



/ProLifeUnion



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April 2014

Guided by a commitment to the sanctity of every life, the Pro-Life Union fosters a cohesive vision and strategy for a Culture of Life in Greater Philadelphia. Our beliefs are incarnated in the context of the family and through service to those making the choice for life.

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John Stanton (1927-2014)

The Love of the Irish



It was a grand day at the Philadelphia St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, March 16th. Over 150 members of the Pro-Life Union joined us in the parade. This was a great witness to the sanctity of every human life and we were blessed to join the many contingents celebrating their Irish Heritage. This year, we kept warm wearing the beautiful green scarves crafted by Wendy and Theresa Stanton. A special "shout-out" was given to our favorite Irishman, founder and friend, John Patrick Stanton, remembering him as a "champion of the unborn." It really was a great day for the Irish. To participate in other outreach events throughout the year, follow us on Twitter, like us on Facebook and keep reading our Updates! 😊

Saturdays for Life

Please consider making a commitment to being a witness at an abortion facility. This activity is a powerful witness against the injustice of abortion. As long as abortion remains legal, the pro-life community will be there to reach out to mothers. We have to be there for the unborn children in danger of losing their lives. Our faith and our humanity demand that we make one last plea to save women from the tragic decision of abortion.

If you have never prayed outside of an abortion facility before, and you do not know what to expect, we assure you that the time spent praying and giving witness is a time of amazing grace. A coordinator has been assigned to each Saturday and Sidewalk Counselors are present. Please commit to at least one Saturday this year. Don't stand on the sidelines while the greatest assault on human dignity in our time is taking place on the streets of our cities and towns. Call our office if you have questions or email us at mail@prolifeunion.org.

Healing and Hope

After 40 years of legalized abortion, it becomes clearer every day the damage that is done to a woman's emotional health. Denial of post-abortion syndrome by women's rights groups and some in the medical community, only compounds the pain of those who suffer from this syndrome. The reality is that abortion impacts the lives of women in profound and sometimes tragic ways. The women who speak about their abortions, and the healing and hope that is possible, are true prophets for our culture. To learn more about post-abortion healing, visit www.rachelsvineyard.org or www.hopeafterabortion.com.

Mark Your Calendars

- ✓ Good Friday, April 18th – Prayer Vigil at PP, 12th & Locust, 9-10 a.m. Call Patrick Stanton at 267-718-4851.
- ✓ Join Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, for "The Manhattan Declaration in Philadelphia", a religious liberty forum on May 2, 5:30-8:30pm at the National Constitution Center.
- ✓ Generation Life's Annual Banquet will be held on Saturday, June 21st, 2014 at the Plymouth Meeting Country Club. For tickets, information and sponsorship opportunities, please visit www.generationlife.org
- ✓ The 2014 Catholic Life Congress will be held on Saturday, November 1, 2014, 9am-4pm, at the Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel. The keynote speakers are Fr. Robert Spitzer, S.J. of the Magis Center of Reason and Faith and Curtis Martin of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS). Special pro-life speaker Gloria Purvis from EWTN will address "The New Evangelization and the Culture of Life" during her breakout session. Visit their website at www.PhillyCongress.org.

Drive for Life

This pro-life plate can be purchased for just \$44 and allows each of us to share the pro-life message while we are driving. It is a wonderful way to celebrate the sanctity of every life. Call Judi at 610-585-0324 or e-mail chooselifepa@gmail.com. The fee for the plate is \$44, \$24 goes to the DOT and \$20 will go to support the critical work of crisis pregnancy centers and homes.



Support the Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia's mission through a secure, recurring online monthly gift. Visit www.rally.org/prolifeunion to learn more, meet other supporters, and share our work with others.

Save the Date

It is never too early to mark your calendar for the biggest pro-life event in Philadelphia – the annual *Stand Up for Life Dinner*. We are so excited to have Ryan Bomberger as our guest speaker this year. Ryan’s biological mother was raped, yet courageously chose to continue the pregnancy, giving him life. He was adopted as a baby and was raised in a loving, multi-racial Christian family of 15, with siblings of varying ethnicities. Ryan founded the Radiance Foundation, which brings to light the staggering rate of abortion in the Black community, as well as the subject of adoption. The Dinner will be held at the Philadelphia Sheraton on Sunday, November 23rd, 2014.



Celebrating Life at Villanova

Villanovans for Life are celebrating their 40th Anniversary! This incredible group of students has been advocating and advancing the cause of human dignity and protecting the unborn on campus. This group has shown over the years that they are ready, willing and able to move out of their comfort zone and challenge other young adults to protect the unborn. Their annual Respect for Life Dinner will be held on Monday, April 28th in the Villanova Room of the Connelly Center – 5:00 p.m. cocktail hour, 6:00 dinner. This year’s keynote speaker is Fr. Richard Jacobs of Villanova University and Mr. John Stanton will posthumously receive the Respect for Life Award. For tickets: villanovansforlife@gmail.com.

Life Notes

- ☆ Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who is expected to be the frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016, believes that abortion restrictions hamper human progress, and any efforts to improve women’s rights must begin with increased access to contraception and abortion. Ms. Clinton addressed the United Nations for International Women’s Day stating, “There is one lesson from the past, in particular, that we cannot afford to ignore: You cannot make progress on gender equality or broader human development, without safeguarding women’s reproductive health and rights. That is a bedrock truth.” In Hillary’s world, the protection of women’s health is not that important, as dangerous contraceptive drugs are harming millions of women on a daily basis.
- ☆ Planned Parenthood is campaigning to enroll people in the ACA plans. The New York Times has even called Planned Parenthood “one of the most aggressive groups” going door-to-door to enroll individuals in ACA plans and reports indicate that Planned Parenthood affiliates received at least \$655,000 in “Navigator” funds to help with enrollment efforts.

Courageous Teen

A 16 year old pro-lifer was handing out informational pamphlets during a March 4th outreach event at the University of California in Santa Barbara when she was assaulted by feminist studies professor, Mireille Miller-Young. Miller-Young snatched a pro-life sign out of teenager Thrin Short’s hand and later pushed and grabbed at Short when she tried to retrieve the sign. “Before she grabbed the sign, she was mocking me and talking over me in front of the students, saying that she was twice as old as me and had three degrees, so they should listen to her and not me,” Short wrote in an email to FoxNews.com. “Then she started the chant with the students about ‘tear down the sign.’ When that died out, she grabbed the sign.” The professor’s faculty web page says that she specializes in black cultural studies and pornography. Short is asking that the professor be prosecuted. Campus police are now reviewing a video documenting the assault.

Running for Life

Tom O’Leary, teacher at Archbishop Ryan HS in Philadelphia, participated in the recent Second Annual A-Cross America Relay. This event is organized by the National Organization called Life Runners. Their mission is “Pray, fundraise and run/walk as a Team until we Cross the finish line that ends abortion. Heb 12:1-2.” To participate in an upcoming run or learn more about the group, visit their website at www.liferunners.org.

Prayer Request

We shared the good news with you last month that the Pro-Life Union is partnering with Heroic Media for an upcoming TV ad Campaign. We have been blessed with new volunteers for our Hotline as we expect that there will be an increase in calls. Women considering abortion are not doing so because they believe abortion is right or good, but they instead feel as if they have no other choice. Comforting women in crisis and then following up with tangible support and real facts about abortion, often makes the difference between life and death for a child.

All of this work and effort can only be sustained by prayer. We ask that all of you reading this pray for the Pro-Life Union, our volunteers, and most especially, for the women we encounter. Thank you!

Mourning the Lives Lost

The following table shows the number of abortions reported by abortion companies (hospitals are not included in this report) from the 4th Quarter of 2013. We mourn the lives lost, the women harmed and the communities impacted, and we commit to reaching out with the pro-life message until abortion becomes unthinkable!

Facility	1 st Trimester Abortions	2 nd Trimester Abortions	Total Abortions 4 th Quarter
Philadelphia Women’s Center	1,098	163	1,261
Planned Parenthood (Comly Road)	653	83	736
Planned Parenthood (Norristown)	118	0	118
Planned Parenthood (West Chester)	270	0	270
Planned Parenthood (Warminster)	205	0	205
Planned Parenthood (12 th & Locust)	1,257	25	1,282