



DEFEND LIFE

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

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Easter 2007 Anno Domini

Dear Friend of Defend Life,

As usual, much has happened since I last wrote to you. In March, **Rabbi Yehudah Levin** spoke for **Defend Life**. Our whirlwind two-day lecture tour included evening talks at the Father Rosensteel Knights of Columbus in Silver Spring and St. Joseph's Church in Cockeysville. Thanks to **John Naughton** and **Cookie Harris** for arranging these talks which were professionally recorded by **George Maalouf**. Rabbi Levin spoke on **THE NEW ECUMENISM: Sharing our Common Moral Values**. You can get a fee CD of this great talk (and many other Defend Life talks – past, present, or future) by either e-mailing us at CDs@defendlife.org or simply writing us. See the list on page 7. In addition to these talks, Rabbi Levin also spent an entire morning addressing students, faculty, and parents at **Christiana Homeschool Academy** in Westminster (thanks to Christiana's principal, **Catherine Milstead** for arranging this), gave a talk to the Towson



University pro-life group, and held two news conferences. The first was in front of the White House exhorting America's religious leaders to support Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, **General Peter Pace** for courageously stating *homosexual acts are immoral!* Most of them were too cowardly to let out a peep! The second was in front of the Basilica of the Assumption in Baltimore exhorting America's Catholic Bishops to speak out now much more strongly and in unison against domestic partnerships and civil unions for homosexuals. He stressed there is very little time left to counter the homosexual onslaught that lies just around the corner. Rabbi Levin also had a great extended interview at the *Washington Times*.



The Washington Times

It's baseball season again, what we used to call the *National Pastime*. Several years ago, I met **Bowie Kuhn**, Commissioner of Major League Baseball during the 1980s, who went on to his eternal reward just recently. The occasion was a networking meeting of various Catholic organizations which was held in Philadelphia. It was about a week before the upcoming World Series between the



Yankees and the Atlanta Braves. I asked Bowie Kuhn, a New Yorker, for his prediction and he said *the Yankees in 6*, which was exactly the way it turned out. Bowie Kuhn was a tenacious pro-lifer. On several occasions, he hosted **EWTN's** coverage of the **March for Life**. The last time I ran into Bowie was several years ago as he was coming into the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington for the Bishop's Mass the night before the March for Life. It was about a week before the upcoming Super Bowl.



Remembering my question to Bowie when I had first met him on that beautiful autumn day in Philadelphia, I asked *who's going to win the Super Bowl?* Bowie Kuhn, the great lover of baseball, quipped *what's the Super Bowl?* Please pray the repose of his immortal soul.



The other reason I mention Bowie Kuhn is that like most of us, he was not always active in the pro-life movement. It took someone to talk to him about pro-life and invite his participation. That someone was pro-life hero **Chris Slattery** who heads the **EMC's** (Expectant Mother Care) centers in New York City. Chris had a friend who knew someone who knew Bowie Kuhn. A luncheon was arranged and Chris Slattery introduced Bowie to the pro-life movement which he enthusiastically embraced and generously supported.

Remember this! Never be afraid to try to open the door to some prominent or financially blessed individual through a friend or a friend of a friend. Such persons will probably never hear about the good work **Defend Life** does through the secular media or regrettably, even the Catholic Media. Think about all the good that never would have been done had Chris Slattery not pursued that face-to-face meeting with Bowie Kuhn. And then ask yourself who do you know, directly or indirectly, that might be able to help Defend Life continue the good work that it began way back in 1987. If you can arrange such a meeting, I would be ever so grateful to you! Please call me at **410-337-3721**.

Recently, I attended a great pro-life night at St. Ignatius in Hickory. It was arranged by the indefatigable **Sue Melefsky**. It featured a talk by **Keith Hamilton**, an on-fire home school high school student who with his friends, travels every Saturday from Bel Air to **Baltimore's Planned Parenthood Abortuary** at 330 N. Howard Street. They sidewalk counsel and try to talk women out of abortion. Learn more about Keith and his great work in a future issue of *Defend Life*. Keith then introduced **Jessica Newman**, a junior at the University of Maryland in College Park. Jessica, who was not pro-life when she arrived at College Park in 2004, explained her conversion which was by seeing pictures of aborted babies and by meeting **Stephanie Gray** whom we had arranged to speak at College Park. The following summer, Jessica walked for life from San Diego to Sacramento. Last summer, she walked for life from Augusta, Maine to Washington, DC with the **Missionaries of the Eucharist** while explaining **John Paul the Great's Theology of the Body** as they walked. **Linda and George Newman**, Jessica's proud mom and dad, were present hanging onto every word Jessica said. Jessica had just returned from Rome during spring her break.



At this same meeting at St. Ignatius, **Joe Giganti** of **Veritas Media** showed the wonderful new movie, *Bella*, starring Eduardo Versteeg and Tammy Blanchard. It will begin tentatively showing in theaters on August 15, **The Feast of the Assumption**. *Bella*, in terms of its potential impact on the Culture of Death that pervades our society, may turn out to be *the greatest movie ever made*. Stand by for more details, visit www.bellathemovie.com, or better yet, call Joe Giganti at **703-928-9695**, e-mail Joe@VeritasMedia.com to find out how you can be involved!.

Speaking of movies, have you seen *Amazing Grace*? This outstanding movie traces the efforts of **Wilbur Wilburforce**, a member of the British Parliament in the 1800's, to outlaw slavery in England. It's a must see for every serious pro-lifer. Every lesson contained in this great movie is directly applicable to our work in the pro-life movement. Visit www.amazinggracemove.com for more about this great movie!

Here are the two lessons from *Amazing Grace* that were most obvious to me. First, we must be **persistent!** It was on Wilburforce's umpteenth attempt that legislation effectively banning the slavery trade finally passed. Secondly, we must be **clever!** Wilburforce and his cohorts arranged for most members of Parliament to be lavishly entertained at a cricket game the afternoon of the successful vote. They also arranged for one of the most lackluster members of Parliament to introduce the legislation further throwing its opponents off the track of what was happening. We can learn much from this amazing movie *Amazing Grace!* Go see it while you still can!

Several weeks ago, **Diane Levero**, our great editor, and I went to Arlington, Virginia, to meet with **Ben Wetmore** and his staff of four at *Students for Life of America*. Ben had read the article in our January-February issue about **Morton Blackwell's** great work at *Leadership Institute* and his 60 field reps who are working to promote traditional moral values (including but not limited to starting and nurturing pro-life groups) on the 3500 college campuses throughout America. Ben called us and suggested that we might be equally interested in the work that Students for Life was doing. You can read more about their great work in this issue of *Defend Life*.

Ben, who is from Denton, Texas (**Mark Crutcher** country), is a 1996 political science graduate of American University. While working at Leadership Institute, Ben realized that there was a great need to transform what was then called **American Collegians for Life**. ACL had great annual conferences prior to every March for Life but did little more because they had no full-time paid staff to do it. Ben also realized that the leadership of the pro-life movement was not getting any younger (I just turned 65) and that the training ground for future pro-life leaders must be the college campus of America and that **it must be now!** He wrote a proposal stressing these facts and found a wealthy donor to provide the seed money for a full-time office staff of five and a full-time field staff of seven recent college grads who do nothing but start and nurture college pro-life groups. Presently there are 200 college pro-life groups and that number is growing rapidly thanks to the efforts of Students for Life, the new name of American Collegians for Life. Visit their great web site at www.studentsforlife.org.

Diane and I were particularly impressed by **Joanie Barrett** and **Mike Barnett** with whom we had lunch. Joanie is the office manager and campus director and is a graduate of **Wayne State** in Detroit. I asked Joanie, one of seven siblings, how long she had been involved in pro-life. She said, *I've been going to pro-life meetings since I was a fetus*. In other words, Joanie's parents were great pro-life activists and Joanie grew up in the movement. It's so heartening to see second-generation pro-lifers like Joanie Barrett.

Mike Barnett grew up in New Jersey and is a graduate of **Virginia Tech**. Mike is the National Field Director for Students for Life and also worked at Morton Blackwell's Leadership Institute before joining forces with **SFL**. On Holy Saturday, Mike, an avowed atheist from his youth, came into the church during the Easter Vigil Mass at St. Agnes in Arlington.



Mary Ann Kuharski (whom I like to call the Great Kuharski) of Prolife Across America has thousands of pro-life billboards up *from sea to shining sea*. She now has about 9 billboards like this one in Maryland; some is in Baltimore, some in Frederick, and some in Hagerstown. They show baby Jakob with the caption *Before I was born, my heart was beating* with the sub-title *Heartbeat 18 days from conception*. If you'd like to

see these and more pro-life billboards in Maryland and other states, please send your donation to: **Prolife Across America, P.O. Box 18669, Minneapolis, MN 55418**. For more information, visit www.prolifeacrossamerica.org or call **612-781-0410**.

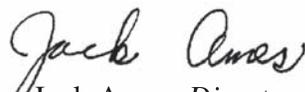
On March 31, I attended the **Delaware Right to Life Convention** in Claymont, Delaware, just north of Wilmington. Congratulations to this great group of tireless pro-lifers on the occasion of their 20th annual convention. For the first nine years, they were spearheaded by **Dee Becker**, a pro-life legend. For the last 11 years they have been superbly organized by **Bess McAneny** and her great volunteers. Here are some highlights:

- Two great talks by **Leslie Unruh**, one on the campaign to ban abortion in South Dakota and the other on her great work in the *National Abstinence Clearing House*. (Look forward to several future articles about Leslie's great work and what really happened in South Dakota!)
- A great talk by her husband, **Dr. Alan Unruh** who also talked about the campaign to ban abortion in South Dakota.
- An inspiring talk by **David Bereit**, executive director of American Life League, and a recent Defend Life speaker. David Bereit is a great blessing to the pro-life movement!
- A fascinating talk by **Jason Beck** about utilizing technology to fight the Culture of Death.
- A great banquet by **Bobby Schindler** (brother of **Terri Schindler-Schiavo**). Bobby spoke on the second anniversary of Terri's murder by starvation and dehydration.

By the time you read this letter, **Monsignor Stuart Swetland** will have spoken. If you missed his talk on *THE MILLENNIAL GENERATION: Keeping our Students Catholic*, you can obtain a free CD of it by emailing CDs@defendlife.org or writing us.

And thanks for all you do to save innocent pre-born babies from death by abortion and your wonderful support of **Defend Life**.

Long Live Christ Our King!


Jack Ames, Director

Enclosure

P.S. Congratulations to our IT manager, **Joe Healy**, and his wife **Michele** on the birth of their son, **Joseph John Paul Healy**. Joey JP Healy was born at home on Palm Sunday, April 1, and weighed a whopping 9 pounds 4 ounces and was 22 inches long. Joey's two older sisters, Sabrina and Gracie could not be more delighted. Joe Healy has been a great blessing to **Defend Life!** Also, don't miss the upcoming talk by **Barry Sullivan** on **Thursday, May 10** at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Vienna, Virginia. See the ad on page 16 of this newsletter. If you attend, you'll get to meet Barry's parents, **Kathleen** and **Jerry Sullivan**, who will be in town from Naples, Florida. Kathleen Sullivan is a founder and great hero of the abstinence movement!



P.P.S. Mark down **July 30 - August 3** for our **7th Annual Maryland Face the Truth Tour**. We need a couple of individuals, preferably on-fire college or high school students, to serve as Directors. Contact **Jack Ames** at **410-337-3721** for details. **These are paid positions!** Post ad on page 16 on your refrigerator as a reminder!