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March 2015

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. We work in the four critical areas of the pro-life movement outreach, education, public policy, and alternatives.

Celebrating Family



The Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia will join the Philadelphia St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, March 15, 2015, beginning at noon. This annual community event celebrates Irish Culture and honors St. Patrick. The St. Patrick's Day Observance Committee has chosen a beautiful and fitting theme for this year's parade; "St. Patrick Bless, Strengthen and Pray for Our Families." In our families and homes, we experience love, joy and learn how to interact with each other. The family is the foundation for our communities and our society. The Parade is always a fun family event and a great opportunity to joyfully celebrate the culture of life. The Pro-Life Union is in Division 1 and will meet at 11a.m. on the North Side of JFK between 16th & 17th Sts.

Upcoming Events

- **JOIN ST. ANDREW RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY** for a Lenten Series of "**Life Affirming Seminars**" to be held during March (March 2, 9, 16, 23). All presentations will be held at 7:00 p.m. in Monsignor McGettigan Hall - Foss Ave. & School Lane, Drexel Hill, PA. Mr. Steven Bozza, Director of the Office of Life & Family, will be the Main Speaker. Light Refreshments will be served. More Information: [610-259-1169](tel:610-259-1169)
- **Thursday, March 19th from 9am -3pm. End of Life Decision Making Retreat.** Retreat Director: Mr. Steven Bozza. Topics include The Power of Redemptive Suffering and Life Affirming Choices: End of Life Decision Making. Cost: \$35. Malvern Retreat House
- **Wednesday, March 25th, 7 p.m.** – Premier of the groundbreaking film, "NaPro, A Woman's Alternative." Immaculate Conception, 600 West Ave., Jenkintown. A Q&A session with Dr. Monique Ruberu will follow. Registration requested, visit www.fertilitycarefriends.org or call Barbara at 215-884-2922.
- **Friday, April 10th from 6-10:30 p.m. The King's Men Spring Gala** at the Blue Bell Country Club with Dinner & Dancing, a Silent Auction and Live Art Exhibition. Contact mark@thekingsmen.org or call 267-980-5507.

Life Notes

- Pro-Lifers in Ireland responded to the recently introduced Bill that would allow for abortions on children with disabilities by launching the *Compatible with Life, Compatible with Love* campaign. Pro- abortion forces in Ireland continue to push their agenda further, by implying that children with disabilities are "incompatible with life." This misleading language dehumanizes people and hurts the many families that care for loved ones who are profoundly disabled.
- In February, the Canadian Supreme Court overturned the 1993 ban on doctor-assisted suicide and gave federal and provincial governments a year to work out details that will affect individuals who wish to bring about their own death.
- According to a recent report from Life News, a measure designed to ban sex-selection abortions was defeated by the British Parliament. Fiona Bruce, a Conservative MP, introduced the measure after an undercover newspaper investigation revealed that some doctors were offering abortions based on gender.
- In West Virginia, a state Senate committee passed a bill to ban abortions after 20 weeks. In Kansas, the Senate approved SB 95, the Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Abortion Act.

Choose the Day

The Greater Philadelphia area pro-life movement is participating in multiple 40 Days for Life Campaigns, which are already making an impact. The Campaign began on February 18th and continues through March 28th. In our area, campaigns will be held in West Chester, Norristown and Philadelphia. Please visit the website www.40daysforlife.com for details about your local campaign. The Pro-Life Union is working with churches in Greater Philadelphia to ensure that the hours are covered at Planned Parenthood, 12th and Locust Sts. The hours for the Philly Campaign are Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm, and Saturday, 8 am to 4 pm. Please contact Monique Ruberu at roobearoo@hotmail.com or call Patrick Stanton at 267-718-4851 to choose your day.



Member Organization Spotlight

"The mission of the Terri Schiavo Life & Hope Network is to develop a national network of resources and support for the medically-dependent, persons with disabilities and the incapacitated who are in or potentially facing life-threatening situations." The Pro-Life Union is blessed to partner with this incredible organization. After Terri Schiavo's death, her family formed the Life and Hope Network and since that time they have assisted countless individuals and families. Terri's Day will be held on **Tuesday, March 31, 2015** and will mark the 10 Year Anniversary of Terri's death. Mass will be celebrated at 5 pm at the Cathedral Basilica, followed by the Third Annual Life and Hope Award Gala at the Union League of Philadelphia at 6:30 pm Glenn Beck is the honored speaker. Call 215-948-3863 or visit www.lifeandhope.com.

Life Action Day

Planned Parenthood is looking to cash in on their investment in Governor Tom Wolf - a former clinic escort to the abortion giant - by rallying at the Capitol for abortion rights and lobbying state officials on their "Day of Action." The Pro-life and pro-family movement plans to respond to their misguided efforts. The Pro-Life Union is encouraging everyone to join the Pennsylvania Family Institute in bringing a presence to the Capitol by offering a fact-based, pro-life message to lawmakers and the media. Your help is needed to make this happen:

1. **Please join pro-life Pennsylvanians and attend the Life Action Day on Monday April 13th** - which will consist of a rally in the Main Rotunda of the PA Capitol starting at 11:30am and visits with State Representatives and Senators.
2. **Use your voice leading into April 13 to make our message loud and clear** through email and social media by spreading facts and infographics.

Visit www.pafamily.org or email dbart@pafamily.org or call [717-545-0600](tel:717-545-0600) for details. Follow the Pro-Life Union on Twitter and Facebook and consider the ways that you can invest in this effort.

Education Committee

The Education Committee of the Pro-Life Union will began meeting in February and we are establishing priorities for this upcoming year. We are collaborating with other organizations and individual members to address the areas where education is most needed. Our members have expressed an interest in attending educational seminars on Culture of Life issues hosted by the Pro-Life Union. A Sidewalk Counseling seminar is being planned for the spring so that we can speak more effectively to those entering abortion facilities. We are also creating an educational brochure similar to our alternatives brochure which will address End of Life issues.

Pennsylvania's Abortion Control Act

Rep. Kathy Rapp recently hosted a gathering of pro-life groups from across the state in Harrisburg and presented an information session to new House Members about the existing legislation that protects women and children in our state from abortion. Section 3204 of the Abortion Control Act states: ***Abortion prohibited; exceptions. No abortion shall be performed except by a physician after either:***

- (1) *he determines that, in his best clinical judgment, the abortion is necessary; or*
- (2) *he receives what he reasonably believes to be a written statement signed by another physician, hereinafter called the "referring physician," certifying that in this referring physician's best clinical judgment the abortion is necessary."* Sex selection is specifically illegal. We are grateful the Pennsylvania citizens and legislators who fought to restrict abortion in Pennsylvania. While, the abortion industry aims to convince women and society that abortion is a "right," it is important to know and share with others that our state does not actually view abortion as a "right," but instead understands that women deserve protection from abortion.



Protecting Life

There have been some recent moves in the State Legislature to weaken Pennsylvania's policy against doctor-proscribed suicide. We urge all citizens to ask your Rep not to co-sponsor Rep. Mark Rozzi's CARE Act and contact your Senator, asking him or her not to co-sponsor Daylin Leach's "Death with Dignity" Act. These acts will "assist" people in ending their own lives. This does not give them dignity, nor is it caring. When the human person is suffering and in pain or need, we reach out to them with love, not encourage them to hasten their own death. That is an act of utter despair and violates the dignity of the human person. Those that deny the sanctity of life are vocal in the media. It is easy for all of us to start to believe that ending the life of someone who is suffering is an act of "mercy" and that failing to do so is cruel or mean. But, we have to fight against this mentality and speak against this false notion of compassion.

Support the Pro-Life Union

The Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia is so grateful for all of our members and supporters. Your generous donations, fervent prayers and words of encouragement are a true gift to the staff, the Board of Directors and most especially, to those we are able to help. At times, the task can seem daunting, but the Lord continues to bless our work and His grace changes hearts and saves lives! Thank you for being a member of the Pro-Life Union!!

Support the Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia's mission through a secure, recurring online monthly gift. Visit www.prolifeunion.org to learn more and share our work with others. The Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia is a 501(c) 3 organization!