

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.

A Father's Love

There was a beautiful article written recently in Catholic World Report about Charles de Gaulle. He was a man of great achievement who stood against the evils of the Nazi Regime. He was considered a traitor for this resistance.

De Gaulle had a daughter named Anne born with Down Syndrome. At that time in France, most children with this disability were sent to live in a home. However, de Gaulle said, "God has given her to us. We must take responsibility for her, wherever she is and whatever she will be." Beautiful Anne had her father's heart. She was an inspiration to him and she traveled everywhere with her family. She inspired her father to stay strong in his resistance to the Nazi Regime which killed thousands of children with disabilities at their "health facilities."

"In a way, de Gaulle's reaction to Anne's entry into his life foreshadowed the spirit of resistance expressed in his famous appeal of 18 June 1940 to Frenchmen to continue the war against Germany." After Anne's death, the family raised funds to open a foundation to serve the disabled in her honor. The foundation still exists today, serving persons with disabilities.

As we reflect on Father's Day, we think of the many men like Charles de Gaulle who protect children in need. We are so grateful for the numerous men who take an active role in the pro-life movement as they affirm and support women in crisis. Groups like the Knights of Columbus and participants in our 40 Days for Life activities offer a tangible witness of our Heavenly Father's love. And we just loved the picture of this joyous dad, so thankful that they chose life for their son!



Wishing everyone a Happy Father's Day!

Guiding Star Update

Last year, we began expanding volunteer opportunities at Guiding Star. It has been wonderful to meet so many incredibly dedicated and talented groups and individuals through Guiding Star. On Mother's Day, a volunteer couple hosted brunch for the residents while also helping at the home with other projects. In addition, many parishes have offered items for residents and the community.

The home has become a beautiful place to stay with quiet spaces and community rooms where families can grow, learn, and thrive. The residents in the home are at different phases in the program; some moms have already given birth to their babies. A new baby girl is due this July. We have housed fifteen people so far this year including moms, toddlers, newborn and unborn babies. Please continue to pray for everyone involved with Guiding Star and thank you for the tremendous support of so many in the pro-life movement!

Opportunities at Guiding Star

Live in Missionary and Support Person: Carry out the heart of our work by serving the moms and babies in our maternity home. Commit six months to one year of their lives - and sometimes more - to the mothers and families, to the upkeep of the home, and to an intentional community life. Shorter commitment times are available to relieve current staff. Missionary and Support are required to provide coverage in the home, administrative support, and light housekeeping. They are given a private bedroom and bath, and a monthly personal stipend. We are also seeking Per Diem Resident Assistants to provide support, care, and guidance to residents of Guiding Star Maternity Home, supervise the home and administer the rules and regulations of the program. Responsible for setting alarm for building, light housekeeping duties and basic administrative duties.

Please contact us if you are interested.

SAVE THE DATE: NOVEMBER 19th, 2017 STAND UP FOR LIFE DINNER

Reception 4:30-5:30pm Dinner at 5:30pm. Speaker: Melissa Ohden

The Pro Life Union is so excited to welcome Melissa Ohden as our keynote speaker for this year's Stand Up for Life Dinner. Melissa is the survivor of a failed saline infusion abortion in 1977. Despite the initial concerns regarding Melissa's future after surviving the attempt to end her life at approximately seven months gestation, she has not only survived but thrived. With a Master's Degree in Social Work, she has worked in the fields of substance abuse, mental health, domestic violence and sexual assault counseling, and child welfare. Melissa was formerly a College Outreach Speaker with Feminists for Life and is the former Patron of Real Choices Australia.

The Abortion Industry

At the end of May, another video about the abortion industry was released by the Center for Medical Progress. The disturbing video shows abortion industry workers commenting about fetal body parts and laughing at the gruesomeness of their work. A short time after the release, YouTube removed the video.

Here in PA, inspection reports of various facilities continue to show safety and health violations. In Harrisburg, "No full-time person was in charge of operating the facility. No registered nurse was on duty to assist patients before and after at least 55 abortions had been performed. The facility failed to document the name and dosage of anesthesia used on a number of patients." At the Warminster Planned Parenthood, they were cited for "failure to ensure that all required emergency equipment was available for resuscitation when abortions were performed." It shouldn't surprise us that the abortion industry disregards safety regulations; they believe they are above the law of man and of God. It should compell us to act.

In PA, SB 300 has been introduced. This legislation would prioritize state family planning funding so that it is directed to facilities offering comprehensive care to women. It would also prohibit that funding from going to abortion companies. Abortion companies like Planned Parenthood do not meet the health needs for women. Please contact your local representative requesting support for SB 300. Visit www.legis.state.pa.us for contact information.

Community Baby Shower

We had a great day on Friday May 19th, at our Community Baby Shower held at Guiding Star. We love this yearly event and we are so grateful for the leadership of Catholic Social Services and the many volunteers, donors, and supporters. Moms enjoyed a special day with raffles, games, educational programs, and gifts as we celebrated the gift of life. A beautiful moment was meeting with a young mom who had considered abortion and called our hotline months ago. We were so excited to meet her and offer her some gifts for her little one. The baby shower was a wonderful way to spread the pro-life message and to show the community that there is help available for mothers and children.



The Fight for Life Worldwide

Did you know that Pro-Life Marches are held throughout the world? This is a global movement dedicated to protecting and restoring the right to life. Marches have been held in Canada, the United Kingdom, Prague, Rome, Brussels, Lima, Peru, Lisbon, Portugal and many others. When we stand for life and speak for those who have no voice, we are participating in the greatest human rights battle of our time with citizens from all over the world.

We have a special place in our hearts for the Irish Pro Life Movement. The Irish Laws protecting the unborn draw an unhinged reaction from pro-abortion groups around the globe. At one point a lawyer from Planned Parenthood described Ireland as 'the jewel in the crown of the pro-life movement.' Changing Ireland's laws would be a great win for the culture of death. And, the pressure to undo the pro-life laws in Ireland continue, with the eighth amendment currently under attack. *"The 8th amendment (which guarantees the right to life of both mother and child) is under serious attack by pro-abortion extremists. They have the backing of wealthy foreign donors and organizations like Amnesty International. They also have the full sympathy of the media."* (<http://www.thelifeinstitute.net>).

On July 1, Irish Citizens will gather in Dublin for the All Ireland Rally for Life. Pray for Ireland that this witness will compell the legislators to continue to defend life.