



/ProLifeUnion



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**April 2015**

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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 areas of the pro-life movement: outreach, education, public policy, and alternatives.

## Are we ready?

Last year, when the beautiful young woman, Brittany Maynard, took her own life, the media and advocates for assisted suicide hailed her as a hero. Her courage and individualism were celebrated. In a recent article in the Washington Post, a commentator noted "the country is ready," for assisted suicide. Older people, the sick and disabled are being convinced that their very existence is a burden. To many, the thought of needing or depending on others is repugnant and frightening.

It is absolutely critical for the pro-life community to oppose the growing support for suicide by responding with love and truth. Every human person has dignity and value. Suicide is not an act of compassion, but is an act of utter despair. We are all members of a community, and every act of violence and suicide inflicted on ourselves or another hurts the community. Talk with your family and friends, your community and, mostly especially, those at risk, and encourage them to see the beauty, joy and purpose of each and every life.

## Upcoming Events

- **Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> from 6 p.m.-10:30 p.m. The King's Men Spring Gala** at the Blue Bell Country Club with Dinner & Dancing with a Silent Auction. Contact [mark@thekingsmen.org](mailto:mark@thekingsmen.org) or call 267-980-5507.
- **Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup> Villanovans for Life Annual Dinner**. Cocktail reception at 5 p.m., Dinner at 6 p.m. Speaker is Robert George. Contact [villanovansforlife@gmail.com](mailto:villanovansforlife@gmail.com).
- **Thursday April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. High School Spring Rally** sponsored by the Office for Life and Family with the Culture Project. St. Charles Seminary College Auditorium. Call 215-587-0500.
- **Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> - Join The Culture Project** for Mass and Brunch. Keynote speaker is **Lila Rose** of Live Action. Mass will be held at 11:30 a.m. at the Immaculate Conception Chapel on the campus of St. Charles Seminary. Brunch immediately follows in the Eakin Room. Our main celebrant for mass is Fr. Tom DeSimone. Tickets are \$35/ person and \$25/ for students, religious and clergy. For ticket information, please visit [www.restoreculture.com](http://www.restoreculture.com) or call 800.315.8684 ext 4.
- **Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m. Marriage and Family Lecture**: Reviving Marriage: The Commitment Factor. Speaker: Dr. Hilary Towers, Catholic author and developmental psychologist. St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Vianney Hall Auditorium. Lecture is free and open to the public.

## Life Notes

- According to Lifenews.com, House Republicans are committed to bringing the pro-life bill to ban abortions after 20 weeks back to the House floor for a vote.
- In Montana, the House passed House Bill 477, which would prohibit physician-assisted suicide within the current state law that prohibits "aiding or soliciting suicide." The Bill will now move on to the Senate.
- According to Majella Pregnancy Centers in Ireland, lives are being saved by the use of ultrasounds when they are provided for women who are considering abortion. In the experience of their counselors, four out of five women will reject abortion when they are able to see their unborn child on a scan.
- Pennsylvania Senator Pat Toomey has signed on as a co-sponsor of the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act (S. 582). The bill codifies a permanent, government-wide policy against taxpayer subsidies for abortion and abortion coverage. It also requires health plans offered under the Affordable Care Act to disclose the extent of their coverage for abortion and the amount of any surcharge for that coverage to consumers.

## Thank you

Forty Days for Life was amazing! We extend our heartfelt thanks to all of the churches, parishes, groups and individuals who participated in the recent campaign. Thanks most especially to Monique and Patrick for coordinating and ensuring the hours were covered. A unique aspect of 40 Days for Life is the way in which it facilitates conversations with customers and clients as well as those in the community.

Sometimes the encounters are difficult and challenging, but those who join the campaign rely on God's grace, share factual information and invite those who disagree to reconsider abortion. Please pray for the women who had a change of heart and are now in need of support and courage to continue their pregnancies. We plan to maintain prayer and witness at Planned Parenthood in Center City in the coming months. The Center City location is the headquarters of the abortion company and in the last three months of 2014, **1,192** children lost their lives.



## Celebrating Family

The Pro-Life Union proudly participated in the Philadelphia St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 15<sup>th</sup>. It was a beautiful day and congratulations are extended to the parade organizers and participants. This year's theme "St. Patrick, bless, strengthen and pray for our families," was wonderfully shown in the incredible floats and displays created by the different groups. The Pro-Life Union was chosen as the recipient of the Phillip 'Knute' Bonner Award "given to the outstanding organization dedicated to preserve our freedom and protect us through sacrifice and compassion for others."



## Reaching Women

The Pro-Life Union's pregnancy hotline continues to be a resource for the pro-life community and the phone number is publicized on pamphlets, cards and outside of churches. The Hotline has been in existence for over thirty years and so many lives have been saved. Our volunteers respond to the questions, needs and concerns of the callers with candor, kindness and support. When a woman calls seeking abortion, we ask simply if she would like to talk about why abortion feels like her only option. Most women open up and share the details of their situation and admit that deep inside, they believe abortion is wrong, but they are not sure what to do. The pro-life community must be ready, willing and able to remove or alleviate the barriers that exist in women's lives. Sometimes that means simply being a sense of support or helping with schooling. One mother we are working with just needed to know that she was not alone and is so comforted by our offers of a new crib, baby clothes and diapers. Many others need a sense of community and lack adequate housing. The Pro-Life Union works with mothers to ensure that women will have safe place to live. We partner with pregnancy homes and also offer individual aid to women to cover their housing costs. Our Hotline is beacon of hope and lifeline for many. The number is 610-626-4006!

## Wondering what to do with that unused Gift Card?

In November, the NY Post reported that 750 million dollars in Gift Cards will go unused! Is there an unused Gift Card in your wallet or on your desk? When the cards are donated to the PLU, we are able to pass them onto families in need. So, please feel free to mail them to our office and we promise they will be put to good use!

## Bottle of the Month Club

The Pro-Life Union is starting a new program which gives families an opportunity to support our mission by placing loose change and bills in one of our colorful, decorated baby bottles. A bottle will be sent or delivered to you and you can keep it at your home for a month or two at which time you could send us a check for the total of the money collected or we can come to pick them up! This is a great way for the whole family to get involved and the money will be used to further the Culture of Life. Call us to become a member of the Bottle of the Month Club!



## "D's House"

Recently at a middle school basketball game in Kenosha, Wisconsin, some of the spectators began to taunt cheerleader Desiree Andrews, who has Down Syndrome. Three brave young men on the team walked off of the court in the middle of their game to show their support for Desiree, who they affectionately refer to as "D." Since then, several students have taken Desiree under their wings, walking her to class and helping her out at school. The gymnasium where the incident took place is now known as "D's House," which Desiree calls "sweet, kind, awesome and amazing." We think so too.

## Training

Please attend our upcoming Sidewalk Counseling Training to be held in April at our office in Oreland. Please call our office or contact us through email at [mail@prolifeunion.org](mailto:mail@prolifeunion.org) for details. This training is very helpful for those who witness and pray outside of abortion facilities. You will learn about the help that is available to women and be given tips on the best way to approach women and offer support.

## The Drop Box

A beautiful, inspirational pro-life movie is in theaters now. *The Drop Box* is a film which tells the story of South Korean pastor Lee Jong-rak and his heroic efforts to protect the most vulnerable members of society – the orphans who are placed in a "drop box" by mothers who feel that they cannot raise them. It is a story of hope and a reminder that every human life is sacred and worthy of love.

## In Memory

In January, Patricia Ann Durkin passed away. She was the beloved wife of Anthony, and a friend of the Pro-Life Union. We are deeply grateful for the kind and generous memorial gift given in her honor!

Support the Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia's mission through a secure, recurring online monthly gift.  
The Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia is a 501(c) 3 organization!