



"Here I am, Lord;
I come do to Your will."
Psalm 40:2

January 2018

88 Pennsylvania Avenue., Oreland, PA 19075

www.prolifeunion.org



New CEO & President

Hello!

My name is Tom Stevens and it's an incredible privilege to join the Pro-Life Union. I am answering a call, as each of you have answered your own calling to protect the unborn and bring to an end to the audacity of deciding whether or not a human life deserves the opportunity to live, thrive, and fulfill his or her destiny.



Who am I? As Pope Francis said during his first public interview, "I am a sinner who the Lord has looked upon."

My wife, Ann, and I are Villanova graduates. We live in Havertown with our five beautiful children. We've been members at St. Colman Parish for 25 years and we've taught PREP classes, led the Alpha for Catholics program, sometimes led music, and been active in many other ways.

I currently am part of the Core Team of a dynamic program for men called *That Man is You*. I also lead the House of God's Light Christian Community, whose mission is to make whole-hearted disciples of Jesus Christ by worshiping, loving, growing and serving together.

My career has included campus ministry, sales and marketing, and over ten years in non-profit management. What do I bring to the Pro-Life Union? Vision, leadership, team-building, management, faith, hope, love, joy and experience in getting the job done. Most importantly: I seek first the kingdom of God and I am passionate about Life.

Where do we go from here? Take this thriving local movement, grow it, increase our numbers, and do the most good possible. More than 16,000 babies are aborted in the five-county Philadelphia area – a staggering number. Let's pray hard, strategize together and produce a culture change and **stop the slaughter.**

From Archbishop Chaput



Greetings to the Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia.

Thank you for your heroic action to protect the unborn, for being a constant voice for life, and for all the outreach to help people understand that life begins at conception. I truly appreciate your prayer and activities to protect the most vulnerable.

This is a time like no other. The darkness continues to grow. We must not lose heart or become apathetic. Please continue to be carriers of light and love. Where light comes darkness must go.

Please keep up the good work in front of abortion clinics offering woman alternatives. Please continue to highlight public policy issues as well as strategizing to decrease abortion in our Archdiocese. Let us pray for our own conversion so we might be true witnesses of love. Let us continue to plead for the conversion of hearts and minds of those who do not understand the horror of abortion. Let us ask the Lord for a new spirit of hope in Greater Philadelphia.

May the Lord bless all your efforts in 2018.


Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, F.M. Cap.
Archbishop of Philadelphia

Donor Tax Letters

We are so grateful to all our members who so generously donate to the Pro-Life Union and Guiding Star Ministries throughout the year. We will be sending out Donor Acknowledgement Letters for tax purposes later this month to those who have given a combined amount of \$250 or higher throughout 2017. If you have not given over \$250 but would like us to send you an acknowledgement letter, please call us at 215-885-8150.

Abington Hospital

On Tuesday, January 23rd, Abington Hospital will hold its annual Open Board Meeting at 6:15 p.m. in the Conference Room on the first floor of the Lenfest Pavilion. Please call Patrick Stanton at 267-718-4851 if you plan to attend.

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

40 Days for Life

40 Days for Life is a peaceful, prayerful, loving, law abiding outreach that occurs outside of multiple abortion centers in 47 countries of the world. Every day in the upcoming Lenten season for 40 continuous days, prayer warriors will be standing up for life at the doors of abortion centers. Every moment of every day someone in the world will be praying for an end to the slaughter of these innocent children. Since 2007 13,998 babies have been confirmed saved by this outreach. 170 abortion workers have left their jobs and 90 abortion centers have closed.

Never prayed outside an abortion center? Nervous to step out? We all were. You aren't alone. Know that God is calling you for a reason. Even if you can only commit to 1 hour a month, He will use your presence in a mighty way. Free training will help you feel more confident. Listed below are the campaigns in our Greater Philadelphia area. For all other Pennsylvania vigils check out 40daysforlife.com.

PP – 12th & Locust, Phila. PA 19107

Mon-Sat: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Contact: Dr. Monique Ruberu, 469-231-9084
roobearoo@hotmail.com

Phila. Women's Ctr. - 777 Appletree, Phila., PA 19106

Tues-Sat: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Contact: Patrick Stanton, 267-718-4851
pjstanton9@gmail.com

PP – 2751 Comly Road, Phila., PA 19154

Mon-Sat: 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Contact: Anita Flynn, 267-456-4582
aflynn3250@yahoo.com

PP – 1221 Powell St., Norristown, PA 19401

Mon-Sun: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Contact: Rita Smith, 610-489-1929
providarita1@gmail.com

PP – 8 S. Wayne Street, West Chester, PA 19382

Mon-Sun: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Contact: Paulette Matthews, 484-832-2746
PauletteMatthews@hotmail.com

January Events

Jan. 18th – National Vigil for Life – St. Genevieve Church, 1225 Bethlehem Pk, Flourtown. 7 p.m. Mass, followed by Rosary & all-night vigil before the Blessed Sacrament.

Jan. 19th – Memorial Service for the Unborn, 12 noon at Planned Parenthood, 600 Louis Dr., Warminster, sponsored by Our Lady of Guadalupe Respect Life.

Jan. 21st – Chester County March for Life, 2:30 p.m. beginning at St. Agnes Church, 233 W. Gay St., West Chester. After speakers and prayer, a march will take place to the historic courthouse, followed by refreshments at the Knights of Columbus.

Jan. 23rd – 9:00 p.m. NFP Online Series begins, sponsored by Couple to Couple League with classes two & three occurring on Feb. 20th & March 20th. To register, visit www.ccli.org.

Spotlight on COUPLE TO COUPLE LEAGUE

The Couple to Couple League is a member organization of the Pro-Life Union. PLU Board Member Helene Hallowell is the Diocesan Field Director. Email her, hhallowell@ccli.org.

For years, pro-life advocates have reasoned that the abortion battle cannot be won until the very act becomes unthinkable. Abortion cannot become unthinkable until the culture can be inspired to put the dignity of others, born and unborn, ahead of its own wants and desire. Our culture will begin to put others first when it can be inspired to embrace the virtues of **chastity** and **marital fidelity** as primary means toward strengthening individuals, couples, families and society. Only then will men and women commit to a greater, truer love for each other and ultimately the child they have created together. **Natural Family Planning (NFP)** is the avenue to honorably preparing men and women to accept this noble choice.

NFP allows couples to embrace marital chastity through periods of sexual abstinence in both trying to achieve or to postpone a pregnancy. Committing to the NFP plan forms the foundation for mutual respect and complete self-giving for each spouse. Unlike contraceptive methods though which much of the responsibility is thrust upon the woman, NFP enhances oneness and cooperation by involving the man in this critical way.

Our mission is to build joyful marriages by teaching NFP couple to couple. When couples mentor couples, relationships are forged, and a community of families committed to fostering healthy and holy marriages flourishes, thereby laying the groundwork for the next generation led by our children. Join us for an upcoming course or encourage a couple you know to register. With 3 ways to learn, there is something for everyone... **Live Online** (webinar), **Live Onsite** (classroom), or learn anytime, anywhere with **Self-Paced Online**. Visit www.register.ccli.org to learn more.

Latest Abortion Stats

The state of Pennsylvania recently released the appalling 2016 abortion statistics. As always, it is a somber time to recognize the loss of life as we look at these numbers.

There was a total of **30,881 abortions** in the state of Pennsylvania. Nearly half (15,124) were performed on white women, 12,984 on black or African American women, and 2,937 to Hispanic women. 87% of Pa. abortions were performed on unmarried women. Nearly 39% of the women aborting were residents of Philadelphia County. There were 155 complications reported and **223 abortions performed on girls 15 years of age or younger**.

Area counties reported the following:

Philadelphia:	11,361
Bucks:	1,066
Chester:	795
Delaware:	1,971
<u>Montgomery:</u>	<u>1,649</u>

Total Area 16,842 ABORTIONS

There is so much work to do. Education and petitioning our public officials to change abortion laws, providing help for women who feel helpless and doing everything possible to CHANGE A CULTURE is essential.

We can only begin to accomplish this through prayer, witness and offering real alternatives to abortion.