

Mothers matter.



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MOTHER'S DAY 2018

When a woman becomes pregnant, she becomes a mother. This isn't a political statement, and it's not a complicated philosophical or theological idea. It is recognition of what has happened biologically: a new life has come into existence, and a woman has become the mother of a rapidly developing human person.

What, then, is there left to debate politically, societally or culturally? In a healthy society, the only thing left to debate when a woman becomes a mother, especially if it happens unexpectedly, or in a potential situation of abuse, homelessness, deprivation, etc., is how our whole society will respond in love and support of that mother. In a healthy society, the natural thing to do would be to create and provide a whole set of life-affirming solutions and choices for that mother to live and be able to thrive when her child is born.

Of course, we at the **Pro-Life Union** have been striving to provide mothers with life-affirming solutions and choices for nearly 50 years. Women (and men) need to hear, "We will help, you're not alone." We offer adoption counseling, financial assistance, material aid, education resources, housing, support and love.

As we celebrate Mother's Day, we invite you to join with us by increasing your existing level of support and commitment even if only by a few extra hours of volunteering or by a few extra dollars of support. And we encourage you to intentionally reach out to one friend or family member to ask them to do the same.

Guiding Star Maternity Home Shines

Several years ago, the Pro-Life Union became the parent organization for **Guiding Star Ministries** (GSM), a maternity home in Philadelphia for pregnant women and their children. We build a continuum of care so that the women we serve can continue their pregnancies and welcome their babies into life.

Through counseling, group meetings and a faith-based environment, our mission is to help residents to work toward total independence. Moms must pursue employment or education during their stay at GSM. We offer social worker support and classes in parenting, cooking, budgeting, goal-setting and other life skills. Currently, we have six moms and eight children (one unborn) sharing the home. Visit guidingstar.org to learn more.



Crystal with her son and two daughters.

“Thank you to Guiding Star Ministries. ... It was almost 2 years since I held my little girls in my arms or slept in the same house with them after I lost my home. ... Thank you for allowing my children and me to be together as a family. The staff is phenomenal, and they make my daughters feel safe and welcome.”

CRYSTAL
GSM Resident

Victory!

Maria Gallagher, Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation

Children with Down Syndrome and their families achieved an astounding victory on April 16, as the Pennsylvania House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed legislation designed to protect preborn babies who have been diagnosed with an extra chromosome. **House Bill 2050**, the Down Syndrome Protection Act, achieved passage by an incredible vote of 139-56. The bill passed with a veto-proof majority — extremely important in a Commonwealth led by a pro-abortion Governor, Tom Wolf.



The disability rights bill has tremendous crossover appeal — it is being backed by both Republicans and Democrats, men and women. In fact, legislators who have voted pro-abortion in the past embraced the legislation because of its laser focus on children with disabilities.

During a well-received media event at the Capitol in Harrisburg, Karen Gaffney, who has Down Syndrome, impressed the crowd with her impassioned remarks. Gaffney defied the odds by swimming the English Channel and receiving an honorary doctorate for her many accomplishments. “Those of us with Down Syndrome and our families face a very difficult future. We face a possibility of wiping out all of the tremendous progress we have made. Just as we are making so much progress, a whole industry has grown up focused on prenatal screening – screening that would end our lives before we take our first breath. Now that you can test for Down Syndrome before birth, there are many experts in the medical community that say this extra chromosome we carry around is not compatible with life. Not compatible with life?” asked Gaffney. “After everything we have done, I would say we are more than compatible. We are what life is all about. Our lives are worth living and our lives are worth learning about.”

“Our lives are worth living and our lives are worth learning about.”

KAREN GAFFNEY

Down Syndrome Advocate

The bill now moves onto the Pennsylvania Senate for consideration. **Pennsylvania residents are urged to call their state Senators and encourage them to support House Bill 2050.**

Abortion “Slogans”

An early mantra of those who advocated legal abortion was, “Every life a wanted life,” a sadly naive and deceptive slogan, coming from advocates who separated the wanted from the unwanted through abortion. But, at least it spoke to the desire to cherish human life, even if it never really made much sense coming from those who advocated abortion rather than aid and assistance to mothers.

Eventually, the mantra of “Every life a wanted life” became “Safe, legal, and rare,” a subtle shift that moved the needle further toward abortion, anytime and for any reason, even while still implicitly saying, “Yes, this is such a terrible choice that it must be rare.”

And today, of course, advocates of abortion have shifted entirely to the word “Access.” Abortion advocates simply refuse to speak about anything other than one person’s right to harm another, even while politically weaponizing “health” and “medicine” as the means for powerful persons to harm vulnerable persons.

Seemingly no abortion advocate can be too extreme. Even prominent bioethicists like Peter Singer, at Princeton, openly advocate for legalizing the killing of infants up to a certain point of post-birth development. Advocates for the inviolability of human life are labeled extremists.

It Makes a Difference!

Monique Ruberu, OB/GYN

I was listening to **Abby Johnson**, former Planned Parenthood director, mother of seven living children, post-abortion mother of two and founder of “And Then There Were None.” She said that when she went to her last Planned Parenthood conference in 2009, she attended a breakout session which focused on “anti-abortion harassment.” In this session, they stated that the typical “no-show” rate for abortion appointments each day is 20 to 30 percent, but when people are outside lovingly and peacefully praying, the rate jumped to as much as 70 percent!

Please join us in front of the clinics! Call our office at 215-885-8150 to learn how.

Save the date!



The Annual Stand Up For Life Dinner will be held on Sunday, November 18 at the Philadelphia Sheraton.



Miracle Baby

Monique Ruberu, OB/GYN

One night in March, a patient in labor came to the hospital while I was working. I began to read her history and suddenly realized that it was an **Abortion Pill Reversal** patient that I had helped months ago when she immediately regretted taking the first RU486 pill. We were both so thrilled to be brought together at that moment. The abortion reversal worked and she had a beautiful, over 8 lb. healthy boy! Both mom and miracle baby are doing well. We were able to spend quite a bit of time together at the hospital. God is so good and I was so blessed to meet the adorable sweet little boy who is alive because God led his mom to this life-saving procedure. My heart skipped a beat when I laid eyes on this precious child who came so close to not being here. His mom cradled him, fed him, gazed at him and was so in love with him. She was so grateful that someone was there to tell her about the Abortion Pill Reversal. Call 877-558-0333 to talk with a hotline nurse, or visit abortionpillreversal.com.



Freedom?

Writing in the *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 22 years ago, economists George A. Akerlof, Janet L. Yellen, and Michael L. Katz summarized these unexpected connections: Before the sexual revolution, women had less freedom, but men were expected to assume responsibility for their welfare. Today women are more free to choose, but men have afforded themselves the comparable option. “If she is not willing to have an abortion or use contraception,” the man can reason, “why should I sacrifice myself to get married?” By making the birth of the child the physical choice of the mother, the sexual revolution has made marriage and child support a social choice of the father.



Rachel Guy's Story

Three doctors told my parents to abort me. The amniotic fluid that protected my body in my mother's womb was rapidly leaking and these doctors decided that I would probably not live and if I did, my life would not be “normal” or “lengthy.” If I had been diagnosed with a terminal disease at the age of 2 with no perceived hope of survival, it would have been criminal for any doctor to suggest just stopping my life right then and there because I was going to die anyway. But because I was in utero, the doctors decided that my life had no value and should be ended. Who defines “normal” and why did my life mean less than a child who had already been born?

But there were three other doctors who were willing to fight for my life and I now understand the power that doctors have, either for life or for destruction. Thankfully, my parents not only loved me unconditionally, but they also saw the intrinsic value of my life. My Grammy told them, “As long as there is a heartbeat, there is hope and we pray.”

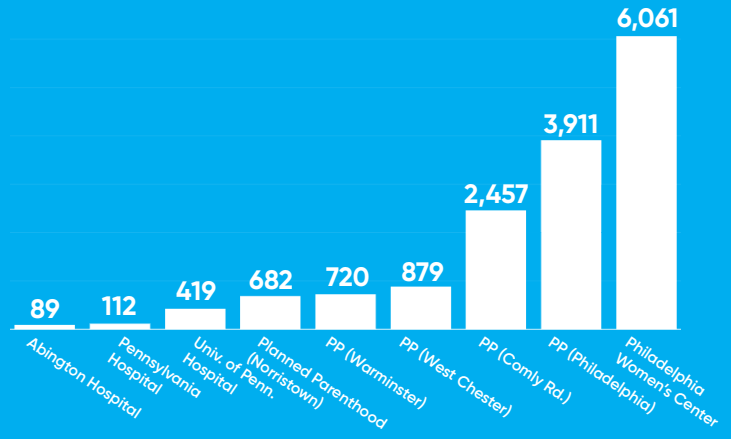
I was born at one pound two ounces and one of the doctors told my parents that if I was born alive I would be too sick to make any noise, but when I was born, that sweet doctor said, “She is squawking.” I then spent five-and-a-half months in the hospital, with my mom staying with me up to 12 hours a day and my dad coming almost every day after work and on weekends. The medical care and love both my parents and I received was amazing during this hospital stay.

I became aware that there are many parents in the same position that my parents were in when they discovered that not all doctors stand for life. I am so thankful for my parents and the doctors who valued my life. I am one of the lucky ones.

“FUN RAISERS” – There are so many fun ways to raise money for charitable organizations these days – Designer Purse Bingo, Bowl-a-Thons, Yard Sales, Bake Sales and more. Would you, your family, your youth group, respect life group or church group hold a “Fun” Raiser for the Pro-Life Union and Guiding Star? We'd be happy to report on your personal event in an upcoming newsletter (take pictures!).

ABORTION BY THE NUMBERS

The Pennsylvania Department of Health has released **2017 abortion statistics**. The facilities charted provided all four quarters of 2017. Missing facilities have not reported some of their information.



The Gospel of Life Bob Reynolds

Reading *The Gospel of Life (Evangelium Vitae)* from St. John Paul II once again, I am struck by the prophetic nature of this work, especially Chapter 1, which seminally defined the Culture of Death as well as the Culture of Life. St. John Paul II comprehensively addresses all the ways our culture in the West would stray (remember, this document was promulgated in 1995) from the objective truth of the Gospel of Christ, from abortion to euthanasia, artificial insemination and fertility management, disregard for the aging, etc. But being the pastor he is and was, he treats all of those committing these errors with a sensibility to the human predicament of the sinner and with an understanding of the many forces that mitigate culpability, including social and economic conditions. However, not insignificant in that consideration is the “structure of sin,” the underlying legal, political and social mores that reinforce actions which are intrinsically evil.

More light is shone near the end of that chapter, when he addresses all the positive signs that reflect a Culture of Life. These include many married couples who accept children as the supreme gift of marriage. He mentions ‘centers in support of life’, like the **Pro-Life Union**, and “groups of volunteers” who offer hospitality and support to those in need (**Guiding Star Ministries**). In subsequent chapters of the latter our beloved Pope Saint returns again and again to the particular evil of the Culture of Death – that is abortion.

We who have participated in the **40 Days For Life** campaigns have been truly blessed to witness the power of the Holy Spirit of God bringing together so many old and young, experienced and inexperienced, to witness for life publicly and call mothers and dads to change their abortion-minded attitudes. And we have seen what we call “saves”: Saves of children’s lives. Please join a 40 Days for Life campaign this fall or the **Philadelphia Sidewalk Servants** throughout the year. A simple call to the Pro-Life Union will help you easily contact the local leaders of these efforts.



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**Celebrating
moms today
and every day.**

Support life. Give today.

Yes! I want to fight to end abortion, provide alternatives to vulnerable families, support Guiding Star and promote the Culture of Life. Enclosed is my donation of \$_____ to help the Pro-Life Union’s efforts in Greater Philadelphia.

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Email _____
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I would like to become a monthly “Lifeline” donor! Please charge my credit card \$_____ each month.

I would like to make a one-time donation of \$_____ charged to my credit card.