



Our New Pope

On March 13th, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Argentina was elected Pope, taking the name Francis. The pro-life community welcomed this great news. In this touching moment, the new Holy Father stopped the procession to his inaugural Mass to kiss and **ble**ss a **disabled** man. May his witness and courage challenge each of us to show a renewed respect for the most vulnerable among us.

Anniversary Dinner

On April 25th, Our Lady's House and Guiding Star Ministries will celebrate 45 years of combined service to women and children with a banquet at Old York Road Country Club. For more info, call Pat or Wendy Stanton at 215-885-2531.

It Was a Grand Day!

Over 50 members of the Pro-Life Union marched in the 2013 St. Patrick's Day Parade here in Philadelphia. The weather was great, and the crowd welcomed the pro-life message. Over 500 stickers and cards were distributed to the crowd by our youngest marchers!



Annunciation in Upper Darby

There was a presence in Upper Darby on the Feast of the Annunciation in spite of the snowy spring weather. Upper Darby residents were joined by citizens from the Greater Philadelphia area to stand against the opening of Planned Parenthood in the community. Thank you to all who braved the cold!



Abortion Report

We have available a recent report which summarizes the numbers provided by abortion companies to the State. Please call our office for a copy or visit our website to view the report. One interesting point in this year's report is that Planned Parenthood in Norristown reported 124 chemical abortions.

Safe Families for Children

Would you like to serve a pregnant or parenting teen or young woman without ever leaving your home? Bethany Christian Services is looking for families and singles to help with its Safe Families Young Moms Ministry. Volunteer Host Families complete a screening, training and approval process and then host a young mom and her baby for up to one year. During that time, the mother receives parenting education and developmental screenings for her child and participates in a monthly support group. Bethany's Family Coach helps the mother complete her education or find a job, obtain healthcare and other services, find long-term housing, and make plans for the future. If you have a spare bedroom, please consider contacting Jill Page at 215-376-6200 to learn more about Safe Families Young Moms. You will be a friend, mentor and role model in a family's life.

Understanding Marriage

Those of us who promote the traditional understanding of marriage as the exclusive, permanent relationship between one man and one woman have been accused of being unfair. But this debate is not about fairness or equality; it is about strengthening marriage and building a culture that helps to sustain marriage. Ryan Anderson has written an outstanding report published by the Heritage Foundation entitled "Marriage: What it is, Why it Matters and the Consequences of Redefining It." We encourage everyone to read the report. **"In redefining marriage to include same-sex couples, what you're doing is you're excluding the norm of sexual complementarity. Once you exclude that norm, the three other norms – which are monogamy, sexual exclusivity and permanency – become optional as well."** Please visit, www.heritage.org.

"He who made them from the beginning made them male and female..., for this reason, a man shall leave his mother and father and be joined to his wife and the two shall become one flesh." Science validates this scriptural truth. This marital union provides the best setting for the upbringing and guidance of children.

Planned Parenthood in Pa.

The Pa. Family Council reminds us of the huge presence of PP in our state. During 2012, this organization committed 16,813 abortions in Pa., which is 64% of all Pa. abortions and a 6% increase from 2011. Here in the Greater Philadelphia area, they committed 11,318 abortions. During 2012, their records indicated receiving \$6.5 million from taxpayers.

Birth Rate

Look for Jonathan Last's "What to Expect When No One's Expecting: America's Coming Demographic Disaster." To maintain a population, there must be a 2.18% birthrate. Even with help from immigrants, ours is now at 2.0%. The Sexual Revolution that replaced Judeo-Christian values continues to hurt.

Harrisburg Update

Meetings have been held recently with Lt. Gov. Cawley and Jennifer Branstetter, Director of the Governor's Policy Office. Pro-life and family leaders presented them with a number of needs. We are grateful for the positive work done by the Pa. Dept. of Health (DOH) and expect more inspections and penalties, including abortion facility closures. It has become apparent that "informed consent" is not being conducted legally.

We continue to work with groups throughout the State to promote pro-life and pro-family legislation. Obamacare Opt Out is first on our agenda, followed by the defunding of abortion providers, providing an ultrasound image for abortion-minded women, protecting marriage, stopping the cover-up of sexual predators and tightening abortion restrictions. Contact your State Reps and Senators and advise that you want more action. If needed, go to www.pasen.gov to identify your legislators. A similar contact could be made with Governor Corbett, 717-787-2500.

The Catholic Church

At the moment, the Roman Catholic Church runs 26% of all healthcare facilities in the world, 117,000 hospitals, clinics and orphanages, 18,000 pharmacies and 512 centers for those who suffer leprosy. In the U.S., they operate 911 hospitals and 418 orphanages. The Church remains a tireless defender of the most vulnerable in society.

Stop Federal Funding of PP

The federal government continues to send tax dollars to this group which abuses so many women, kills so many children, encourages our young to be sexually promiscuous and spreads so much disease. The current White House and U.S. Senate will continue this abomination. On 2-21-13, 71 federal legislators sent a letter to the U.S. Comptroller General asking for the results of the audit of these funds. Did PP spend these funds per federal regulations? Rep. Joe Pitts was the only local signer. Please contact our senators and federal reps. You might also ask why PP is funded, but not the Red Cross or Salvation Army.

Featured Organization:

Philadelphia Natural Family Planning Network

The Philadelphia Natural Family Planning Network is a ministry for persons dedicated to the promotion of Natural Family Planning (NFP). Their mission is to explain its practice, effectiveness, benefits and underlying moral principles as understood and taught by the Catholic Church. Since NFP is in accord with God's order of creation, we believe couples that practice NFP have stronger, healthier and more permanent marriages.

On Saturday, April 20th, they will hold the 11th Annual Philadelphia NFP Conference from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at St. Helena's Parish Hall, 1489 DeKalb Pike in Blue Bell, PA 19422. Speakers include Francis X. Maier, Theresa Notare, Ph.D., John Harden and Dr. Lester Ruppertsberger. For additional information, visit www.pnfpn.org.

Gosnell Trial

The trial of abortionist Gosnell continues. The details are gruesome but give insight into the reality of the abortion industry. Also, it should not be forgotten that the Phila. DOH, despite all the reports, never moved on Gosnell. He was being paid to kill babies, while abusing their mothers. Donald Schwarz, M.D., Deputy Mayor for Health, sent patients from his private practice to Gosnell.

Our blogger, Marybeth Hagan, made an important observation in her post last week. "If only those voices silenced or left suffering by Gosnell could break both the media's sound barrier and public ambivalence around this issue and widely expose abortion's barbarism beyond the courtroom in this case."

Conversion

Catherine Adair is another ex-PP worker who has left the industry. Her conversion journey from pro-abortion to pro-life took time. She stopped working at Planned Parenthood, married and had children years before she realized that abortion was wrong. Her children began attending Catholic school and slowly but surely, by God's grace, the love of her husband and the guidance of the Church opened her heart to healing. Catherine works for the pro-life cause in Massachusetts and volunteers with the Susan B. Anthony list. Thank you, Jesus, for another Paul.

"People are Waking Up"

These were the words of Arkansas State Sen. Rapert after the Arkansas House overrode the Governor's veto of a bill banning abortion after 12 weeks if a heartbeat is detected. PP and the ACLU are heading to federal court. In Alabama, the State Supreme Court ruled that a pre-born child is a person. The case involved two mothers who used illegal drugs during their pregnancies. Alabama law states that one may not expose a child to a controlled substance. Opposing attorneys argued that a pre-born child is not covered by law.

Legacy of Life Foundation

The Legacy of Life Foundation continues its unique and successful outreach to women through two centers. The centers are located in Philadelphia and Bucks County. The Centers minister to women facing an unexpected pregnancy who feel they have no choice but to have an abortion. The counselors are able to offer tangible support and real options. Many mothers choose life. The need for volunteers is great! E-mail Siobhan at siobhan@legacyoflifefoundation.org for details. Also visit www.legacyoflifefoundation.org.

