



DEFEND LIFE

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

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*August 22, 2007 Anno Domini
Feast of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary*



Dear Friend of Defend Life,

Thanks to your wonderful financial support and your participation, our **Seventh Annual Maryland Face the Truth Tour** was our best ever.

Here are several reasons why:

• We raised over **\$16,000**, over half of which came from persons like you and **\$8,000** of which came from our wonderful benefactors, **Michael and Stephen Peroutka**.



• We had a great **CORE TEAM**, headed so capably by **Tricia Dougherty**, about to begin her third year as a math-computer science double major at **Franciscan University**. Who will ever forget Core Team members like 17-year-old **Keith Hamilton** and delightfully charming **Kristi Miller**, and their inexhaustible enthusiasm.

• We had great turnouts at nearly every one of our stops!

• The 60-second radio ads that we ran locally on **Rush Limbaugh** the week of July 23 were outstanding.



• Our blood red T-shirts, with **PRO-LIFE** emblazoned with huge white capital block letters on the front and **Abortion Kills Babies** or **Abortion Stops a Beating Heart** emblazoned on the back, had a great impact thanks to your generous support.

• Our huge **Face the Truth Truck** which came all the way from the **Center for Bioethical Reform in Knoxville, Tennessee**, was a huge plus. Tens of thousands of persons



saw what **CHOICE** really means just because of this truck which was never far from our various stops.



• Great things happened along the way, some of which I'd like to tell you about shortly. It reminds me of a lesson I learned over 30 years ago when I served on the board of **Birthright** in **Richmond, Virginia**. There was a Presbyterian minister, **Reverend Dominic Aquilla**, who also served on the board. He would repeatedly remind us that *life begets life*. Obviously, that is true in the biological sense, but it is just as true in the life of any country, business, institution, individual, or **organization**. No organization ever stays on an even plain. **They either go up or go down!** That's why **Defend Life** continues to *push the envelope* and step out in faith with its **Face the Truth Tours**. When we step out in faith, **God** rewards us. Many great things happen along the way that we could never have imagined!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR 2007 FACE THE TRUTH TOUR

MONDAY, JULY 30



The first stop was at **Charles Town, West Virginia** along a straight stretch of Route 340 East going toward **Harpers Ferry**. I first had the idea to make Charles Town a stop when I met **Father Brian Owen**, an outstanding young priest at this year's **March for Life** in Washington.

Father Owen is the pastor of **St. James** in Charles Town which is the largest and most beautiful Catholic church in West Virginia. He was raised a Baptist in North Carolina.

After our stop, we went to Saint James for **Mass** which was celebrated by **Father Thomas Eutenauer**, the outstanding president of **Human Life International**. Father was leaving later that day for **Tanzania** to provide pro-life training for seminarians there.



Our second stop was at **St. Mary's** in **Hagerstown** so capably captained by **Janet Neel, Shirley Spencer** and **Jeanne Nollen**. This is always a great stop. Our Truth signs stretch out for blocks on both sides of one-way Route 40 East from the beautiful old railroad station, past St. Mary's Church and School, and well past the abortion mill a half block beyond. This mill is on **life support** due to the great work of local pro-life activists.

Our luncheon speaker was **David Bereit**, executive director of **American Life League** who spoke passionately about the upcoming **40 Days for Life** campaign scheduled to start nationally on **September 26** and run through **November**

4. For more information on this exciting campaign, see the article in this issue of **Defend Life** or visit www.40daysforlife.com. Also, see the ad on the back page of this newsletter. **GET INVOLVED IN**

THIS GREAT CAMPAIGN!



Then it was on to **Frederick** where we had another great stop along Route 40 West during the afternoon rush hour. It was there that we were interviewed by the **Sun** reporter for the article that would ultimately appear on Friday. The **Sun**, who has never seen an abortion it didn't like, bashed us as **wackos**. But they did show two pictures and they did acknowledge our existence after totally ignoring us for 20 years. As **Joe Scheidler** says, *the only bad publicity is no publicity!* Thanks to Linda Pototschnik and the great ladies of **Saint Peter's** in **Libertytown** for their usual hospitality plus and a great talk by **Father Francis McCloskey** on the First Redemptionist Parish Mission in New York City in the 1850's.



TUESDAY, JULY 31

Our first stop was in **Rockville** where we encountered a belligerent policeman by the name of **T. Dolan** who demanded to know where our permit was. When I told him our permit was the **First Amendment** and we needed nothing more, he refused to back down. When I asked if he would like to speak with our lawyer, he snarled, *maybe you should speak to our lawyer*. We asked for his commanding officer and he snarled, *he's already on his way*. The commanding officer took at least 45 minutes to show up and was just as courteous and professional as Dolan had been rude. During the interim period, another Montgomery County police officer by the name of **Shane Storm** stopped to inquire whether we had any pro-life bumper stickers. We did and we gladly gave them to him. He said to please use his name and we are. What a classic case of **Good Cop – Bad Cop!**



Father Edward Filardi, a priest's priest said **Mass** for us at **Annunciation Church** in **Northwest Washington**. Father Filardi is pastor of **St. Stephen Martyr** on Pennsylvania Avenue. This would be President Bush's parish were he Catholic.



Our **Embassy Row** stop in front of the **Vatican Embassy** and across from the **Naval Observatory** (the Vice President's residence) was its usual outstanding success. Then it was back to Annunciation School where **Randy Terry** spoke about his plan to resurrect **Operation Rescue**. Visit www.OR20.com for more information. Randy Terry came into the fullness of the Catholic Church a year ago. There is no more dynamic speaker in the entire pro-life movement than Randy Terry. He will be our **Defend Life Lecture Tour** speaker on **September 13-14**. See the ad on page 16 of this newsletter and try to schedule him at your parish or school. We are looking for several churches where Randy could speak briefly after Mass those mornings! Our next stop was at the **Holocaust Museum** where we are invariably as welcome as the plague, but we go anyway! We also had a huge line-up of signs along 14th Street in front of the **Washington Monument**. Thanks to **Missy Smith** who handled the many arrangements at Annunciation.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1



Our first stop was in **Bowie** where the southbound traffic along Route 301 was so intense that we hated to leave. **Mass** was celebrated by **Monsignor Richard Hughes**, recently retired pastor from **St. Mary of the Assumption** in **Upper Marlboro**. The Mass was at historic **Sacred Heart Chapel**, built in 1741 which was 35 years prior to the **Declaration of Independence**. Then it was on to **Arundel Mills Mall**, another mega-stop where we congregated on the huge median strip which stretches out one-fourth of a mile. Then it was on again to **Saint Joseph's** in **Eldersburg** for lunch and a great talk by **Paul Schenck** who told his incredible conversion story from Orthodox Judaism to Evangelical Christianity to Roman Catholicism.



Westminster was our last stop of the day and it was so well-organized by **Vince Perticone** and **Maria DeCesare**. Thanks to **Kathy Reid** for providing a great lunch at St. Joseph's and **Mary Pat Kavanaugh** for providing a great picnic at her lovely home in Westminster. Mary Pat will have three daughters at **Christendom College** in September!

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2

We had another outstanding stop on North Charles Street in **Towson**. It is a great stop to catch incoming morning rush hour traffic going to places like GBMC (an abortion mill), St. Joseph's Hospital, Towson University and Sheppard Pratt Hospital. While there, an elderly Puerto Rican lady who had not gone to Confession for 10 years and was a resident at nearby Manor Care Nursing Home, asked one of our sign holders if by any chance we had a priest with us. Enter **Father Francis McCloskey**, all the way from upstate, New York, who was with us most of the tour. Soon this dear woman's tears of anguish were turned into tears of joy after receiving the **Sacrament of Penance**. And it simply would not have happened had we not been there doing our Face the Truth Tour on North Charles Street!



Mass was celebrated by **Father Alphonse Rose** in the **Lady Chapel** of the magnificent **Cathedral of Mary Our Queen** where this great priest of **God** served as Rector when I moved to Baltimore in 1977. Afterwards we boarded a bus to downtown Baltimore for our **Harborplace** stop. We surrounded the entire block where the **Legg-Mason Building** is located at the heart of the financial district. One passer-by asked the perennial question to **Ginny Dougherty** (a math teacher and the adoptive mother of Tricia Dougherty, our outstanding director): *You say you are against abortion! How many children have you adopted?* Ginny answered, *Five!* That was the end of that conversation!

Eric Scheidler, Communications Director of the **Pro-Life Action League**, was our luncheon speaker back at the Cathedral. Eric told us some interesting stories about his recently completed **Illinois Face the Truth Tour**, as well as about the huge **Planned Parenthood** fortress-like abortion mill now under construction in his adopted hometown of Aurora, Illinois. It was clandestinely built by another entity to throw pro-lifers off the track. If it opens, it will be the largest death camp in the mid-west. Thanks to **Marci Towle** for providing a great lunch.



Our last stop was on **Northern Parkway** where we completely occupied the grass median strip stretching all the way from Bellona Avenue to York Road. It was another mega stop. Truth Tour stops on median strips are always ideal. Drivers can see our two-sided signs from both directions. There's always lots of positive honking, and lots of opportunities to pass out literature to drivers who are stopped because of traffic lights. Then it was off to a picnic at Steve Peroutka's magnificent home in Severna Park beautifully prepared by **Alice Harris** and **Theresa Mandeville**. Core team members had a chance to relax and swim in Steve's fantastic in-ground pool.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3

After a long early morning drive from **Severna Park** to **Bel Air**, our first stop was at the intersection of **Route**



24 and Route 924 just off I-95. This was a new stop for us and we estimate that over **7,000** vehicles passed and saw our signs during this mega-stop.

Then it was off to **St. Joseph's Fullerton** where **Monsignor Edward Lynch**, the retired beloved pastor of **Immaculate Conception in Towson**, celebrated **Mass**. Our next stop was at **White Marsh Mall** where we occupied another quarter mile long grassy median strip with nearly 100 signs. There was honking galore thanks to our **Honk for Life** signs. It was another mega-stop and once again we were reluctant to leave. Thanks to **Susan Williams** and **Eileen Bolgiano** who did such a great job of turning out participants.

Thanks especially to **Barbra Koehnlein** who courageously quit her part-time job the day before *to do what she had decided was really important* and be with us at White Marsh.

Then it was back to **St. Joseph's** for a lunch prepared by **Liz Walz**, homeschooling mother of five, and prolifer extraordinaire. We first met Liz way back in 1991 when she enrolled at **Loyola College**. **Ben Westmore**, president of **Students for Life**, gave a great talk. He explained that his organization's vision is to have a campus pro-life group on every one of America's 3000+ college campuses. We now have them on about 300+ campuses and the number is growing dramatically!



Then it was on to our final stop of the tour on **Route 22 at Harford Community College**. This was another excellent stop marred only by an arrogant police officer, **B.S. Oleszcuk**, from the **Harford County Sheriff's Department**. He threatened to *kick our butts off* because he thought we might be standing on college owned property instead of on the public right of way. His commanding officer, who arrived shortly thereafter, was just as professional and courteous as his subordinate had been rude. In any case, we stayed longer until 6 p.m. to take full advantage of the heavy traffic flow on Route 22. Afterwards, we caravanned to **Sue Melefsky's** home in Forest Hill for a wonderful closing picnic prepared by Sue and her outstanding pro-life posse from **Saint Ignatius**.



In addition to all our great Core Team members, special thanks are in order for **Albert Stecklein** who transported half our signs; **Bob Newman** who came all the way from Pittsburgh with the other half of the signs we used, and **Joe Frese** who loaned us the ten signs he uses at **GBMC** on the third Wednesday of every month. Special thanks are also due to **Diane Levero**, the great editor of *Defend Life*; **Jon Shoemaker**, our great webmaster; and **Joe Healy**, our great data base manager. Very special thanks are due to **Peter Shinn** who carried live snippets from each of our 15 Truth Tour stops as well as live coverage of our 5 speakers on www.prolifenews.tv. Several of these talks are already archived at this website. All five talks will soon be available as CD's which you can request by emailing cds@defendlife.org.



And thanks again to **YOU** for your wonderful generosity and participation that made our **Seventh Annual Maryland Face the Truth Tour** the best ever!

Long Live Christ Our King!

Jack Ames
Jack Ames, Director

P.S. Contact us if you would like one of the **Men's XL PRO-LIFE T-shirts** we still have but only if you promise to wear it religiously!

P.P.S. Join us on **Saturday, August 25** from 10:30 a.m. to Noon for our **BAY BRIDGE FACE THE TRUTH TOUR** in Annapolis. Visit our home page www.defendlife.org for details or call me at **410-337-3721**. Join us for lunch afterwards!

Pictures courtesy of www.prolifenews.tv