



/ProLifeUnion
88 Pennsylvania Avenue, Oreland, PA, 19075
(215) 885-8150 | www.prolifeunion.org



/ProLifeUnion

June 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.

Board of Directors

Bill Wohlgenuth – President
Tom Shakely – Vice President
Fr. Chris Walsh – Spiritual Advisor
Nick Gibboni – Treasurer
Sandy Sasso – Secretary
Rick Auletta
Tom Holman
Regina O'Reilly
Patrick Stanton
John Stanton (1927-2014)

Celebrating Fatherhood

This year's guest speaker for the annual *Stand Up for Life Dinner* is Ryan Bomberger. The Dinner will be held at the Philadelphia Sheraton on Sunday, November 23rd, 2014. Details can be found on our website.

Ryan is the president of the Radiance Foundation, which addresses issues related to life and the family. Ryan is a passionate advocate for fatherhood and family. *"Family is the foundation of any society. We need our mothers AND fathers. Our nation is facing a crisis of fatherlessness – 41% of our nation's children grow up in homes without fathers (35.7% of white children and 72.3% of black children). Social science proves, time and time again, the crucial nature of intact two-parent married homes."* This June, celebrate and honor the great gift of fatherhood!



Pregnancy Hotline

In April, television ads reaching out to abortion-minded women began running in the Philadelphia area. The callers were directed to the pregnancy hotline answered by Pro-life Union volunteers. The volunteers did great work over the eight week campaign. It is truly amazing to encounter so many women simply looking for direction and support. Women often seek abortion because they feel they have no other choice, but kindness and offers of material support such as diapers, gift cards or help with rent can change a woman's decision. Lack of adequate housing, family support and financial resources are the most common reasons women give for considering abortion. If we can work together as a pro-life community to meet the physical needs of women in crisis, then we can invite them to seek the spiritual and emotional healing they need. The Pro-Life Union is so grateful to have partnered with Heroic Media and our area Pregnancy Centers to meet the needs of these women so that they can choose life. We have received almost 200 calls since the campaign began. Thank you all for your prayers and support during this campaign!

Upcoming Events

- ❖ March for Marriage: Join fellow pro-life and pro-family citizens at the Marriage March in Washington, D.C. on Thursday, June 19th, 2014. The day begins at 10:30 am and concludes at 2:00 pm. Archdiocesan buses will aim to arrive at 10:00 am for the rally. Visit www.phillycatholiclife.org/marchformarriage for more information and bus locations or to sponsor a seat.
- ❖ Monday, July 28, 2014: Dr. Kyle A. Beiter of the National Gianna Center will give a presentation entitled "NaPro Technology – Breakthrough Good News about Catholic Infertility Treatments" at St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church. Dr. Beiter is an obstetrician and gynecologist trained in NaPro Technology surgery.
- ❖ The 2014 Catholic Life Congress will be held on Saturday, November 1, 2014 from 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).

Pro-Life Prayer Vigil Schedule

- ✙ 3rd Friday - 8 a.m. Mass – Nativity of Our Lord, 625 W. Street Rd. (PP Warminster)
- ✙ 1st Saturday – 8:30 a.m. Mass – St. Laurence, Upper Darby (PP Upper Darby)
7 a.m. Mass – Christ the King, Morell & Chesterfield (PP Comly & Blvd.)
8 a.m. Mass – St. Agnes, West Chester (PP West Chester)
- ✙ 2nd Saturday – 8:30 a.m. Mass, Newman Chapel, U of P, 38th & Chestnut (Univ. of Pa., 3451 Walnut, Phila.)
- ✙ 3rd Saturday – 7 a.m. Mass – St. John, 13th & Market (PP, 12th & Locust)
- ✙ 4th Saturday – 6:30-9:00 a.m. – Philadelphia Women's Center, 8th & Cherry

A Pro-Life Summit

The Office of Life and Family is hosting the semi-annual Pro-Life Summit on July 19th, 2014. Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral Chapel of SS. Peter and Paul at 9:00am. The Summit will follow immediately at the Pastoral Center at 222 N. 17th St. It will focus on the alternatives network and resources here in the Philadelphia area. Amy Stoner of Catholic Social Services will be the guest speaker.

Shedding Light

On Good Friday, a few pro-life volunteers entered into a discussion with an angry supporter of abortion. He spoke repeatedly about the “services” offered by Planned Parenthood, focusing mainly on preventing unplanned pregnancy. When he was asked “Do you know how many abortions were done here at Planned Parenthood?,” he did not have the answer. He was surprised to hear that 5,652 children lost their lives in the year 2013. Abortion is a contentious subject, and the defenders of the practice prefer to keep the conversation about “choice” and “women’s rights.” We can easily be led into various conversations about the issues surrounding abortion, but by remaining focused on the lives lost, we shine a light on the tragedy of abortion and hearts can be open to change. Below is a chart showing the number of abortions performed in our own neighborhoods and towns.

Facility	Abortions	Hospital	Abortions
Philadelphia Women’s Center	5,152	Abington	67
Planned Parenthood (Comly Road)	3,311	Crozier Chester	3
Planned Parenthood (Norristown) (non-surgical)	536	Einstein	297
Planned Parenthood (West Chester)	1,079	Hahneman	17
Planned Parenthood (Warminster)	939	Jefferson	26
Planned Parenthood (12 th & Locust)	5,652	Main Line Health	68
<i>Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health</i>		Phoenixville	22
		Pennsylvania & University of Pennsylvania	448
Total Abortions Greater Philadelphia Area : 17,617			

Life and Family News

- Pennsylvania’s Defense of Marriage Act was struck down by a federal district court on May 21st. Pro-family groups were deeply disappointed at the decision of the Corbett administration not to appeal the decision. To learn more about the issue of marriage and how to get involved in activities to protect and promote marriage please visit: www.pafamily.org and www.pacatholic.org.
- LifeNews.com reports that Ke’Ontai, a 17 year old high school student in Alabama, was handing out Student’s for Life cards that read “Abortion is not Social Justice,” when an angry man, whose wife had just had an abortion, started punching him in the face and broke his nose. When asked if he would file a police report, Ke’Ontai replied that he just wants pro-lifers across the nation to pray for the man and his wife.



Healing and Hope

Memorial Day weekend was an appropriate time for two post abortive women from Rachel’s Vineyard ministry to speak about the healing experienced at a Rachel’s Vineyard retreat. They invited those in the pews at SS. Simon and Jude Church who have been suffering from the after effects of abortion to be healed by the unconditional love, mercy and forgiveness of Our Lord in a safe and compassionate place. The message was offered not only for those suffering but also for others who may know someone suffering from post-abortion pain. There is a battle being waged for the souls of women and men who feel that they are unworthy of God’s forgiveness because of their abortion. They cannot forgive themselves and are living in a silent life of hell and fear. Rachel’s Vineyard has begun their campaign to speak in churches, reaching out to the people in the pews with the good news of God’s mercy and love. Contact Gerry Simboli at [\(610\) 399- 0890](tel:6103990890) to request a presentation at your parish.

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.