



DEFEND LIFE

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

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*October 13, 2008 Anno Domini
Columbus Day*

Dear Pro-Life Activist,

One of the greatest pro-lifers I have ever been privileged to know went on to his eternal reward on October 2. His name was Bernie Gugerty. Bernie was probably the kindest person I have ever known. I never heard him say a bad word about anyone.



BERNIE GUGERTY – RIP

I first met Bernie in 1977, shortly after I moved to Baltimore from Richmond. We were both working for Baltimore Gas & Electric in the same department, Energy Services. I remember him running in the Baltimore Marathon back in those years. I can still see him trudging up Falls Road.

Years later, Bernie started showing up at our annual Face the Truth tours, which began in 2001. He was also a regular at our third Wednesday picketing at the GBMC abortion mill in Towson. Bernie was just the opposite of many politically correct pro-lifers who tend to keep their pro-life convictions to themselves for fear of a family feud or for fear of hurting themselves professionally when it becomes known they are ***one of those crazy pro-lifers.***

Here are several examples of just how PRO-LIFE Bernie Gugerty was during the 77 years the good Lord gave him on this green earth:



- His voice-mail message on both his Baltimore and Florida phones began with ***Pray for the unborn.***
- Bernie loved to wear his pro-life T-shirts. He even wore them in Florida, where he and his wife Jo spent their winters.
- He was frequently seen wearing his Precious Feet pin, or his large red button which simply said PRO-LIFE.
- He was often seen in front of St. Joseph's in Cockeysville, where he handed out pro-life literature and bumper stickers. St. Joseph's is where he attended daily Mass and where his Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated on October 6.

Bernie never met a stranger with whom he did not strike up a conversation. He had a great sense of humor. **Stan Cochran**, another GBMC regular and Bernie's relative-by-marriage, used to call Bernie *cornball*, referring to Bernie's sometimes *corny* jokes. But that didn't faze Bernie one bit. When calling Stan on the phone, the self-deprecating Bernie would say, *this is cornball calling*. Bernie truly loved life! He was a perfect gentleman. He always had a smile and a good word. Stan jokingly referred to Bernie as *America's oldest living teenager!*

Bernie would also say humorous things like, *I've been happily married for 40 years, that's not so bad for 50 years of marriage.*

Bernie grew up in the Charles Village neighborhood of Baltimore. He would often say that he was privileged to have attended the three greatest schools in America:

St. Phillip & James (when it was truly Catholic).

Poly (when it was America's greatest engineering high school).



Johns Hopkins (before it became completely secularized).

Joe Frese, another great **PRO-LIFE** activist and GBMC stalwart, remembers meeting Bernie through the Boy Scout troop sponsored by St. Phillip and James. Joe was really impressed by Bernie, who was a year or two older. He remembers Bernie walking down the outside stairwell to a scout meeting held in the church basement. Bernie was being razzed good-naturedly by some of his fellow scouts, who were standing at ground level as Bernie walked down the stairwell. They said, ***Watch out, Gugerty, we're going to spit on you!*** Bernie calmly spit straight up 10 to 12 feet, almost nailing these jesters, who had to duck to avoid salivary contact.



Joe later became Bernie's fraternity brother in **Alpha Tau Omega**, the only Christian fraternity at Hopkins. In lieu of the conventional hell week, it would perform acts of charity. Frat members and pledges would go to **St. Vincent's Orphanage for boys** on York Road (where St. Pius X and Channel 2 now stand) and help the Sisters of Mercy with an annual clean-up of the grounds. Afterwards, there was a two-handed touch football game with the orphans. The St. Vincent boys were tough, and preferred tackling their Hopkins opponents rather than playing by the rules. Needless to say, the orphans always won.

Speaking of Johns Hopkins, I will never forget my last memory of Bernie in this world. It was last July 31, as a large group of Face-the-Truthers were returning by bus from our mid-day tour stop at Harbor Place. As we passed Bernie's beloved Johns Hopkins, Bernie pulled out his kazoo and began playing the Hopkins fight song and then recited the lyrics. Bernie always had his kazoo with him and would invariably play it at our closing Face the Truth Tour picnics, as well as any other party he attended. He could play any tunes that you requested. He could even play classical music.

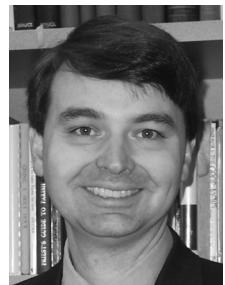


Bernie's last Face the Truth tour stop was at the White Marsh Mall mid-day stop on August 1. He would have been at our final stop in Bel Air later that afternoon but for a medical appointment which he was unable to reschedule. It was there that **18 of us were illegally arrested by the Maryland State Police** for doing the exact same thing that we had done over 100 times since our first 2001 Maryland Truth Tour.

The following week, Bernie called Joe Frese several times to discuss the arrests. He was outraged that our Constitutional rights had been violated! He realized that he too would have been arrested, had it not been for his medical appointment. And he was greatly saddened to think that we would now have to go to court to reaffirm our right to free speech.

Bernie is survived by his wife, Jo Bagley Gugerty, his children, Patrick, Steve, Mimi and Nancy, and 11 grandchildren. Bernie, we will miss you terribly! You epitomized everything that is good and great about the **PRO-LIFE** movement!

JOSEPH MEANEY



Our Fall Defend Life lectures began on September 17-18 with four great talks by Joseph Meaney, Director of International Coordination for Human Life International. He spoke on ***The World-Wide War Against Baby Girls***. You can read more about his talk by reading the article by Diane Levero on page 5 of this outstanding newsletter. You can also obtain a free CD of his talk by simply e-mailing ***CDs@defendlife.org*** with your name and address. We will be glad to send it to you by U.S. mail. See the list of other available CDs on the back page of this newsletter.

As we drove around, Joseph Meaney told me about attending the Catholic University of Dallas as an undergraduate, as well as the University of Texas in Austin for his graduate studies. He said he had grown up in **Corpus Christi, Texas** (what a beautiful name for a city – it reminds us of our Catholic roots!). I recalled hearing a wonderful speaker at a huge **PRO-LIFE** conference that I had attended in the late 1990s. The speaker told about seven or eight abortuaries in Corpus Christi that had been closed as a result of **PRO-LIFE** activism.

In putting two and two together, we figured out that this speaker was Joseph's older sister, Mary.

AND HERE'S THE REST OF THE STORY!

Joseph's mother, Francette, grew up in France, not far from the English Channel. Her father, Joseph Philippe, was a famous architect who lived to the age of 98. He designed beautiful churches and monasteries, one of which

Joseph Meaney will soon be visiting on a trip to Africa. Joseph spent many of his summers in France as a child, and that is how he became fluent in French. He is also fluent in Spanish and Italian and lived in Rome for four years.

Francette went to medical school in France and passed her medical Boards. She met and married Michael, Joseph's father, who taught at such schools as Villanova and the College of New Rochelle.

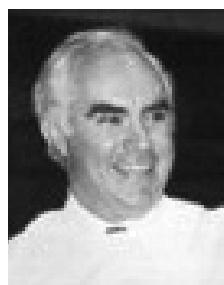
They raised their four wonderful children in Corpus Christi. Francette never practiced medicine. She was doing something much more important! In 1973 *Roe v. Wade* came down from the Supreme Court, legalizing abortion-on-demand. Francette went to visit Bishop Thomas Drury of Corpus Christi. He was a Godly man! Francette asked him what he was going to do about *Roe v. Wade*! This wise and holy bishop answered her question by saying, ***Francette, what are you going to do?***



First and foremost, she bore and raised four children. She lost a fifth child, who died after six months with multiple handicaps. All four surviving children became tenacious pro-lifers. Secondly, she became involved in all aspects of **PRO-LIFE** activism, including praying at abortuaries, sidewalk counseling and founding a pregnancy center, Rescue, fund-raising, lobbying in Austin, running for mayor of Corpus Christi on a **PRO-LIFE** slate, teaching natural family planning, and much more! Thirdly, she sent a personal letter to San Antonio's eight abortionists promising to expose them in a full-page newspaper ad if they continued their baby killing. Three of them immediately raised the white flag of surrender and promised to stop committing abortions if Francette would not expose them publicly. Four others succumbed by other means. One of them quit when his wife found out he was doing abortions. One of those abortionists was a close friend of a Catholic deacon. When the deacon learned of his dear friend's grizzly abortion practice, that was the end of his practice. One abortionist is still at large in Corpus Christi. He travels clandestinely from San Antonio to Corpus Christi one day each week to kill pre-born babies.

With tenacious **PRO-LIFERS** like Doctor Francette Meaney, it's only a matter of time until Corpus Christi will be completely abortion-free!

Now let me tell you more about **Mary Meaney Haynes**, Joseph's older sister. In the early '90s, as a student at Princeton University, Mary visited the so-called Women's Center, a mecca for **PRO-ABORTION** activism at Princeton. She told the director she was greatly offended by posters at the center, which contained vulgarities such as ***Keep your rosaries off my ovaries***. She demanded that the director remove these posters immediately. When the director refused, Mary declared war! She rallied Princeton alumni in her battle to clean up the Princeton Women's Center.



In the summer of 1992 **Governor Robert Casey** of Pennsylvania, a great **PRO-LIFE** warrior, was denied the opportunity to speak at the Democratic National Convention in New York City.

By the following fall, the Princeton alumni had launched a campaign to withhold funds if the mess at the Women's Center was not cleaned up. In the meantime, Mary was able to schedule Governor Casey to speak at the center. Fully realizing that the small number of campus **PRO-LIFERS** at Princeton would not be able to fill the Women's Center, she came up with a brilliant strategy.

She invited community pro-life groups from all over New Jersey to come to Princeton that evening, specifically asking them to be there 30 minutes before the 7:30 PM starting time. By 7 pm, the Women's Center was packed to capacity with pro-lifers from all over New Jersey. Just as Mary expected, pro-abort students tried to parade in with their coat hangers just before the 7:30 PM starting time. They were met at the door by Mary and campus security officers informing them that the room was full to capacity and they were welcome to go to a nearby room where they could watch on closed-circuit TV.



Mary Meaney's brilliant strategy worked, and Bob Casey gave the great talk he would have given in New York City. Needless to say, it received national publicity!

Mary later received her Ph.D. at Oxford. She is now married, has four daughters and lives in her late grandfather's home in France, and travels by high-speed train through the tunnel to London two days a week to work for McKinsey Consulting. **Sounds a little like Sarah Palin, wouldn't you say?** Her husband, Dr. Ian Haynes, is the head of Archeology at New Castle University, about an hour north of London.

WEARING PRO-LIFE T-SHIRTS AT FOOTBALL GAMES

Here's my idea. Wear pro-life T-shirts at local college football games here in Maryland, especially Navy games in Annapolis and Maryland Terrapin games in College Park.

Join me on the following Saturdays in Annapolis:

- Saturday, October 18 – Navy vs. Pittsburgh – 3:30 PM
- Saturday, October 25 – Navy vs. SMU – 3:30 PM
- Saturday, November 8 – Navy vs. Temple – 3:30 PM



Here is the deal! We meet at 12:30 PM at the north entrance to the Naval Marine Corps Stadium parking lot for distribution of T-shirts like the one you see here with an abortion message on the back. Between 1 and 3 PM we simply walk through the tail-gating area (tail-gating is huge at college football games) with a smile on our faces and letting our T-shirts speak for themselves. It's that simple. Let me know immediately what games we can count on you to join us. Please e-mail navy@defendlife.org with your shirt size, what dates we can count on you, and your cell phone # so we can locate you prior to the game should you get lost. If you can stay for the game, Defend Life will buy you a ticket. You may have to pay for parking unless you park in a nearby neighborhood. Call me, Jack Ames, **410-337-3721**, with questions.



I've been dying to do this for years. With **your** help, I am confident it will work. If it is very successful, we will do the **Navy-Notre Dame** game on Saturday, November 15, at Raven's Stadium in Baltimore. We might even make a T-shirt that says ***Irish for Life!*** for you Notre Dame fans.

MARK BOMCHILL

Don't forget about our great Defend Life Lectures Tour coming up on **November 20-21** featuring Mark Bomchill, former abortion mill **deathscort** from Minneapolis, Minnesota. See the back of this newsletter for details. Mark will also conduct a sidewalk counseling work shop on Saturday afternoon, November 22 at a location to be announced

Also mark your calendar now for our **March for Life Kickoff Lecture on Friday evening, January 16**. We have a speaker that will **WOW** you.

And thanks for all you do to save innocent pre-born babies from death by abortion!



Long Live Christ the King!

Jack Ames
Jack Ames, P.E.

ENCLOSURE



P.S. Please make your reservations now for the annual Peroutka & Peroutka **Pro-Life Awards Dinner, Thursday, October 23, at 7 PM** at Michael's 8th Avenue, 7720 Grayburn Drive, Glen Burnie, Maryland 21061. Joe Scheidler is the guest speaker. RSVP to Brigitte Smith at 410-768-2280 x233. **COME ONE, COME ALL AND SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THIS GREAT EVENING WHERE WE HONOR OUR PRO-LIFE WARRIORS!**