



/ProLifeUnion



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July 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.

Gratitude and Joy

A few weeks ago, the Pro-Life Union shared news with our activist list via email that a client and her three children were displaced by a fire in their home. She was devastated and lost the few things they had. We were so overwhelmed by the generosity of our friends and supporters. Clothing and food were delivered along with monetary donations and gift cards. We are so happy to report that your gifts enabled this young mother and her children to find a suitable home to rent. Thank you so much for your prayers and sacrifices.



Outreach Committee

Over the last months, we have shared information about our efforts to increase a prayerful presence at Planned Parenthood and the Philadelphia Women's Center. The Outreach Committee has been established and the members commit to attending vigils and also help determine new innovative ways to reach mothers in need. Business sized cards with information are being given to women. Our message is simple *"We don't know all the reasons that brought you to the clinic today, but we are sorry that you feel like abortion seems like a solution. We are here because we want you to know that there is help available and all types of support. Please reconsider your decision and talk with one of our counselors. Abortion will impact your life and it will hurt your child."* Our Hotline number is listed.

Main Line Health

On Thursday, June 5th, the Open Board Meeting of Main Line Health heard a plea from the pro-life community about the sanctity of life. Author Brian Gail, spoke to the board about following our consciences and choosing to do what we know in our hearts is right and good. Main Line Health still allows abortions at their hospitals which include Paoli, Lankenau and Bryn Mawr Hospitals. A special thanks to John Paul Hayes for organizing this effort in his community.

Celebrating Service



Our Church Representatives serve as ambassadors of the pro-life message and the work of the Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia in their parish communities. They give their time and talent to organize activities on Mother's Day, Respect Life Sunday and other occasions throughout the year. Serving as a Church Rep is great way to become more involved in your parish and also our work here at the Pro-Life Union. We could not do our work without them and our amazing group of regular volunteers who help us at the office!

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

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.

Upcoming Events

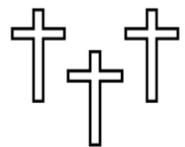
- **July 19th, 2014:** The Office of Life and Family is hosting the semi-annual Pro-Life Summit. Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral Chapel of SS. Peter and Paul at 9:00 a.m. The Summit will follow immediately at the Pastoral Center at 222 N. 17th St. These gatherings are a wonderful time for the pro-life community to gather and share information, thoughts and fellowship. The focus of the summit this July will be the Alternatives Network in our Philadelphia area. Amy Stoner will speak about the work of Catholic Family Services. Please join us!
- **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 (Sellersville). Dr. Beiter is an obstetrician and gynecologist trained in NaPro Technology surgery.
- **Save the Date** – On September 28th, 2014 the “Walk for Life” will be held in Center City at Love Park. Participants will join in a short walk beginning at 3:30pm followed by a Rally with national and local speakers focusing on the dignity of Life. The event will precede the annual Archdiocesan Respect Life Mass.

Noteworthy News

- ♥ Austin, Texas pro-lifers are rejoicing over a federal district court ruling reversing a 2012 City Council ordinance favoring abortion providers. This ordinance required pregnancy resource centers that do not offer or refer for abortions to post signs announcing this fact. The ability to speak with abortion-minded women has saved so many lives. Many seeking abortion are unaware of the resources available to them and when they learn of the support available, they choose life for their children. Congratulations, Austin!
- ♥ The King's Men Catholic Apostolate offers the Samson Retreat, a healing outreach for men seeking purpose in their pain. Whether it is pornography, abortion, bullying, divorce, or countless other normalized forms of trauma and abuse, the human person made in the image and likeness of God yearns for a healing encounter with Christ the Divine Physician. Offering the Sacramental Life of the Church amidst a supportive brotherhood, the Samson Retreat aims to be a vehicle driving this necessary healing encounter. The fatherless culture we live in will end only when this generation of men reclaims their name in the Father. To learn more about the upcoming Samson Retreat visit the website www.samsonretreat.com.
- ♥ LifeNews.com reports that in a unanimous decision on June 26, 2014, the Supreme Court struck down a Massachusetts buffer zone law prohibiting pro-life free speech outside abortion clinics. The decision is a huge victory for pro-life sidewalk counselors who provide women with abortion alternatives. The decision strikes down a Massachusetts law that created a 35-foot “buffer zone” restricting pro-life advocates from speaking with people entering abortion facilities. Praise God!

Memorial Crosses

A special way to remember the lives of the 56 million children who have lost their lives through the tragedy of abortion is the Memorial Cross display at local churches. The display consists of 56 small white crosses and a sign indicating that each cross represents one million abortions in our country since the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling. We have encountered many positive reactions to the crosses. Women who are mourning the loss of their own children have left flowers at the displays and one young man said that after seeing them, he and his girlfriend changed their minds about aborting their baby. The Pro-Life Union will deliver the crosses to a church, install and then pick them up. They remain at a church for approximately one month. Please consider asking your pastor to host the crosses at your church. They are a very powerful image and an education tool for passersby.



Save the Date!

It may seem early to start planning for our annual *Stand Up For Life Dinner*, but it will be here before we know it! This year's Dinner will be held on Sunday, November 23rd at the Philadelphia Sheraton. Our guest speaker will be Ryan Bomberger. Ryan's biological mother was raped, yet courageously chose to continue her pregnancy, giving him life. He was adopted as a baby and was raised in a loving, 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 gives us a chance to gather with pro-lifers for a night of fellowship and fun. Ticket prices are \$60 per person. A table of ten will be discounted to \$550. Student tickets are just \$40.

Also, our Dinner Program Book is an excellent way to support our work. More information will follow in next month's Update.