



September 2014

Guided by a commitment to the sanctity of every life, the Pro-Life Union fosters a cohesive vision and strategy for a Culture of Life in Greater Philadelphia. Our beliefs are incarnated in the context of the family and through service to those making the choice for life.

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Well, it's that time again and as we see the school buses filled with God's beautiful children, we are reminded of the vibrancy and joy that young people bring to restoring a culture of life. We love the great ideas and thoughts that come from our area schools pro-life groups and are excited to meet the students at our Stand Up for Life Dinner this year. We would love to hear about your students' activities if they are involved in a pro-life group at their school. E-mail us at mail@prolifeunion.org. If there is not a pro-life group at their school, maybe you could help to inspire them to start one. We will be glad to assist!

Clarification

Recently, we have been contacted by supporters seeking clarification regarding groups affiliated with the Pro-Life Union. **Our only office is located in Oreland, PA.** The Pro-Life Union does not oversee a legal fund, nor are we currently involved in a fund-raising raffle. Please do not hesitate to call our office if you have questions about our Member Organizations and the ongoing activities of the Pro-Life Union.

Member Spotlight – Chester County Pro-Life Coalition

Member organizations share our commitment to the sanctity of every human life and partner with us as we foster a cohesive vision and strategy for the Culture of Life. Members also share our belief statements:

1. We believe that through the grace of Almighty God and through our good stewardship our culture will be transformed and so we serve in a spirit of hope.
2. We believe in the sanctity of all human life, from the moment of conception until the moment of natural death.
3. We believe that there is a need for prophetic voices within the institutions of our area and in the community at large, voices that speak the truth with love on behalf of marriage, family and the rights of children.
4. We believe that it is essential for those who take up the work of the pro-life movement to remain united in our vision and strategy so that our mission is realized in every generation and that we treat all people with honor and respect.
5. We believe in building strategic relationships with leaders in government and religious institutions.

The Chester County Pro-Life Coalition is located at 590 Snyder Avenue, West Chester, PA 19382 – 610-692-4463. When you visit their website, www.chescoprolife.org, you will clearly see their involvement in our area's pro-life movement. We honor and celebrate them for their activism in the community and their presence outside of abortion facilities.

A Battle Won

Louisiana College, a Christian college founded in 1906, has won their legal battle against the Obama Administration's HHS mandate which requires religious employers to provide insurance coverage for abortion pills at no cost to employees regardless of religious or moral objections. In response, a federal court issued a decision Wednesday in *Louisiana College v. Sebelius* that the Obama administration's abortion pill mandate violates the school's religious freedom. Keep those lawsuits coming!

Respect Life Sunday

Respect Life Sunday will be October 5th this year. Initiated by the United States Conferences of Catholic Bishops in 1972, it is a wonderful day to celebrate the humanity of the unborn child and pray for an increased awareness and respect for the dignity of the human person. Does your church participate in activities on this special day? The Pro-Life Union has materials that can be shared with your church community, including educational pamphlets, pro-life roses, pins and bracelets. We also publish a Respect Life Sunday Bulletin insert which is distributed to over 25,000 people during the month of October. If your pastor is interested in distributing our Bulletin, please let us know, and we will send a sample.

Protect and Serve

In August 2013, at a Michigan correctional facility, Sheriff Kim Cole was asked to allow an inmate to have an abortion at the prison. Pro-life Sheriff Cole refused to sign off on this and said that if "Sarah" wanted an abortion, she would have to get a court order. Weeks went by before he received the sad news that the order had been issued. But a short time later, the sheriff received an unexpected message – Sarah had a change of heart. When she met with Sheriff Cole later, she explained that she was grateful that she had the extra time to think things through. After being connected with a pregnancy counselor, Sarah chose to place her child in an open adoption. Sheriff Cole keeps a photo of himself holding the newborn on his desk. "She made the right choice, and I admire her and love her for that," he said. "She's given him an opportunity to write his own life story."



Baby "Life Facts"

A baby's development in the womb is an amazing process. Most know that a baby's heartbeat begins at 18-21 days, but here are some other interesting facts. At 10 weeks, a baby will respond to touch. If the mom's stomach is poked, the baby will wriggle away. The heart, lungs, kidneys and brains are all fully formed and functional by 10 weeks! A baby has its own unique fingerprints by 13 weeks. A 21 week-old baby is the length and weight of a banana. At 27 weeks, a baby's eyes open and they begin to develop focus. From 33 to 40 weeks, the baby gains one half pound per day. And not surprising to many of us, only 5% of all babies arrive on their due date!



10 Weeks

18 Weeks

29 Weeks

Born at 36 Weeks

40 Days for Life

According to the 40 Days for Life website, **8,973 lives have been spared through this outreach!** This fall (**September 25th through November 2nd**), join with “625,000+ people worldwide who are saving babies and protecting women from the harm of abortion.” There are 40 Days locations all over the greater Philadelphia Area. Visit www.40daysforlife.com for details and more information. The following groups have shared their campaign information with the Pro-Life Union, and you may contact the coordinators for details or to join.

- Warminster Planned Parenthood (Louis Drive) Hours: 8am-8pm daily. Contact: Mary Paris – 215-348-7480
- Philly Planned Parenthood (12th & Locust St): Hours 7am-7pm daily. Contact: Monique Rubero - 469-231-9084
- West Chester Planned Parenthood. Hours: 8am-8pm daily. Contact: Paulette Matthews – 610-286-5450

Upcoming Events

- ❖ Rally/Walk for Life: Join the Pro-Life Movement for a Walk and Rally for Life on September 28th beginning at 3:30pm at Love Park. A short walk will follow the Rally and Mass with Archbishop Chaput which will be held in the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter and Paul at 6:30 p.m.
- ❖ Johnny's Run for Life will be held on Sunday, October 12th at Cardinal O'Hara H.S. The race will begin at 8 a.m. (Mass will precede the race). To register, visit www.johnnysrunforlife.com.
- ❖ Alpha Pregnancy Services will hold their 2014 banquet at the City Line Hilton on Thursday, October 16, 2014. David Bereit, National Director of Forty Days for Life, will be the guest speaker. For more info, contact 215-735-6028.
- ❖ The Archdiocese of Philadelphia's Catholic Life Congress will be held on Saturday, November 1st from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Sheraton Philadelphia, 17th and Race. The day will feature dynamic presentations on the Catholic faith, inspiring musical performances, time for fellowship, exhibits featuring local and national Catholic ministries, and above all, time for prayer. To register, visit www.phillycongress.org.
- ❖ St. Dominic's Respect Life Ministry is sponsoring a Gettysburg Bus Trip to visit the Elizabeth Ann Seton Shrine and more on Saturday, November 1st from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. for \$90 per person. For reservations, call Susan Silcox at 215-882-0399.

A Way to Help

A common way that people choose to donate to the Pro-Life Union is to remember us in their wills. Please consider this meaningful option when planning your estate's future. Your gift will help our ongoing commitment to assisting women in crisis pregnancies, educating on the sanctity of life, giving witness to our community and encouraging our public officials to enact and enforce laws to protect the dignity of every human.

Protecting Women and Children

The Pro-Life Union continues to encourage our elected officials and government agencies to protect women and children from the abortion industry. This industry is filled with unscrupulous practitioners, like Steven Brigham, who, according to a judge, “has suffered license revocations. He has run afoul of licensing authorities in New York, Pennsylvania and Florida.” Mr. Brigham’s behavior is not a surprise, but it took years of pressure from the pro-life community to bring his crimes to light. Abortion is seen as a “hot-button issue,” so many times those in power wish to avoid addressing the violations committed by the abortion industry.

Reports continue to come in showing violations, including sub-standard sanitary conditions and failure to comply with mandatory reporting requirements by abortion companies in our area. In a recent letter sent to all of our local reps and senators, the Pro-Life Union once again asked that existing Pennsylvania laws regulating abortion be strongly enforced. If you need information on how to contact your legislator about this issue, please call our office.

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

Visit www.rally.org/prolifeunion to learn more, meet other supporters, and share our work with others.

The Pro-Life Union is a 501(c)3 organization.