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The Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia affirms the sanctity of life through leadership, service to those making the choice for life, and witness to a culture of love.

## Celebration of Life



Over 1,200 gathered on November 20<sup>th</sup> for the Annual Stand Up for Life Dinner to hear Karen Gaffney's inspiring message. Sr. Kathleen Schipiani was the recipient of the Lynch Award for her service to those in our community who have disabilities and Amy Stoner of Catholic Social Services received the Defender of Life Award for her tremendous witness and example in defending the most vulnerable.



The Stand Up for Life Dinner was full of memorable moments and was a great testament to the strength of the pro-life movement here in Greater Philadelphia. It was wonderful to see the joy and passion of the young people and students in the room, and celebrate the many families who have chosen life in the face of great obstacles. We are incredibly grateful for the volunteer support at our Dinner – the student groups and volunteers help to make the night a success.



## What's Next

The pro-life movement is hopeful that many legislative initiatives will be able to move forward in the coming year. In Pennsylvania, we will work with legislators and the pro-life groups in Harrisburg to ensure that the 20-week dismemberment abortion ban moves through the Senate. Some national pro-life priorities are passing conscience protection and defunding Planned Parenthood on the federal level. And, President-elect Trump has promised to sign into law the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which would end painful late-term abortions.

## January Events

- January 14<sup>th</sup>: Pro-Life Summit at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center. A screening of the pro-life film "Gosnell" will be shown and a discussion will follow. Please contact the Office for Life and Family for details and information.
- January 27<sup>th</sup>: March for Life: This year's theme is "The Power of One." The Opening Rally begins at noon on the grounds of the Washington Monument. The March will begin on Constitution Avenue between 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Streets at approximately 1:00 pm.
- January 28<sup>th</sup>: The Pro-Life Union will join with pilgrim visitors after the March for Life from the Archdiocese of Omaha. The witness will be held at the Center City Philadelphia Planned Parenthood at 12<sup>th</sup> and Locust Streets. We will gather from 8:30 am until 10 am. This event will be a prayer vigil with prayers offered that hearts will be changed and lives will be saved.

## Guiding Star Updates and Requests

We have had a tremendous year of growth at our maternity home, Guiding Star Ministries. The home has been refurbished, repairs have been completed, and bedrooms spruced up for residents. Over the last year, 33 women and children have called Guiding Star "home." Some women have stayed in the program for over 12 months - women like "Judi" who came to GSM pregnant and began her recovery from years of drug abuse. Judi and her dear son are now living in their own place, and Judi is in college. She is an incredible example of faithfulness and a mother's love. Some of the other families stayed just a short time receiving support and material assistance like baby clothes, diapers and food. Guiding Star, like every home, needs constant upkeep and we are grateful for your continued support. At Guiding Star we welcome volunteers to support staff in covering the home and serving families. If you or someone you know would like to volunteer, we would love to hear from you. The following clearances are needed. FBI Fingerprint, PA State Police and PA Child abuse. Safe Environment Training and Mandatory Reporting Online Class are also needed.

## Honoring a Family

The Pro-Life Union and Guiding Star are so blessed by many beautiful families. We are amazed by the Blaney Family and their constant support of Guiding Star. Truly, their generosity has allowed Guiding Star to grow and thrive. Their annual Beef and Beer has been an ongoing source of support and we love that they hosted a special event in October to honor their parent's marriage with the proceeds going to GSM. What a gift!



## 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Crèche

Christmas really is truly the Season of Light and Life. All of us can be a light in the darkness for those who are struggling. Life is such a beautiful gift and when pondered it fills us with awe. A beautiful tradition started by John Stanton, the Knights of Columbus and the Ancient Order of Hibernians continues this year at a new venue. The blessing of the Christmas Crèche will be held on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 18<sup>th</sup> & Race, adjacent to the Cathedral of SS. Peter & Paul at 3:00 pm. Carols will be sung by the children of St. Francis Xavier School.

## Rest in Peace

Joseph P. Wall passed away on October 26, 2016. Joe was a dear friend and faithful supporter of the Pro-Life Union. Joe served for many years in the rescue movement, giving up his freedom to defend and protect the unborn. He wrote often and eloquently in defense of the unborn, and he had a keen understanding of the great battle being waged against human dignity through the legalization of abortion. He was a proud Irishman and knew both his faith and Irish history well.

A memorial mass, in the extraordinary form, will be offered for the happy repose of the soul of Joe Wall on January 8<sup>th</sup> at Our Lady of Consolation Parish at 1 pm. Please attend if possible to honor Joe's memory.



## Sidewalk Counseling

Thanks to the many attendees who joined attended Sidewalk Counseling Training held on December 1<sup>st</sup>. We are grateful to Dr. Monique for hosting and for the great questions posed by attendees. These training are an important part of equipping the pro-life community with the tools to reach women in need! Look for 2017 Training Dates.

Support the Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia and Guiding Star Ministries with a tax-deductible donation. Gifts can be mailed to our office or a secure online gift can be made by visiting our websites.

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