

Most Reverend Joseph L. Coffey

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The Archdiocese for Military Services, USA

PO Box 4469

1025 Michigan Avenue NE

Washington, DC 20017-0469

jcoffey@Milarch.org

610-761-9629

To whom it may concern:

I met John Ryan when I was assigned to recruiting duty to St. Louis, MO while on Active Duty as a Navy Chaplain. I am currently still on Active Duty assigned to MCRD, the Marine Corps Boot Camp in San Diego, CA and was just recently ordained as an Auxiliary Bishop for the Military Archdiocese. In my 26 years in the Navy, whenever I get a new assignment in a new city I make it a point to go to the nearest abortion mill, usually a Planned Parenthood, to pray the rosary and encourage the sidewalk counselors. That is where I met this extraordinary man who has become a very good friend.

I have come to truly appreciate and admire John Ryan for his total commitment to upholding the Catholic Church's teaching on the sanctity of human life. John practices what he preaches with his involvement in the Pro-life movement since 1973, coincidentally, the same year I first got involved. He has rescued countless children from an unjust death by his efforts at sidewalk counseling offering help from the many crisis pregnancy centers in our country. He has even been at the birth of some of these children with moms and dads who are eternally grateful that he was there in their hour of need.

In 1982 John formed and was the director of the Pro-life Direct Action League. He and I were both active in the rescue movement although we did not meet each other at any of these peaceful and non-violent rescues. A tactic taught by men such as King, Ghandi, and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. John has been represented by the Pro-Life lawyers of the Thomas More Society after being sued by Planned Parenthood on false charges. John never allowed that to deter him from his commitment to the babies and their parents. Inf fact, I believe it only strengthens him, as does his great faith and receiving the Sacraments of our Catholic Church.

For years I have personally been inspired by John. His steadfastness and courage is a remarkable example for every one of us. He challenges people, including me, out of our comfortable Catholicism. He is a gifted speaker and is willing to go anywhere he is invited to share his message of the Gospel of Life. I

personally recommend John's story to learn the almost four-decade long history of peaceful Pro-Life activism in our great country.

Please do not hesitate to contact me to learn more about this great man.

Live Jesus,

Bishop Joseph L. Coffey