

## Death of an “Unknown Soldier”; James Donald Giuffré



James Donald Giuffré, a fearless warrior and 42-year veteran in the fight to restore the authentic worship of the Catholic Church, died at 5:15AM on 21 May 2014, at age 74. His efforts have benefitted untold numbers of Catholics around the country, including those who watch St. Jude's live-stream Mass webcasts. Yet his name and his connection to the cause of the true Mass are virtually unknown to traditionalist Catholics today, except for the few family and friends with whom he attended Mass at his church.

Jim Giuffré was born in Houston, Texas on 26 July 1939, and was an altar boy at St. Vincent de Paul parish when the Church WAS the Church. Like Jim's parents, Jim recognized the 1960s novelties in worship, music and art for what they were: a frontal assault on all things Catholic.



When Jim's family members first discovered in 1972 that there was active resistance among a number of senior Catholic clergy against the detestable modern liturgy, he soon realized that all informed Catholics must at once support that resistance to the point of shunning their local churches, if necessary, until the true Mass was restored in every parish. Jim was a busy young assistant district attorney at the time, but opened his home to Catholic family and friends twice a week to organize a committee for investigating why the Mass had disappeared from the Galveston-Houston Diocese and what measures would be necessary to bring it back. Jim was asked to chair the meetings and was ultimately elected as president of the association.

In 1974, Jim drafted the charter and by-laws for the foundation that is today known as Traditional Catholics of Houston, Inc., which has sponsored Saint Jude Shrine for the last four decades. He withdrew as president of the foundation but remained for a time as its secretary-treasurer, and continued as legal counsel and choir member until overwhelmed by illness last year. Relying upon the wise advice of two senior Catholic clergymen, Fr. Francis Fenton and Fr. William Daly, Jim formulated the foundation's underpinning documents in a manner that enabled the organization to survive during four hostile takeover attempts in the civil courts. At the heart of Jim's design for the charter and by-laws was the provision for a self-perpetuating board of directors, starting with the foundation's original incorporators, to guaranty continuity of mission and purpose for the association he helped to organize. Jim steadfastly avoided placing at risk the very existence of Houston's Latin Mass center by not subjecting its administrators to a "democratic" vote, cast by those who often have neither sufficient understanding of today's ecclesiastical crisis nor commitment to reject all compromise with the "church of darkness", necessary to protect St. Jude's from either external or internal sabotage.

Virtually every other Latin Mass association from the 1970s, that allowed its governing bodies to be swept aside by an ever-changing membership-at-large, was eventually dismantled and its properties confiscated by enemy agents who thereafter put-in-place clergy of dubious orders. This has never happened and will never happen at Saint Jude Shrine, or to its people, thanks to the legal work and dogged determination of James Giuffré, in service to his church and his Savior, which continued until his death this past week. Having witnessed the success of Saint Jude's over the last four decades, other associations have since incorporated Jim's template for their charter and by-laws, and have thereby been spared the problems experienced by less fortunate groups of faithful over the years.

During legal depositions in 1976, Jim nearly paid the supreme price for protecting his church, when a frustrated litigant, who was radicalized by a large multi-national "society" that sought to seize St. Jude's properties, finally realized that this was impossible because Jim's charter for the church had ensured that its administration was impenetrable. The crazed plaintiff, who was known to carry a gun, at one point, threatened to kill Jim in a most brutal manner even as a stenographer was recording the outburst that would have been read in the courtroom at a later date, had his attorney not withdrawn the case before that could happen. In the end, it was not a gun that stilled the heart of this tireless soldier of Christ, but a hospital-borne infection. Jim's death has been a catastrophic loss for his family as well as Saint Jude Shrine. A perennial champion of justice in both the secular and ecclesiastical realm, Jim was tormented by the same fears and doubts that afflict every Catholic who agonizes over the destruction of his country and long delay in the restoration of the Church. God was merciful to Jim by giving him time to examine his conscience and by keeping him alive until he received all the Sacraments and Blessings that the true Church had to offer him. Jim's family begs your prayers so that his soul may now find the peace that had eluded him in life. †

See: <http://www.beresfordfunerals.com/Obits/PrintObit.html?id=106940>

