



DEFEND LIFE

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

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*February 14, 2008 Anno Domini
Feast of St. Valentine*

Dear Friend of Defend Life,

I want to thank each of you who gave so generously to our Christmas Campaign of 2007. Because of your wonderful generosity, we met and exceeded our \$10,000 challenge grant. As a result, we raised over \$20,000. Because of you, we will be able to fund the many things we hope to do in 2008, such as making the most of **Pope Benedict's historic visit to Washington, DC on Thursday, April 17** by passing out thousands of bumper stickers like this one with your help. We plan to give them away before and after Benedict's Mass at the new Washington Nationals Stadium. Contact joe@defendlife.org or call **410-296-5483** to volunteer!



Pope Benedict XVI Says
DEFEND LIFE



Let me tell you about some of the great things that have happened since I last wrote you. First, there was Father Tom Euteneuer's Lecture Tour in early December on ***The Demonic Abortion Connection***. Thanks to all those at **St. Mary's Hagerstown, St. Peter's Libertytown, Our Lady's Center Ellicott City, and St. Agnes Catonsville** who made this great tour possible.

At St. Agnes, over 200 persons jammed the old school basement. Father Euteneuer's talk was followed by a lively question and answer period. Thanks especially to Joe Healy who helped promote this talk so effectively. He wrote a summary of this talk on his marvelous blog (www.defendlife.blogspot.com). It was picked up the following day on Michael Brown's outstanding www.spiritedaily.com. As a result, over 800 requests poured in from around the world requesting a free CD of Father's talk. At least 20 came from foreign countries such as the **Philippines, England, and even Sweden**. Because of your wonderful generosity, we were able to provide this CD absolutely free! Hopefully, many of these persons will become regular donors as **Defend Life** continues to grow. You can read about this great talk in this issue of **Defend Life** as well as requesting your free CD at CDs@defendlife.org or simply calling us at **410-296-5483**.

On December 22, we celebrated an **Empty Manger** event at two abortuaries, Planned Parenthood in Baltimore and Hillcrest in Catonsville where 30 activists gathered to sing beautiful Christmas carols around an empty manger. Thanks to Lisa Basarab and Joe Healy for organizing these events. This empty manger event was held in conjunction with **PLAN** (Pro-Life Action Network). PLAN is a loose affiliation of pro-life activist groups that met in Chicago last September to plot strategies that could be implemented in unison on the same day by PLAN affiliates across America. You'll be hearing more about more PLAN events in the near future as we continue to attack the crumbling walls of the abortion industry.



Mark Crutcher, founder of **Life Dynamics**, gave a great talk at our annual **March for Life** Mass and kick-off lecture on January 11 at beautiful Blessed Sacrament Church on Chevy Chase Circle in Northwest Washington, DC. His talk was entitled ***Pro-Life vs. Pro-Choice: Who is Winning?*** Mark says that we are clearly winning! He cites the fact that most customers paid abortions cost \$300 to \$400, virtually the same price that they were for 20 to 30 years ago. Other than consumer electronics such as radios and TVs, what product or service is selling today for the same price as 20 to 30 years ago?

This frozen price structure of the abortion industry plus **pro-life activism** have dramatically reduced the number of abortuaries across America from 2700 to about 800 (still 800 too many)! The number of abortionists

is also dwindling. The single biggest problem the abortion industry faces is the extremely rapid turnover of staff. Who wants to tell their friends that they work in a death camp?

You can read much more about Mark's great talk in this issue of **Defend Life**. You can also obtain a free CD at CDs@defendlife.org, writing us, or calling us.



The annual Students for Life Conference held on January 20 at Catholic University of America was a blockbuster thanks to Danny Cogut, the primary organizer and Kristan Hawkins, Executive Director. Approximately 800 students attended, up from 500 last year, from colleges all over America. They heard many great speakers including the likes of **Scott Klusendorf**, the C.S. Lewis of the pro-life movement, and **Fletcher Armstrong**, Southeastern Director for the Center for Bioethics Reform who spoke about **GAP** (Genocide Awareness Program). Defend Life first introduced Scott Klusendorf to the Baltimore-Washington area back in 1999 and Fletcher Armstrong in 2003.

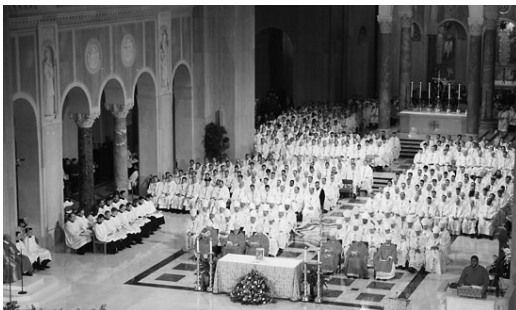
Defend Life had a table top display at this outstanding conference. We talked to about 100 of these great students and shared ideas that could make their student group even more effective. Two college pro-life groups that particularly impressed me were **Northern Kentucky University** and **Grand Valley State** in Michigan. Both had large contingents and both were literally driving the pro-abortion nuts on their respective campuses.

Rafael Leonardo, a freshman from **Boston College** wanted to know why he couldn't have **GAP** at his BC campus. In all the years that GAP has been around, **Seton Hall** is the only Catholic College that had the moral gumption to allow it for a single day before caving and withdrawing permission for a second day. Rafael promised to make GAP happen at Boston College by introducing a resolution to the Student Government where he already serves as a Senator. I personally spoke to students from the **University of Florida** where sophomore quarterback **Tom Tebow** just won the Heismann Trophy, college football's highest award. Tebow's mother was advised to have an abortion while carrying him. I encouraged these students to meet with Tebow and encourage him to tell this story publicly with his mother Pam standing beside him. Imagine how this could take the University of Florida by storm!



We gave away a dozen of our now famous **Face the Truth/Abortion Kills Babies** T-shirts which were gobbled up by these great college students who promised to wear them faithfully on their campuses! There was a great air of hope and excitement at this **largest yet Students for Life** (formerly American Collegians for Life) conference.

On Monday night, the eve of the **35th March for Life**, there was the annual Vigil Mass at the beautiful Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. I've been to many of these but never one that was more crowded with enthusiastic young persons. Crowd estimates were **8,000** including **6,000** jammed into the nave and another **2,000** jammed into the crypt below. There were 390 seminarians, 60+ deacons, 425 priests, 34 bishops and archbishops, and 6 cardinals squeezed into the huge sanctuary of America's largest Catholic church. In addition, there were hundreds of male and female religious spread throughout the Basilica.



Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia was the main celebrant. He delivered a stirring homily that was often interrupted by applause. In closing, he said *you are called*



to pray for an end to abortion in the United States and throughout the world. Roe v. Wade is incompatible with human dignity. It must not stand, it cannot stand, it will not stand!

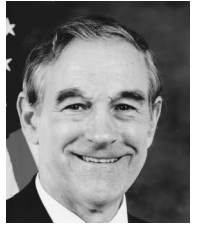
After this magnificent Mass with beautiful hymns and huge amounts of incense that seemingly wafted to the heavens, I saw many bright-eyed high-school groups. One was from **John Carroll High School** in **Birmingham, Alabama**. I thought the nun with the group looked familiar. It was **Sister Margaret Andrew**, a Dominican Sister of Nashville who used to be stationed at **Mount DeSales** in **Catonsville**. We frequently brought our wonderful pro-life speakers to speak to her classes. Sister had helped organize two plane loads of students. After the Mass, they were addressed by their wonderful new **Bishop Robert Baker** who told them to *get a good night's sleep* and to *dress warmly for tomorrow's march!* I also talked to a group of Catholic high

school students all the way from **Sioux City, Iowa**. Half the school had bused to Omaha and flown from there to Washington.

Afterwards, hundreds of students jammed the nearby Metro station where they proudly and repeatedly sang *The Star Spangled Banner* while awaiting the trains back to their downtown hotels.



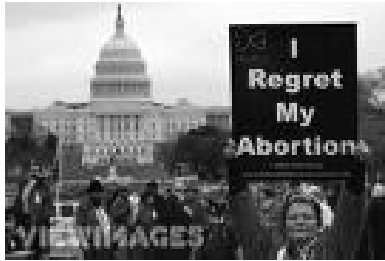
This year's **March for Life** was estimated at **250,000** by Chris Menion who has worked on Capitol Hill for over 20 years. Speakers on the platform included **Congressman Chris Smith** who grew up in the pro-life movement, **Senator Sam Brownback**, and Presidential candidate **Congressman Ron Paul** from Texas. Ron Paul banners were all over the place as was his literature. **Pastor Luke Robinson** of Frederick, Maryland, gave another one of his impassioned talks!



The entire March for Life was carried live on **EWTN** as well as on **C-SPAN**. If you weren't there, you still have a chance to see and record the archived version of it. Go to www.ewtn.com or www.c-span.org to find out future viewing times.

Consider having a party for friends! You could this year's March playing on a large screen TV during your party. Maybe the enthusiasm so prevalent at this year's march might be contagious at your party!

Towards the end of the rally of the March, March for Life founder **Nellie Gray** tripped over a piece of equipment on the speaker's platform. Apparently, her glasses broke from the fall and she suffered minor facial injuries as a result. Everybody prayed with bated breath as she was taken from the stage and transported to Georgetown Washington Hospital from where she was released later that day.



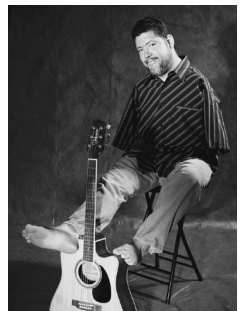
At the end of the march, various groups assembled in front of the Supreme Court. One group was **Silent No More**. Many post-abortive women told their heart-wrenching stories of their abortions. Invariably, they included an irresponsible man (every child has a father!) who didn't want to become involved in supporting the pre-born child he had already fathered.

National Organization of Women had a media event at the Supreme Court. **C-SPAN** broke away at the end of their March for Life coverage and showed a *paltry handful* of **NOW** women parading in a big circle in front of the Supreme

Court with their ***Keep Abortion Safe and Legal*** signs.

Earlier that morning there was a huge youth rally and Mass at Verizon Center which accommodates **20,000**. The crown was so large that some latecomers had to be turned away.

There were numerous other events the day of the march including a **Bloggers for Life** conference organized by **Peter Shinn** which was co-sponsored by Defend Life and the **Tony Melendez** concert on Capitol Hill sponsored by **Peroutka & Peroutka**. Of course, there were many constituent meetings which is the primary purpose of The March. A friend attended a **Pennsylvania** meeting where hundreds of pro-lifers from the Keystone State were nailing **Senator Bob Casey** (not to be confused with his later father and pro-life hero Governor Bob Casey) about his vote for embryonic stem cell research. And then, of course, there was the Annual Rose Banquet held at the Hyatt Regency. This year's event was hosted by **Terry Scanlon** and **Dee Becker** who stood in for Nellie Gray.



MARY JANE CORCORAN SIMS – PRO-LIFE ACTIVIST - RIP

Mary Jane Sims, the mother of pro-lifers **Grace** and **Mary Sims**, went onto her eternal reward on December 28, the **Feast of the Holy Innocents**. Mary Jane died in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, at the home of her daughter, Mary. Mary Jane Sims was the mother of 5, grandmother of 11, and great-grandmother of 2. She was probably the most joyful person I have ever had the privilege to know, always rejoicing in the good and never saying a single ill word about anyone.

Back on October 25, Mary Jane celebrated her 89th birthday at Saint Charles in Arlington, Virginia. Four priests celebrated the Mass and over 100 friends attended her party afterwards. Mary Jane, who was a great storyteller, was still telling great stories at 11 PM on that memorable evening.

Mary Jane attended only two years of college at St. Rose College in Albany, New York before



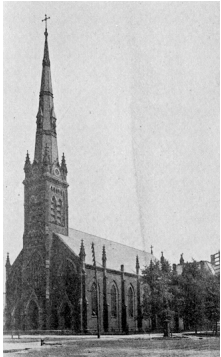
entering **Fordham Law School** with her older sister Grace. They lived in an apartment on the Grand Concourse in the Bronx. In the morning, they would go by subway to Fordham Law School which was in the **Woolworth Building** in Manhattan. All their classes were in the morning which left the afternoons free to attend baseball games at **Yankee Stadium** during the spring and fall. In the evening, they would hit their law books! Mary Jane and Grace were two of the first female graduates of Fordham Law School.



Mary Jane would have been the valedictorian of her class but wasn't given the award. While there, she contracted TB, spent a year in bed recovering, and graduated in 1940 instead of 1939. So Fordham wasn't sure in which class to rank her.

Mary Jane worked as an attorney for the **OPA (Office of Price Administration)** during the war, later taught at St. Ann's School where all five of her children attended, and then served as an attorney for the **Veteran's Administration** to help pay the huge tuition bills for her three sons and two daughters.

She did extensive pro-bono legal work often counseling persons for hours over the phone during evenings. One example was a husband and a wife and five adult children. The husband died suddenly without a Will. In such cases, everything is split equally between the wife and her five adult children. This would mean that the mother's house would have to be sold and the funds from the sale split six ways. The bottom line was that the mother would have lost her home! Mary Jane carefully crafted the necessary paperwork enabling each of the five adult children to sign over their one-sixth share to their mother. Very cleverly, she arrived at the mother's home on **Mother's Day** hoping that all five of her adult children would be there together! They were there and she quickly convinced all five to sign over their fair share to their mother on the spot.



Mary Jane was a devout Catholic. She never missed daily Mass unless she was very sick. Often she took the bus to downtown Cleveland where she lectured at **St. John's Cathedral**. People would stop her on the streets and say *aren't you the lector at the Cathedral?* Mary Jane loved the Scriptures and just how much she loved them was clearly obvious when she proclaimed them with great passion as a lector! She loved the Fourth Commandment because she said it was the only one that had a reward attached to it. *Honor thy Father and thy Mother and you shall live a long life!*

Mary Jane was short of stature and *always* wore extremely high heels which were typically color coordinated with her many stylist outfits. She loved her high heels!

When in Cleveland, she usually went to daily Mass at the Carmelite Monastery which she dearly loved. She became a **Third Order Carmelite** at age 22 after returning to Cleveland from law school. After Mass, Mary Jane would spend the entire day adoring our **Divine Lord** present in the **Blessed Sacrament** there in the Monastery Chapel.

In addition to her countless hours, days, weeks, and years of **Eucharistic Adoration**, she would read **Scripture** and pray the **Rosary** she loved so much. The Carmelite Sisters who sang at Mary Jane's Mass of the Resurrection on January 3 referred to her as *Anna in the Temple*.

Well done good and faithful servant. **Pray for us from Heaven, Mary Jane, that our pro-life efforts here on Earth will bear good fruit!**



Long Live Christ Our King!

Jack Ames
Jack Ames, Director

Enclosure