

Adoptions of Olympic Proportion

This year's Olympics were impressive and exciting for the United States! And as always, there are compelling stories about the athletes who compete. Particularly exciting to watch in 2016 was Simone Biles, the amazing, gravity defying gymnast. Simone's mother had a serious addiction to drugs and alcohol and Simone's father had abandoned the family. Her grandfather, Ron, and his wife, Nellie, adopted Simone and her sister. Simone explained that she always keeps her mom Nellie's rosaries on hand before an event and she does not practice on Sundays so that she can attend Mass with her family.

Another Olympian, Nick Delpopolo (Judo) was adopted when he was 2 years old from the country of Montenegro by parents Dominic and Joyce Delpopolo from Westfield, NJ. While Nick did not medal in this year's Olympics, he is still a star to his mom and dad! Double amputee, Jessica Long, is aiming for her fourth Paralympics appearance this September in Rio. Adopted by Beth and Steve Long from an orphanage in Russia, Jessica won the first of her 12 Paralympic titles at the age of 12. We salute these amazing athletes and their amazing parents!



Don't Miss it!

On Sunday, November 20th, the Pro-Life Union will be hosting another impressive Olympian! Karen Gaffney, our keynote speaker, is a two-time gold medal winner of the Special Olympics. Karen has also accomplished a swim of the nine-mile span of Lake Tahoe, five miles across Boston Harbor and successfully completed a relay swim of the English Channel. She became the first living person with Down Syndrome to receive an honorary doctorate degree which she was granted by the University of Portland in 2013. Her TedX talk was given a standing ovation and we could not be more excited to have her inspire our guests at the Sheraton Philadelphia. A dinner reservation package will be mailed in the next couple weeks, so be sure to get your reservations in early! You can also visit www.prolifeunion.org/dinner to reserve and pay online.

Send a Shout Out!

The Pro-Life Union is giving everyone a chance to say something to someone they love in our 2016 Stand Up For Life Dinner Program Book! This unique opportunity is a first this year. Anyone who makes a donation to the Pro-Life Union during the month of September receives a one-line Patron Ad message in this year's book. Say "Hi Mom!," "Congratulations Karen," or remember someone with some special words. Send in your donation and your line with the form on the back of this Update.

Upcoming Events

- ❖ **Pro-Life Union Open Board Meeting** – Thursday, September 8th 6p.m., St. Anthony of Padua Friendship Hall, 259 Forest Ave., Ambler, PA 19002.
- ❖ **National Day of Remembrance for Unborn Children** – Saturday, September 10th – 12 noon Mass at St. John Fisher Church, 4225 Chichester Ave., Upper Chichester, PA 19061. Following Mass, an ecumenical prayer service will be held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Cemetery, 1701 Market Street, Upper Chichester. For more info, contact Pat and Jack O'Brien at patandjohnob@yahoo.com.
- ❖ **Chester County Women's Services Walk For Life** – Saturday, September 17th – 9:00 a.m. at Anson B. Nixon Park, Kennett Square, PA 19348. \$25 individual, \$35 family. Kid Zone, face painting, free food and games and prizes for sponsorships. Register online at ccwsmedicalinfo.org/walk-for-life or call 610-383-0930.
- ❖ **Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine Dedication** – Saturday, October 22nd – 10:00 a.m. at Malvern Retreat House. Blessing Ceremony by Archbishop Charles J. Chaput. Reception following the dedication ceremony.

Philadelphia Walk For Life

The kickoff this year for Respect Life Month here in Philadelphia will be on Sunday, September 25th with the Walk for Life at 3:30 p.m. at Thomas Paine Park. This will be a great family event and a wonderful way to Witness for Life here in Philadelphia. Speakers, music and prayer followed by 6:30 p.m. Mass celebrated by Archbishop Charles Chaput at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul. Contact Steve Bozza at 215-587-0500 or sbozza@archphila.org.

40 Days for Life

"I am in this movement today because of ordinary people who took on an extraordinary task. My former abortion clinic is closed because of their sacrifice. Babies are alive because of them. Women are no longer being hurt by abortion in their community. You can do this. You can save a life. I now stand alongside you in this 40 Days for Life movement." Abby Johnson (former PP director)

Please consider giving some time this fall to a 40 Days for Life Campaign in your area (September 28-November 6).
You can help save lives!

Warminster: Call Mary Paris – 215-348-7480
Center City Philadelphia: Call Pat Stanton – 267-718-4851
West Chester: Call Paulette Matthews – 484-832-2746

(The Campaigns listed above are Member Organizations and coordinate efforts with the Pro Life Union. Other modified campaigns are being organized at Bryn Mawr Hospital, Comly Rd. Planned Parenthood and other locations. Contact us at the PLU at 215.885.8150 for additional details).

Changing Minds & Hearts

This February, a former abortionist, Dr. Anthony Levatino, teamed up with Lila Rose of Live Action to create a powerful video that shows the reality of abortion. A Facebook posting by Live Action shows people on the street who are asked if they consider themselves pro-life or pro-choice. They are then shown a video with Dr. Levatino narrating that shows by way of illustration how abortions are performed. The video shows the horrified looks on the faces of those who had declared themselves "pro-choice," along with the declaration that they are no longer in favor of abortion. To view this great video, visit <https://www.facebook.com/liveaction/videos/10154168301463728/>.

A Visual Remembrance



The Memorial Cross Display is a powerful reminder of the lives lost to abortion in our nation. The 58 white crosses are placed on the lawn of a church or school along with a large sign that explains that each cross represents 1 million abortions. It is a sad and striking sight, but one that helps people to visualize the reality of this tragedy. Please consider asking your pastor to host this display before the weather gets too cold. A member of the Pro-Life Union will deliver and set the crosses up and come to retrieve them when specified by your pastor. (The display is usually in place at each location for one month.) Please call Anne Hinnegan at 215-885-8150 to schedule.

Guiding Star Update

We welcomed two new baby boys in the last few weeks at Guiding Star! The new moms are adjusting to life with little ones as the other residents, staff and volunteers provide encouragement and friendship. Jill Page, a dear friend of the Pro Life Union, shared information with residents about her organization. Every Good Gift is a business that is a ministry to its employees - young single mothers being served by maternity residences, pregnancy resource centers, and churches. Volunteer mentors work alongside the women helping them develop job, life, and relationship skills. Every Good Gift makes handcrafted greeting cards and gift boxes as well as gift baskets and custom orders. Please visit the website to learn more about Every Good Gift www.everygoodgift.org. And please consider how you might be able to share your gifts with Guiding Star Ministries.



Friends in Harrisburg

The Pro Life Union is blessed by the work of many amazing pro-life advocacy groups in Harrisburg. These groups inform, educate and advocate on both family and life issues throughout the year. They build strong relationships with leaders in Harrisburg and speak the truth. As election season heats up, they are a great resource for Voter Guides and education. We encourage everyone to visit the websites and contact the Pennsylvania Family Institute, the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference and The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation before the November election. The Pennsylvania Pro Life Federation is an excellent resource on abortion and euthanasia and particularly helpful with information on the upcoming election. Call them at 717-541-0034 for a Voter Guide.

The Pro Life Union is a 501c3 organization and donations are tax deductible.

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