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## November 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.

### Almost Dinner Time!



The 2015 Stand Up For Life Dinner is right around the corner and as usual, seats are selling fast! This year's Dinner will be held on Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Philadelphia Sheraton Hotel. Cocktail hour begins at 4:30 p.m. with dinner at 5:30 p.m. We are excited about our keynote speaker, Damon Owens, Executive Director of Theology of the Body Institute, who has appeared on many national television shows, including ABC World News Tonight and was presented the honor of speaking at the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia. Adult tickets are \$65. A table of ten is discounted to \$600. All student tickets are \$40. Send your reservations in now so that you can be a part of the largest annual pro-life event in Greater Philadelphia!

### Run, Baby Run

Our team for the Philadelphia Marathon, Half Marathon, and 8k are running the annual event on November 22 – the morning of the Stand Up for Life dinner - to raise funds and awareness for the pro-life movement in Philadelphia. To support the team or an individual runner, visit [www.prolifeunion.org/marathon](http://www.prolifeunion.org/marathon).

### Saying Goodbye to Old Friends

It is always sad to say goodbye to our loved ones, friends and compadres in the pro-life movement. We recently lost two of the great pro-lifers in our area. Teresa Snyder worked tirelessly in Bucks County to further the Culture of Life. Teresa was one of the original members of the Pro-Life Union and she was never afraid to challenge local government to do the right thing. Frank Stackhouse was another true-blue friend of the Pro-Life Union. Frank, along with his good friend, Howard Walton, came to our office twice a year to pick up and deliver bulletins, flowers and other pro-life items to several parishes for Mother's Day and Respect Life Sunday. Both were a great presence throughout the year witnessing at abortion facilities and speaking for the cause of Life. We are reminded of some words from Revelations 14:13 – "*they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.*" We will miss them. A Mass of Remembrance for the deceased members of our pro-life family will be held on Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m. at St. Anastasia Church, 3301 West Chester Pike, Newtown Square. Rosary begins at 7:45 p.m.

### Great Stories from Our Members



This October, we celebrated the Pope's visit to Philadelphia, the World Meeting of Families, and 40 Days for Life, and we have heard some wonderful, uplifting stories from our members. Carol Peszka and Ann Marie Beaver from the Respect Life Group at IHM parish attended Mass at the Cathedral during the WMF and were thrilled to meet Dr. Gianna Molla, daughter of St. Gianna Beretta Molla. St. Gianna

heroically gave her own life to save that of her fourth child, Gianna. She is the patron saint for mothers, physicians and unborn children.

At the Life Chain held near the Warminster Planned Parenthood, our church representative Louise Travis noticed a man kneeling and praying alone. A friend of hers snapped this photograph and later spoke with the man, who said that he lived in Harrisburg, but was visiting his son nearby. He said that he never misses the Life Chains held on Respect Life Sunday and he went online to find one in our area. We really appreciate the dedication of our pro-life friends!



### Text Option for Hotline

Our Pregnancy Hotline is now able to accept text messages from women facing an unexpected pregnancy. Please pray for the many mothers who need support and help! Text Number: 610-626-4006.

## November is Adoption Awareness Month

The pro-life community does an amazing job of helping women facing unplanned pregnancies. We can help even more women facing unintended pregnancies and their unborn babies by promoting adoption as an option. By learning more about the beauty of adoption and the Domestic Infant Adoption process, we can help increase the number of women choosing adoption over abortion when parenting is not an option. On the heels of the World Meeting of Families, it is so important to know that the mission of adoption is love. Adoption is about families helping families. Everyone involved in the adoption process (the birth parents, the adoptive parents and the unborn child) becomes 'fully alive' by this choice.

### Did you know?

- Domestic Infant Adoption is very different than adoptions through the foster care system
- Newborn babies go home from the hospital with their adoptive families
- Families are ready and waiting to adopt children

Birth mothers can decide ahead of time what kind of future contact they would like to have with their chosen family after their baby is born (pictures, letters, visits etc.) Wonderful ongoing relationships are often formed between the birth parents and adoptive families that allow women to feel good about their decision and to continue to see their child grow and thrive in a happy loving environment.

A good adoption agency will provide comprehensive support to women and their families. This can include the following:

- Financial assistance as needed during the pregnancy and for some period of time after the baby is born...living expenses, groceries, rent, maternity clothes etc.
- 24/7 counseling is available to birth mothers
- Help with resume building to help secure jobs during or after the baby is born.



**Thanks to our member organization *Adoption Is A Loving Option***, for this post! They educate high school students, groups and organizations on the truth about adoption, free of charge. There are many myths and misconceptions surrounding adoption. Their goal is to spread the truth and beauty of adoption as far and as wide as possible. Contact them to find out more and to schedule a talk - [www.adoptionisalovingoption.org](http://www.adoptionisalovingoption.org) or find them on Facebook.

## A Promise for Life

As 40 Days for Life winds down here and throughout the country, we know much good has been done. About two days ago, a woman called our hotline. She had encountered a team of prayers who gave her a brochure. Miraculously, she took the brochure and then had the courage to call. She shared with the hotline counselor that she already had two children and abortion seemed like the answer. But, in her heart she knew how wrong the choice would be and she understood that the baby had the right to live. We promised to help and she cancelled her abortion appointment. We are still working with her as she comes to embrace the pregnancy and we will find her and her children a place to live.

## Update from Guiding Star Ministries

We are overjoyed to welcome four women and their families to Guiding Star this month, as part of our mission to provide housing and services as an alternative for women vulnerable to abortion. Our Alternatives Team is hard at work building the programming at Guiding Star, which includes counseling through Catholic Social Services, and job and life skills training. In the past two months, we have had 6 service days, for a total of 115+ service hours donated.

We are grateful to our most recent donors and volunteers for their gifts:

- Dan and Rebecca Dougherty, for their generous donation toward new comforters and sheets for all the family suites
- **Knights of Columbus Council XXX for their service painting 2 family suites**
- Temple University Law School volunteers who painted the front family rooms
- Temple University Pro-Life Club volunteers who painted, scrubbed, and organized ...



**Temple University Respect Life Club**

We are in need of volunteers to serve as mentors for the mothers; to help with renovations and repairs at the home; and to help raise funds and awareness for the ministry. If you are interested in making a difference with this incredible effort please call us at 215-885-8150.

## Welcome to the Board of Directors

We welcome Mary Paris to the Board of Directors for the Pro-Life Union, **to serve a X-year term**. Mary has served as a church representative at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church for 13 years and has been the coordinator of 40 Days for Life in Warminster since its inception. Mary has extensive experience in Public Affairs, travelling many times to Harrisburg to advocate with our elected officials on behalf of life. At last year's Stand Up For Life Dinner, Mary was the recipient of the Pro-Life Union's James D. Kelly Pro-Life Pioneer Award. We are excited and happy to have her a member of our Board!