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

Knights in Shining Armor



Fr. McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus in response to the suffering he witnessed when women and children were left devastated by the loss of the father in a family. He believed that when "Catholic men banded together, united by charity and unity, they could strengthen their faith, their families, and their communities."

In our conversations with women facing unexpected pregnancies, we learn how hard it is to face parenting alone. And, sadly many young men have been told that abortion is a woman's decision, and he should not interfere. He stays silent, she feels alone, abortion is chosen or she embarks on parenting alone. All of these factors and more contribute to the fatherlessness in our communities.

Today the Knights of Columbus serve as a wonderful antidote to fatherlessness. Their example encourages all men and fathers to speak for the vulnerable and work to strengthen families. It is truly beautiful to witness the Knights serve women and children in need through their charitable efforts. "In keeping with this mission and our Order's Catholic principles of charity, unity, and fraternity, the Knights of Columbus stands strong in its conviction that every human life is a gift of God, endowed with certain inalienable rights—the first among these being the right to life. Even in the midst of difficulties and uncertainties, we believe that human life is sacred and inviolable, and ought to be defended with maximum determination. To this end, the Knights of Columbus supports policies that promote a Culture of Life. "



The Pro Life Union has been blessed by our ongoing partnership with the Knights and we are proud to have three local councils as Member Organizations. This incredible group of men have organized events, joined us during prayer and witness events and have built new walls at our maternity home Guiding Star Ministries. The Knights have been an integral part of helping us live out our commitment to the sanctity of life. Thank you, Knights of Columbus for strengthening our families and communities!

Wishing everyone a Happy Father's Day!

Guiding Star Update

We have had full team of volunteers and supporters helping us spruce up our maternity home! In mid-May the Culture Project visited along with The St. Vincent de Paul Community Outreach group. The front rooms in the home were renovated and redecorated to allow for more space for counseling and discussion. We continued with our room renovations upstairs ensuring we can house more families in need.

The staff coordinates weekly parenting and life skill classes for residents and of course the team at Catholic Social Services continues to support our families with Case Management. This fall we plan to begin hosting a monthly brunch for residents provided by families who wish to support the program. We are also looking for individuals to offer volunteer handyman services. It has been an amazing year for this very special maternity home and we are so grateful for the support and prayers of so many.

Please contact if you would like a tour of the home or feel called to become more closely involved with this project!

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 25th at 4pm: Visitation of Relics of St. Thomas More & St. John Fisher sponsored by the Office for Life and Family.

July 16th: Summer Vigil, Mass and Summit. Vigil at Planned Parenthood at 12th & Locust Streets 7:30-8:30am. Mass at 9am at the Cathedral Chapel with a summit on Sidewalk Counseling beginning at 10am. Contact us for details

September 8th: Pro Life Union annual open board meeting and church rep volunteer celebration. This annual event will be held at St. Anthony's Parish. Details will follow but we hope to begin at 6:30pm and encourage you to Save the Date!

SAVE THE DATE: NOVEMBER 20th, 2016 STAND UP FOR LIFE DINNER

Reception 4:30-5:30pm Dinner at 5:30pm. Speaker: Karen Gaffney

The Pro Life Union is so excited to welcome Karen Gaffney as our keynote speaker for this year's Stand Up for Life Dinner. Karen is the president of the Karen Gaffney Foundation, a non-profit organization headquartered in Portland, Oregon "dedicated to championing the journey to full inclusion for people with Down syndrome and other disabilities." In 2001 she became the first person with Down Syndrome to complete a relay swim of the English Channel. Her 2007 swim across the nine mile span of Lake Tahoe became the subject of the documentary, "Crossing Tahoe: A Swimmer's Dream." Karen received a standing ovation for her witty and inspirational Tedx talk entitled "All Lives Matter" in Portland, Oregon. Listen to Karen's talk on YouTube, and visit our website for ticket information and sponsorship opportunities!

A Father's Love

In 2007, Heath White, a pilot-turned-FBI agent from Texas learned that his wife Jennifer was carrying a baby with Down Syndrome. He explained that he did everything he could to convince her to have an abortion, but Jennifer refused. Paisely was born on March 16th and though he smiled in photos, White said that he did not feel connected to his daughter. "My main concern was what people would think of me – what weakness inside me caused that. I felt like I was getting a broken baby." It was only a few months later when he realized that Paisley was no different than any other child. "I tickled her and she laughed and giggled at me and I realized that she's just like any other kid – she's my kid." He wanted to show the world just how proud of being her father he was.

Heath was a marathoner and before her first birthday, he placed her in a special stroller and they ran their first race. Heath and Paisely became an unstoppable duo, winning medals and logging over 321 miles. When Paisely turned five, Heath knew that he would no longer have to carry her and that she could run on her own. He wrote a letter to his daughter describing the way that he had felt before she was born. "That could have been my dirty secret that I kept with me forever, but I wanted her to know that she was everything to me. My love for Paisely is perfect."

Community Baby Shower

Outreach is a critical component of the Pro Life Union's four tiered approach to affirm our commitment to the sanctity of life. Through outreach, we can reach women who are unprepared and worried when facing a pregnancy. Supporting these mothers and celebrating their unborn children enables many mothers to reject fear and find joy in their pregnancy. That is why we are so excited to be a part of the Upcoming Community Baby Shower being held on June 17th from 10am-1pm at St. Benedict's Church. This community outreach event is sponsored by Guiding Star Ministries, Catholic Social Services Northeast Family Service Center, Johnson Child Care and the Pro Life Union and St. Benedict's. The event will celebrate, honor and support women and families in the community who are expecting a baby. Heartfelt thanks for all of the supporters and especially to Catholic Social Services for organizing this activity.

Thank You to the Following Church *of many of our Archdiocesan parishes participate in Mother's*

Day Activities. The donations collected at these churches help us to carry out our mission for Life. A big thank you to the following parishes, their pastors, our church reps and the parishioners. (If you would like to know more about your parish's efforts or you would us to contact your parish about future participation, please call Anne Hinnegan at 215-885-8150.)

Assumption BVM (West Grove)
Corpus Christi
Epiphany of Our Lord (Phila.)
Epiphany of Our Lord (Plymouth Mtg.)
Holy Cross (Phila.)
Holy Family
IHM
Immaculate Conception
Mary, Mother of the Redeemer
Maternity BVM
Our Lady Help of Christians (Abington)
Our Lady of Calvary
Our Lady of Good Counsel

Our Lady of Ransom
Our Lady of the Assumption
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
Presentation BVM (Cheltenham)
Queen of Peace
Sacred Heart (Bridgeport)
SS. Philip & James
SS. Simon & Jude
St. Adalbert
St. Agnes (Sellersville)
St. Albert the Great
St. Alphonsus
St. Andrew (Drexel Hill)

St. Anthony of Padua
St. Bernadette
St. Bernard
St. Cecilia
St. David
St. Dominic
St. Dorothy
St. Francis Xavier
St. Gabriel (Phila.)
St. Genevieve
St. Hilary
St. John Cantius
St. John the Baptist (Phila.)

St. John Vianney
St. Joseph (Cheltenham)
St. Joseph (Collingdale)
St. Jude
St. Katherine of Siena (Wayne)
St. Margaret
St. Martha
St. Martin of Tours
St. Mary (Schwenksville)
St. Matthew (Phila.)
St. Matthew (Conshohocken)
St. Matthias
St. Maximilian Kolbe

St. Monica (Berwyn)
St. Nicholas
St. Patrick (Kennett Sq.)
St. Patrick (Norristown)
St. Peter
St. Raymond of Penafort
St. Richard
St. Rose of Lima (N. Wales)
St. Stanislaus
St. Thos. Aquinas (Croydon)
St. Timothy
Stella Maris