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The Pro Life Union of Greater Philadelphia is committed to the sanctity of every human life. We work in the four areas of the pro-life movement:
outreach, education, public affairs and alternatives.

With Grateful Hearts

We are so grateful for the many supporters who gave their time and offered prayers during the recent 40 Days for Life Campaigns in Greater Philadelphia. The reports sent by the coordinators were deeply inspiring testimonies of lives impacted by our witness. This unified effort has transformed the pro-life movement here and around the world allowing us to reach women, families and communities with the loving message of the sanctity of life. Thank you all for joining 40 Days for Life and we invite you to attend one of the prayer vigils listed below!

Pro-Life Vigils

Catholics – (The Rosary will be prayed after each of these Masses. Location in parentheses.)

3rd Friday – 8 am Mass – Nativity of Our Lord, 625 W. Street Rd. (PP Warminster)

1st Saturday – 8:30 am Mass – St. Laurence, Upper Darby (PP Upper Darby)

1st Saturday – 7 am Mass – Christ The King, Morell & Chesterfield (PP Comly & Blvd.)

1st Saturday – 8 am Mass – St. Agnes, West Chester (PP West Chester)

2nd Saturday – 8:30 am Mass – Newman chapel, U of P, 38th & Chestnut (Penn Family Care, 39th & Chestnut)

3rd Saturday – 7 am Mass – St. John, 13th & Market (PP 12th & Locust)

4th Saturday – 6:30-8:30 am – Phila. Women's Ctr., 8th & Cherry

Everything is Grace

A few weeks ago a young woman called our pregnancy hotline very late at night. She spoke softly through her tears, hoping, begging someone would listen. That afternoon, she had gone to Planned Parenthood for an abortion. The regret settled into her soul quickly and deeply. She explained how sick she had been feeling, her family and her boyfriend didn't want the baby and Planned Parenthood pressured her, saying "don't delay." They told her it would be easy, it would quick and she just wanted to forget everything.

Abortion is rarely a choice made freely and few women understand the loss that will be experienced. The offers of help are hard to believe and undermined by the company selling abortion. So she walked past the people praying, but she took the brochure because they were so kind, she said simply, "why didn't I stop to talk to them."

God's grace was acting in her heart, and she was receptive to the message of love and mercy. She talked for a long time with the counselor and was directed to Rachel's Vineyard. She texted a few days later with gratitude for the support she received and shared how she had started going back to church. "We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."

Mother's Day Activities

The celebration of Mother's Day is of great significance to the Pro-Life Union. We reflect on the goodness of Mary, the mother of Jesus, our own mothers, the mothers who we are able to give support to and in a special way, the mothers who are hurting because of the loss of a child.

Each year on Mother's Day weekend, many churches allow our dedicated respect-life representatives to distribute the Mother's Day edition of our bulletin and sell live roses, carnations and other pro-life items to benefit our work here at the Pro-Life Union. We are so grateful to all who participate in these activities which work in two ways – spreading the pro-life message in the community and raising much needed funds for our mission. If you would like to begin a Mother's Day Program in your church, please contact Anne Hinnegan at 215-885-8150 and she will get you started!

Goodness at Guiding Star

In the world today, it is understandable that we get caught up in the madness in which we are living. At our maternity home, Guiding Star, we are overwhelmed by the goodness of the many kind people who support the families. And, we are amazed by the moms as they work towards their goals and embrace the program. This Lent, the parishioners at St. Benedict's welcomed the Guiding Star families at the Weekly Lenten Suppers and the staff enjoyed seeing the moms and community come together.

The volunteer groups coming to transform the home have been a great blessing. The maternity home is a beautiful, older building which needs upgrades and improvements on an ongoing basis. Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish came for a tour and a visit in March. The St. Andrew Parish young adult group, Guided by Christ, helped us prep the guest room used for women who need immediate housing after leaving an abortion facility and the Culture Project Missionaries did an amazing job cleaning out a room and preparing a room for news residents!

WISH LIST

Volunteer Mother's Helpers
New Sheets and Bedding
Gift Cards to Movies and Museums
New Dining Room Table
Sippy Cups
Bleach, Mop and Cleaning Supplies
Ceiling fans for bedrooms
PG & PG 13 Movies on DVD
Valance for Bedrooms
Copy paper
Paper plates and utensils
Dish Detergent

Down's Syndrome

According to some studies, as many as 90% of children diagnosed with Down's syndrome before birth are aborted. Often parents are frightened into the decision without all the information about the resources and support available for children and families facing a disability. Every life matters and has value. Many families have become more outspoken so that the world will come to better understand what Down Syndrome is and how the diagnoses will impact a person's life in a positive and beautiful way. On March 21st, Down Syndrome Day, touching and powerful stories were shared by parents who, at first, feared the diagnosis of Down's Syndrome, but then came to celebrate it as a gift. Most families expressed feelings of love and pride in relation to family members who had Down's Syndrome.

One father writing in mercatornet.com summed up his feelings beautifully, "Moreover, people with Down Syndrome teach those around them to love unconditionally. Our family is a greater community of love with our daughter in it than it was before. She really has been everything that other families have said about having a member with Down Syndrome. All of those great joys have come to our family along with — and, I dare say, because of — our daughter's initial diagnosis, which had seemed so sad to me at the time."

Upcoming Events

- **Saturday April 9th: 6:30pm Designer Bag Bingo.** Support Catholic Social Services Northeast Family Service Center by attending this event at Our Lady of Consolation 7051 Tulip Street Phila, 19135. CSS Family Service Centers provide Food, Diapers and Baby Items to families in need. The PLU have been blessed by this incredible organization as they provide Case Management to the moms and families at Guiding Star Ministries. For tickets please call: 215-624-5920
- **April 22-24th: Life/Peace/Justice Conference:** Villanova University. This event is dedicated to education, discourse, activism, related to a broad range of issues of human rights and dignity. Visit the website for details and to register: www.lifepeacejustice.com
- **April 30th, 2016:** The Culture Project's second annual Mass & Brunch will be hosted at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. Mass will take place at the Immaculate Conception Chapel at 10am immediately followed by a brunch in the beautiful Eakins Room. This event is designed to bring the community together for prayer, fellowship and encouragement and is intended for all ages. restoreculture.org
- **April 30th, 2016: Mother's Home Bowl-A-Thon.** 3:00pm – 5:00pm and 6:00pm – 8:00pm. Sproul Lanes – 745 S. Sproul Rd., Springfield, PA 19064. Please visit www.mothershome.org for details.
- **Monday, May 12th from Noon until 2;** Annual Tea at Mother's Home in Darby. A\$20 admission fee is appreciated. Please join us. Visit our website: mothershome.org for details.

Support the Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia's mission through a secure, recurring online monthly gift.

Planned Giving!

In this month's update we have enclosed a slip explaining some benefits of memorial gifts and planned giving. The Pro Life Union and our maternity home Guiding Star Ministries have benefitted greatly from our supporters who have designated us for these gifts. We think often of the beautiful woman Rita Pellegrino who left a substantial gift to the PLU. Rita was a faithful reader of our monthly update and she would be so thrilled to know that her donation allowed the PLU to fund the opening of the Community Women's Centers in Philadelphia and allowed us to adopt Guiding Star Ministries.

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!