

PA Abortions Increase, Pro-Life Efforts Increase

In 2021 there were 3% more abortions in Pennsylvania than in the previous year. The total, 33,206, is the highest number of abortions reported in the past ten years. Half, 16,542, of those abortions occurred right in our back yard, the five-county Philadelphia area. To help understand the sheer magnitude. Imagine 16,542 moms or dads pushing a baby in a stroller in single file. It would be a line that stretches nearly sixteen miles! Imagine one of them being your grandchild or child, nephew or niece. Now envision them all gone.

The task is so significant that the Pro-Life Union believes that we can't protect the right to life as a single organization. We need to support our associate member organizations, work with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and independent churches, and anyone who will join us in the effort. Pregnancy resource centers like Hope Pregnancy and AlphaCare are part of the solution. The Pro-Life Union and Catholic Social Services partnership at the Cenacle in Frankford serving more than one thousand vulnerable families is part of the answer. Adoption is a Loving Option, Culture Project, Students for Life and other groups reaching out to students are a significant part of the effort. Forty Days for Life, Sidewalk Servants and others organizing volunteers to serve in front of abortion centers are rescuing babies (and women) in another way. Chester County Pro-Life Coalition and their Chester County March for Life is another part of the prevention. You can meet many of these resource providers on April 1st at the Pro-Life Advocate Resource Conference. Many churches working together to provide solutions will also be present.

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." -- John 1:5

Please be a financial supporter of the Pro-Life Union to help us protect the unborn.



Honoring Founder John Stanton at 9th Anniversary Memorial Vigil & Mass

by Mickey Kelly

Approximately 120 pro-lifers came out on a chilly Saturday morning to honor John Stanton and to pray for an end to abortion outside of Philadelphia Women's Center.

Those gathered heard from Marlene Downing, Dr. Monique Ruberu, Kathleen Carpenter, Pastor Curtis Saxton and Bill Devlin. Despite the loud music being played by pro-abortion disruptors, the message was clear: Abortion is never healthcare and always takes the life of a child.

Following the rally and prayer vigil, all gathered for Mass at Holy Redeemer to celebrate Mass with Fr. Doug McKay. Martin Stanton offered a story before Mass on his grandfather's devotion to the rosary. Fr. McKay shared about John's steadfast courage in his involvement with the pro-life movement.

The event wrapped up with Mark Houck sharing that John Stanton was his mentor and so much more. He talked about how to be a pro-life activist and the wisdom he was given by Mr. Stanton when navigating a time of being single and living with his mom. The day was an inspiration to all.



2023 National March for Life a Huge Success

On January 20th, tens of thousands of pro-lifers gathered in D.C. for the 50th Annual March For Life, the first since the Supreme Court's Dobbs decision overturned Roe v. Wade. The day was blessed with beautiful weather as people from all over the United States, including thousands of students, gathered near the Washington monument to listen to music and be inspired by great speakers.

One of the biggest stars to address the rally before the March was Tony Dungy, Former NFL Hall of Fame player, Super Bowl winning coach, and NBC sports announcer. Tony and his wife Lauren are the parents of eleven children, eight of whom are adopted, and they have fostered over one hundred additional children. Coach Dungy spoke to the huge crowd for less than five minutes, but what he said was powerful:

...Three weeks ago, something miraculous happened. A young man named Damar Hamlin's heart stopped beating, right on the field.... Then a miracle happened, the teams got down on their knees and started to pray, even the announcers in the booth said, "all we can do is pray," and all across the country people started to pray.

The next week, NFL teams across the country got together and prayed.... So, what's the lesson in that? A huge multi-million-dollar game was canceled because a life was on the line. Every day in this country innocent lives are at stake; the only difference is they don't belong to a famous athlete, and they are not seen on national TV. But those lives are still important to God, and in God's eyes, as Psalm 139 tells us, God is watching every one of these young bodies as they grow in their mother's womb, because He placed them there.

March for Life (continued)

We know there are a lot of people in this country that don't believe that. They don't see these babies as being important, they don't even see them as lives. So, what can we do about that? I think we take a lesson from Damar's story - WE HAVE TO PRAY - we need to pray with the same fervor that we prayed with that week, because God answers prayers and he will answer our prayers to save these precious unborn lives...so if we do our part, we will save more and more of these lives...

On the day after the National Pro-Life March in Washington, D.C., Students for Life of America, alongside Students for Life Action, and Alliance Defending Freedom hosted the third annual National Pro-Life Summit!

The Pro-Life Union was proud to donate \$5,000 in sponsorships to the local Students for Life organization to enable them to send high school students from our area to this wonderful event.

We are grateful to our supporters who enable us to encourage and empower the next generation of pro-life leaders.



Last spring, the 40 Days Lenten Campaign helped to save at least sixteen babies from abortion by the presence of pro-life people who pray at area abortion facilities. Can you give an hour or two this Spring? Beginning February 22nd, the campaign runs until April 2nd. Please call one of the campaign leaders listed below to volunteer for this amazing program.

Bryn Mawr – Kathryn Slaats – 484-787-8556
 Chester- Rachel Hayes chesco40days@gmail.com
 Comly Road – Susan Silcox – 215-333-4313
 Norristown – Helen Walker – 770-823-8761
 Philadelphia – Pat Stanton – 267-718-4851
 Warminster – Sean Harney – 267-761-1383



“The Mission Remains the Same” says Mark Houck After Victory in Court

In the aftermath of his victory in federal court, Mark Houck, founder of The King’s Men, shared a message of encouragement with pro-lifers who might be hesitant to pray for women and their babies at abortion chambers.

Mark urges sidewalk advocates to continue fighting for life even amid apparent persecution. “Keep the faith and trust in God, trust in His provision for you and your family.” He also expressed that there is joy to be found in suffering for the glory of God.

“Use the suffering, the sadness, the worry, if there is any, the anxiety — use it to draw closer to Christ, to draw strength from His own suffering, the persecution of a righteous man,” he said. “We understand that the Kingdom of God is available to those who suffer in the name of Jesus.”

He also pointed out that while fear is a natural response to being persecuted for speaking the truth, “fear is not of God.” Mark shared how fear did not overtake him until ten minutes before the jury announced its verdict, at which point he experienced that strong emotional response.

Houck explained that he endured the trial by “trusting in God that regardless of what happens, even if I was in prison, that it would be for the best. That it would be for the best for my family and that it would be for the best for me. And that takes some faith, and we have to ask God every day to give us greater faith and greater trust in His goodness and plan for our lives.”

“Nothing’s really changing as far as the mission,” Houck said when asked about his plans after his victory in court. “We’ll continue to do what we always do ... knowing that we have the full protection of the law and the First Amendment.”

Life Advocate Resource Conference

Saturday, April 1st

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

St. Matthew Church Hall, Conshohocken

Want to be more effective in your pro-life activities? Join us at this event to network with our many Member Organizations and learn new ideas for saving babies and helping moms. Everyone is welcome. There will be brief presentations and the opportunity to speak with people who successfully work with their churches and in their communities to build a Culture of Life.

From adoption assistance to pregnancy centers, to maternity homes and community outreach programs, you will be able to learn about the many aspects of the pro-life movement.

A free lunch will be provided, but registration is required. Email pcorbett@prolifeunion.org or call our office at 215-885-8150



Blaney Beef & Beer is Back!

Due to Covid, it’s been a little while since this amazing fundraiser to benefit our Guiding Star Ministries Home has been an in-person event. But it’s back and it’s time to party for LIFE!

February 25th – 7 to 11 p.m.

Polonia Hall

4431 Belgrade Street, Phila. 19137

\$40 donation

Paul Moore Band Live

Buffet, Soda, Coffee, Beer & Wine

Call Ed Blaney at 215-840-8550



Member Organization Spotlight: Adoption is a Loving Option

This organization's mission is to educate youth and others about the positive options for facing unplanned pregnancies. Founders Jenny Galiani (mother of four adopted children) and Maria Malone (mother of three adopted children) had the vision of sharing their personal adoption stories to give a voice and a face to unborn children. Educating youth, young adults and others on adoption, empowers them to speak up against abortion, support adoption as a better choice and understand more options if faced with an unplanned pregnancy.

Adoption is a Loving Option is available to speak at organizations, Archdiocesan high schools, private Catholic high schools, Christian high schools, colleges and universities, youth groups and Respect Life groups. To learn more about this inspiring organization, visit adoptionisalovingoption.org.

The Wonder of Eve – a Gianna Center Event

March 22, 2023 – 7 p.m.

The Wonder of Eve is a fresh and engaging online Mother-Daughter Program that was developed by the Archdiocese of St. Louis, Office of Natural Family Planning. Through a Catholic lens, it teaches young women how naturally amazing their bodies are and the impact their choices can have on their future health and fertility.

This program is geared towards high school girls, and aligned with Catholic teaching, is presented by a FertilityCare professional, presented in 60-minutes and includes a Q&A session.

Visit phgiannacenter.org/event to register.

Action Item – Tell Pharmacies “NO ABORTION PILLS”

As we reported in our February Newsletter, three major pharmacies intend to dispense the deadly and dangerous abortion pills following the FDA's permission. Please call or email these companies to express your disapproval.

CVS – 800-746-7287
ExecutiveOffice@CVSHealth.com

Rite Aid - 800-748-3243

Walgreens - 800-925-4733
wcrexecresponse@walgreens.com

Congressional Pro-Life Initiatives

The most pro-abortion Presidential administration ever now has some opposition. One of the first acts of the new Congress saw the Republican-led U.S. House of Representatives pass two pro-life initiatives. One would secure legal protections for babies born alive after botched abortions and the other would articulate the House's condemnation of attacks on pregnancy centers.

While the votes signal strong pro-life sentiment among the Republican majority in the House, almost all Democrats voted against the measures and the bills certainly will not progress in the Democrat-controlled Senate.



Guiding Star Maternity Home OPEN HOUSE

Join us to experience the atmosphere, meet a mom, and see the incredible ministry serving pregnant women and their children. Please come see the great work we do, the beautiful home and the people being served.

Saturday, February 18th - 10am - Noon
1940 E Cheltenham Ave
Philadelphia PA 19138