

What Makes a Successful Pro-Life Advocate?



A JFA UPDATE FROM MARY ST. HILAIRE



FEBRUARY 2022

Several months ago, when the JFA team did outreach at Tarleton State University in Texas, I was standing by our poll table which asked the question “Should Abortion Remain Legal?” As students walked by, I asked them if they wanted to weigh in on the poll.

After being asked to sign, one young woman stopped, looked at me, and began giving me a litany of reasons why she was passionately pro-choice. There was a clear sense of frustration and anger in her voice, body language, and facial expression as she continued her rant. It was almost as if she didn’t want to stop talking for fear that I would yell at her or say something hurtful.

As she was standing there railing on me, I couldn’t help but notice her strikingly clear, blueish-green eyes. They were unlike anything I’ve ever seen before. She continued talking and I made my best effort to find common ground by simply nodding my head and saying “I agree,” when possible. Then, without giving me a chance to respond, she began turning to walk away from the table. In that moment, I had to make a quick decision.

What was I going to say to her in those few seconds before she left? I could find more common ground or I could try to respond to one of her many arguments in an attempt to continue the conversation, but neither of those options seemed feasible or right. All I could think was, *how can I let this girl walk away without complimenting her eyes?*

So I said, “Before you go, I just have to say, you have the most beautiful, clear eyes I’ve ever seen!” Her already radiant eyes lit up and a beautiful smile completely transformed her tense expression into one of ease and comfort. Laughing, she said, “Thank you so much!” and we parted ways.

I’m sharing this story to highlight something that is at the heart of our ministry at Justice For All: our success is not measured by how many pro-choice people change their minds and take on a pro-life view. If that was the case, we would all be failures, since the majority of people we interact with do not change their minds. Instead, success at JFA looks a lot more like the story I just told.

Do I wish I had been given the opportunity to continue my conversation with this woman? Yes. Do I wish I could have shared the pro-life message with her? Certainly! But that simply wasn’t possible.

What *was* possible was sharing with her, through a simple but meaningful compliment, the joy and understanding of the pro-life community, which will hopefully soften her heart to the pro-life view and help her be more willing to listen to other pro-life advocates in the future.



Pictured are four students I got to speak with at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas.

Continue reading on the reverse —>



JUSTICE FOR ALL - TRAINING THOUSANDS TO MAKE ABORTION UNTHINKABLE FOR MILLIONS, ONE PERSON AT A TIME

WEB: WWW.JFAWEB.ORG

EMAIL: MARY.STHILAIRE@JFAWEB.ORG

OFFICE: 316-683-6426

So, although it was brief, I consider our interaction to be a successful one, not because I changed her mind, but because I was able to do something equally important; I was able to show her what Jesus is like.

That is our goal in every conversation. Being a successful pro-life advocate means loving the woman in distress, the child at risk of abortion, and yes, even the person who advocates for abortion. Does this mean we avoid challenging people's views in order to appear more friendly or loving? Of course not. Asking questions and sharing facts that challenge someone's view is incredibly important and we should strive to do that in our conversations, but we must recognize that sharing truth without love is usually ineffective. The apostle Paul says, "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal." (1 Corinthians 13:1)

So, now I have a challenge for you. I want you to join me in becoming a better pro-life advocate by changing the way you think about success in the pro-life movement.

The abortion issue requires a bold commitment from us to unapologetically speak truth for the sake of the pre-born, but if we neglect to communicate sincere love and concern for women experiencing unplanned pregnancies as well as respect for those who advocate for abortion, we will push away the very people we are trying to reach. If, instead, we remember and communicate the fact that being pro-life means that we think every human being is valuable, regardless of their level of development, race, religion, abilities, gender, or personal beliefs, we will be successful pro-life advocates and we will shift the culture.

As always, I am so grateful for your continued support of my efforts with Justice For All. May God reward and bless you and your family!

In Christ,



Mary St. Hilaire



This is one of my favorite pictures of my team and some of our dedicated volunteers!

From left to right: (Back) Jeremy Gorr, Jon Wagner, Mark Bryant, Paul Kulas

(2nd row) Mark Wood, Kaitlyn Donihue, Bella O'Neill, Rebekah Dyer

(Front) Me, Kristina Massa, Raelynn Rhodes

RESULTS OF MY SUPPORT RAISING EFFORTS TO DATE

- As of February 1st, I have reached approximately **61%** of my support goal.
- So far, **62** families or individuals have partnered with me!
- Thank you to all of my donors for making my work with JFA possible.
- If you have not done so already, please prayerfully consider joining my monthly support team using the enclosed pledge form! Or, go to www.ifaweb.org/donate to give by check or credit card online.