized by Janet Neel was the usual great stop. We were covered by the *Hagerstown Herald-Mail*. We were graciously welcomed by **Father Colin Postin**, the acting pastor at **St. Mary's** where we had lunch and head **Monsignor Stuart Swetland** who spoke eloquently about **Archbishop Oscar Romero** of El Salvador who was assassinated saying Mass and whose cause for sainthood is being promoted. He also spoke about **St. Peter Chanel**, a French missionary to the pagan island of Futuna, who took five years to



attract his first convert who happened to be the king's son. His martyrdom led to the complete conversion of this South Pacific island country after his death in 1841.

Frederick was another great stop organized by **Colonel Bob Tansey** along the golden mile of Route 40. There was newspaper coverage by the *Frederick Post*. The week prior to our tour we ran radio ads on WFMD during Rush Limbaugh. That evening, we went to historic **St. Peter's in Libertytown** for a wonderful dinner, thanks to **Linda Pototschnik** and the wonderful ladies at St. Peter's. By the way, St. Peter's beautiful new Church is scheduled to be dedicated on September 7.

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

Troy Newman of Operation Rescue, gave a great talk on ending abortion in Kansas by shutting down George Tiller the Killer who runs the world's largest late term abortion mill in Wichita. You can obtain a free CD of Troy's inspiring talk by emailing CDs@defendlife.org or simply by calling **410-296-5483** and leaving a message.





We had lunch at **Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament** where **Monsignor John Ensler**, one of 13 children, hosted us. Afterward, we had our afternoon stop on Connecticut Avenue just north of Chevy Chase Circle. Never in my life have I seen such bumper to bumper traffic inching by us just three or four feet from our large aborted baby signs. The rush hour in Washington lasts at least three hours and we were sorry to have to leave after only two hours.

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

Bowie is always a mega stop. The southbound lane of Route 3 at Route 450 West is where we set up. We estimate that about 7,000 persons see our signs at this stop alone. **Arundel Mills Mall**, Maryland's largest shopping center, is another great stop where we set up at noon on a long domed median strip between two major entrances. **Westminster** was another good stop where we set up along Route 140 at two different locations.



Eric Scheidler of the **Pro-Life Action League**, gave a great talk at lunch about his year long efforts to thwart Planned Parenthood's abortion mill fortress which opened in Aurora, Illinois in the fall of 2007. This abortion mill has energized pro-lifers in Aurora as nothing else possibly could have done. This included a **24/7 40 Days for Life** campaign that actually lasted 50 days. Eric still has hopes that this death camp can be shut down because of the false claims made by Planned Parenthood's surrogate developer when applying for the building permit. Thanks to **Kathy Reid** of **St. Joseph's in Sykesville** who hosted the Wednesday lunch



THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS



Our stops included **Towson**, **Harbor Place** and **Northern Parkway**, all of which were outstanding. Our luncheon speaker was **David Bereit** who spoke about the incredible success of **40 Days for Life** and the upcoming campaign which will begin September 24 and run through November 2. We are still looking for persons to head up that effort at the Hillcrest abortion mill in Catonsville. **Call Linda Brenegan at 410-547-5537 if you would like to take a leadership role in this awesome undertaking!**

Janis Clarke, a gifted operatic singer from Quebec, sang beautifully inspired music at our luncheon. Janis, who sang at the recent Eucharistic Congress in Quebec, sees her role as drawing attention musically to the incredible moral decline and loss of faith that has occurred in Canada. Here are two examples. In the 1960's alone, the percentage of practicing Catholics decreased in Quebec from an overwhelming 93% to a paltry 7%. **Henry Morgenthaler**, the leading abortionist in all of Canada, was recently honored by the Canadian government as **Canada's Man of the Year**.



Janis sees her musical apostolate as a way to restore the faith of this once great Catholic province. You will never hear a more beautiful and powerful female voice than that of Janis Clarke. Her dream is to use her musical gifts to sing in great cathedrals such as **Mary Our Queen**, the **Basilica of the Assumption**, and the **Shrine of the Immaculate Conception**. Contact Janis at **301-525-1033** or **janis@janisclarke.com** if you can help make this happen or would like a copy of her CD.

Thursday night, the entire Core Team stayed at the fantastic home of **Steve Peroutka** in Severna Park. Core Team members enjoyed Steve's beautiful in-ground swimming pool as we relaxed and prepared for the final day of our Truth Tour. Thanks to **Theresa Mandeville** and her mother and father who prepared a delicious picnic supper upon very short notice.

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS



From there we went to **Catonsville** and then on to **White Marsh Mall**, another of our mega stops, where the turnout was huge and where we occupy a large median strip. Thanks to **Liz Walz** and **Susan Williams** for preparing a great lunch after which **Paul Schenck**, father of nine, and the director of the **National Pro-Life Action Center on Capitol Hill**, gave his usual tremendous talk.



And then it was on to Routes 24 and 924 in **Abingdon**, just north of I-95 for what we saw as our victory lap and then on to **Ron and Sue Melefsky's** home in Forest Hill for our victory celebration. **We never made it to our victory celebration. God had other plans!**

WELCOME TO THE POLICE STATE OF MARYLAND



We had gone to this very same stop last year and loved it. There was an incredible amount of traffic and we had absolutely no problem with the police. So we were shocked when 10 minutes after we set up, along came a Maryland State Police cruiser. I was greeted by **Trooper Bradley** who demanded that I identify who was in charge and said that if I delayed telling him, all of us would be arrested. As we crossed the heavily trafficked Route 24, I asked Trooper Bradley how long he had been on the force. He snapped, *That's irrelevant!* On the other side of Route 24, he asked Tour Director Beth Walsh if we had a permit. She said we did not and furthermore we did not need one. When asked what law it was that



required we have a permit, he could only reply, *It's the law!*

When asked by me if he could call his commanding officer to clarify this situation, he barked, *NO!* He added, it was late Friday afternoon and his commanding officer had already left for the day. He then threatened arrest if we did not call in our signs so we complied.

After putting our signs back in our van, we proceeded up Route 24 just inside the town limits of Bel Air, the county seat of Harford County, which has its own police force. We reasoned that if we were to have a problem with any police at that location, it would be with the Bel Air police. **I have long claimed that if**



Americans are too gutless to exercise their First Amendment rights, we will soon lose them! I figured I would never have a better chance to put my beliefs into action!

Within 5 minutes of setting up along the northbound lane of Route 24 just inside the Bel Air town limits, an armada of Maryland State Police cruisers and several Bel Air police cruisers showed up within minutes of each other. Without any warning, they began arresting and handcuffing us. Beth Walsh, our courageous director, was the first to be arrested. She said, *Why am I being arrested* to the arresting trooper. He said, *That's not relevant.* I said back, *That is absolutely relevant, officer!* Then I was next to be arrested and handcuffed. Sixteen more of us including at least 10 teenagers, two of whom were juveniles, were also arrested.



These Maryland storm troopers told us to sit on the guard rail

which was a good 15 feet back from the edge of the road in a shallow drainage ditch. The armada of police cruisers was parked bumper to bumper. As a result, passersby were essentially clueless as to what was happening because their line of sight was blocked by the police cruisers with lights flashing as they slowly passed by. Other pro-lifers who were not being arrested gathered on the west edge of the Weiss supermarket parking lot. Police prevented them from getting any closer. They were stunned by the mass arrest that was occurring before their eyes! Welcome to the **Police State of Maryland!**



We sat there on the guard rail for what seemed like an hour. Some of our handcuffs were the conventional metal type. Others were simply plastic wire ties. Some were pulled overly tightly. The pulse rate of 3 young females was inordinately high. They were attended to by a female officer who wore blue rubber gloves. Remember when doctors and nurses didn't have to wear gloves!

They finally carted the men off in a paddy wagon that had to come all the way from Baltimore County. The female arrestees traveled in style in the back of police cruisers. At the Bel Air State Police barracks, the men and women were segregated into group cells. We don't have coed cells yet in Maryland! Our men's cell was about 10 x 10 feet. Nine of us sang, prayed, and talked for hours until we finally got some sleep using empty pizza boxes as pillows. Thanks to Sue Melefsky, Joe Freese, and Joe Healy for arranging for the pizza and soda. Pizza and soda never tasted so good! It was the next best thing to our long forgotten victory picnic at Sue's!

It took forever to process us. Perhaps that was because they still didn't know how to charge us. **One trooper told me they had even called in Homeland Security! Is that bizarre or what?** They even considered



charging us with a vagrancy and panhandling statute that was on the books! But then, anything is possible in the **Police State of Maryland**.

Finally, we were transported from our cells in the state police barracks to the Harford County jail, now known as a detention center – such euphemisms! I was transferred about 3 PM in a police cruiser that had to be traveling 100 MPH. Unfortunately, some police think they are above the law. Others said they were traveling at extremely high rates of speed along the dimly lighted roads of Harford County when they were transported. There we were fingerprinted, photographed, and given iris scans.

Then one by one, painfully slowly, we went before a police commissioner who explained the charges against us, and then were released. All of us were charged with loitering, failure to obey a lawful order, and disorderly conduct.

I was the last one to be released about 10:45 AM Saturday morning. What a great feeling to walk out of prison, see the trees, breathe the fresh air and even smell the daisies. What a blessing we have as Americans to be **FREE** but only if we are willing to fight to protect and defend those God-given freedoms. I was greeted by **Steve Peroutka** and his lawyer **Scott Whiteman**, a law graduate of Villanova where I cut my teeth in activism in the 1960's. Scott interviewed me and took good notes as any good lawyer has learned to do. Luke Ertel, a member of our Core Team from Indiana, had remembered Steve Peroutka's cell phone number from the night before. Luke, who was not arrested, immediately called Steve who arrived at the State Police barracks at 7:30 PM and stayed till 11 AM the following morning. Steve arranged \$3,000 bail for three of the out of state Core Team members who had been arrested. Why they had to post bail and other out-of-staters did not remain a good question.


Thanks to **Steve, Joe Healy, Joe Freese, Sue Melesky, Luke Ertel**, and all of you who prayed and worked for us so fervently while we were incarcerated. You are my heroes!

In closing, let me make a few predictions, observations, and requests.

- All of the false illegal charges made against all of us will soon be dropped. We will never go to court. ***On August 12, Harford County announced they did not intend to prosecute the 16 of us who were arrested!***
- God will bring good out of this evil situation. Many who have been philosophically pro-life but have remained in the dugout these many years will now join activists like us on the playing field. **This is already happening!**
- Many more Face the Truth Tours will spring up across America!
- Every single one of our teenage Core Team members who was arrested will become a leader in the **PRO-LIFE** movement!
- Pray for whomever issued the illegal order to mass arrest us as well as the police officers who illegally arrested us.
- Legislation will be introduced by liberals from Montgomery County during the upcoming legislative session to curb the First Amendment rights of pro-lifers like us who do Face the Truth Tours. **It will fail!**
- If what we do in our Face the Truth Tour is so bad that they arrest us, we must be doing something right!
- The vast majority of police in Maryland treated us with great respect and professionalism. These good police are to be highly commended!

Thanks again for your wonderfully generous support of our **8th Annual Maryland Face the Truth Tour**, our most successful ever!

Long Live Christ Our King!


Jack Ames, Director

P.S. If anyone knows anything about the source behind our illegal arrests, please contact me immediately at 410-337-3721 or jack@defendlife.org. If anyone knows Troopers Bradley, Neighoff or Rasinski, please contact me as well.

