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July 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 affairs, and alternatives.

## Independence Day



As Americans gather to celebrate the Declaration of Independence this July 4<sup>th</sup>, we are reminded that “all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that chief among these are Life,

Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness...” Over 56 million citizens have been denied the right to life since 1973. Let us pray, work and act so that the right to life is once again restored to the unborn child.

## Stand Up for Life Dinner

The Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia is excited to announce that Damon Owens, Executive Director of the Theology of the Body Institute, will be our guest speaker for the 2015 *Stand Up For Life Dinner* on November 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel. Damon is an internationally known speaker at conferences, seminars, and universities on the good news of marriage, sexuality, and adoption. We sell out early, so watch for reservation details on our website.

## Upcoming Events

- July 18<sup>th</sup>: Pro-Life Vigil, Mass and Summit. Vigil at 7:30am at Planned Parenthood 12<sup>th</sup> & Locust. Mass at 9am at the Cathedral Chapel with a Summit “Celebrating Family” immediately following at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center.
- September 17<sup>th</sup>: Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia Annual Open Board Meeting.

*“The Supreme Court’s 5-4 decision on marriage is not a surprise. The surprise will come as ordinary people begin to experience, firsthand and painfully, the impact of today’s action on everything they thought they knew about marriage, family life, our laws and our social institutions. The mistakes of the court change nothing about the nature of men and women, and the truth of God’s Word. The task now for believers is to form our own families even more deeply in the love of God, and to rebuild a healthy marriage culture, one marriage at a time, from the debris of today’s decision.”*

+Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.  
Archbishop of Philadelphia

## With Gratitude

For almost 20 years, on the Friday before Mother’s Day, the Pro-Life Union office space turns into a beautiful floral shop! Our partnering churches participate in our Mother’s Day activities which includes offering live flowers at churches after all of the Masses on Mother’s Day weekend. Over 10,000 roses and carnations are ordered, along with pro-life pins, bumper stickers, bracelets and other items. This activity is a great way to gain support for the mission of the Pro-Life Union as we EDUCATE about pro-life issues in our Mother’s Day Bulletin, engage in PUBLIC AFFAIRS, invite others to join us in OUTREACH, and encourage support for ALTERNATIVES.

We receive so many heartwarming stories about the parishioners and school children who are a part of this life-saving work. Our rep from St. Joseph’s in Warrington was handing out materials when a young woman and her grandmother came by. The young woman stated that she was “pro-choice.” After Mass, our rep gathered some of our brochures and gave them to the woman, who accepted them. Perhaps a heart was changed that day. We were also blessed by a baby bottle drive hosted by angels. The students of Queen of Angels School in Willow Grove collected almost \$800! And a few of our parishes, including Mary, Mother of the Redeemer, St. Albert the Great and St. Dominic’s, took a leap of faith by offering flowers *and* holding baby bottle campaigns and the generosity of the parishioners was absolutely amazing! We are so thankful to our church reps, pastors, volunteers and deliverers for making the whole day come together without a hitch!



Support the Pro-Life Union with a secure, online monthly gift.

Visit [www.prolifeunion.org](http://www.prolifeunion.org)

The Pro-Life Union is a 501c 3 organization.

## Fall 40 Days for Life

The Fall 40 Days for Life Campaign begins on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 nationwide. Here in the Philadelphia area, the campaign begins the same week that we welcome the World Meeting of Families and look forward to a visit from Pope Francis. The Outreach Committee of the Pro-Life Union is again hosting a campaign at the Center City location of Planned Parenthood. Campaigns will also take place in West Chester, Warminster and Collegeville. If you are an organizer for your area, please contact us with details and we will be certain to list you in Upcoming Newsletters.

## Stories from the Sidewalk

The hustle and bustle of Center City is the background to quiet conversations about life and choices whenever we engage in sidewalk counseling. Most women happily take the cards explaining fetal development and many are open to talking with us for a few minutes. Women share their reasons for visiting and most are unaware that over 5,000 abortions are performed at Planned Parenthood in Center City each year. Inevitably, they grimace when we share this truth. One young woman shared the problems caused by the birth control she had been using, which included panic attacks and depression. She welled up as we confirmed that others experienced the same side effects. Planned Parenthood promises easy access to birth control and abortion. They sell sex without commitment and convince too many that there won't be any side effects. But, when we listen to the experiences of many women, another story is told - one of regret and pain. And, so we pray and we witness and listen, trusting that by doing so, their lives and ours, can be transformed.

On May 29<sup>th</sup>, Marty Moss-Coane at RadioTimes invited the Pro-Life Union to join a segment which discussed a new book about abortion doctors. The Pro-Life Union joined the conversation to share the truth about our commitment to reaching women as they enter abortion facilities. We believe that through a loving witness those working in the abortion industry can and will be changed by God's grace.

## Heartfelt Thanks

The Pro-Life Union is grateful to Nick Gibboni for his years of service on our Board of Directors. Nick served as our treasurer for 8 years and shared his many gifts to help strengthen the Pro-Life Union. We are so happy that Nick and his wife Nicole are staying involved through service on the Stand Up for Life Dinner Committee.

## The Man with the Golden Arm



Some pregnant moms are affected by a very serious condition known as rhesus isoimmunization, or RH Disease. It occurs when the mother has an RH negative blood type and the baby is RH positive. This condition has caused heartbreak to so many, as it can cause miscarriage.

Enter James Harrison. This 78 year old Australian has a rare blood type that enabled doctors to develop the Anti-D injection, which can protect babies from this affliction. When James was age 14, he required major surgery and had to receive almost two gallons of donated blood. He vowed at that time that he would return the favor and began giving blood as soon as he could at the age of 18. For the past 60 years, James has donated blood plasma, which has been used to save an estimate **2 million** babies' lives! He is known as the "Man with the golden arm," but we think of him as the "Man with the golden heart," saving each of these precious pre-born babies.

Thanks to Abington Friends High School for inviting us to speak with the juniors and seniors this past April about the politics of abortion. The class challenged us with great questions and we are grateful for the opportunity to share the message of dignity of each person with the students!

The Pro-Life Union participated in the EWTN nightly news show with Susanne LaFrankie on the impact of the Gosnell case and why it is critical to strictly enforce all legislation regarding abortion. The segment was filmed at Gosnell's former facility, which remains closed.

Tune into EWTN's "Life on the Rock" on July 31st. The Culture Project International, a member organization of the Pro-Life Union, will be featured.



*"The care of human life and not its destruction...is the first and only legitimate object of good government."*