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Mother's Day 2013

A Mother's Love – by Father Christopher Walsh

My mom died three years ago. She had suffered a stroke a few years prior to her death and succumbed to pneumonia following a surgery. She was three months shy of her eightieth birthday. She had buried my dad just eight months before her own death. She raised six children and “mothered” many others. She was a devout Catholic and a faithful friend. While my mom never walked a picket line, campaigned for an elected official or (as far as I know) talked anyone out of an abortion, my mom taught me what it means to be “pro-life”. Before I knew anything about laws, I knew about the dignity of each human person because of the way my mom treated people.

My mom taught me the dignity of every unborn child. One summer when I was home from the seminary, my mom seemed very “down”, which was unlike her. I asked her what was wrong and she shared that it was the anniversary of her having a miscarriage many years prior. As we sat in our family room she shared about the loss of that child, and two others, and what it was like to lose a child that had been growing in your womb. While she never had the chance to hold those children in her arms, I rejoice in the fact that she is with them now in the glory of heaven. Her thoughtful remembrance of these children, my siblings, instilled in me an even greater reverence for the unique dignity of every child in the womb.

My mom also taught me a great deal about the dignity of the elderly and the infirmed. These lessons began long before the stroke she suffered. When my grandmother, my mom's mom, became ill in her eighties, the decision was made for her to come and live in our home. Those years demanded great sacrifice from my mom (as well as my dad and my siblings who were still at home); they were sacrifices she made with great joy. The years we cared for my grandmother taught me about the need for families to sacrifice for one another, the importance of having reverence for our elders and the blessings that can come from loving in such a sacrificial way. When my mom's stroke demanded that she move into a nursing home, she continued to teach me so much about the value of human life in its final stages as she befriended other residents and cherished the gift of life each day as a gift from God. My regular visits to her there became increasingly grace filled as her life revealed the Gospel of Life in new ways.

Finally, my mom tried to teach my siblings and I that we had an obligation “to do something” when others were suffering. We might not be able to solve the entire problem, but we can always do something. She taught me this through her kind phone calls of support, her small contributions to a long list of charities, her volunteering different places and her genuine concern for those who were suffering. We live in a time when the levels of apathy and selfishness lead fewer and fewer people to notice the needs of others. I am thankful for my mom, who gave witness by noticing the needs of others and being willing “to do something”.

As we celebrate Mother's Day, I continue to give thanks to God for the gift of my mom. I am praying that other moms will follow her example and teach another generation of children the value and dignity of human life in all of its stages. The leaders of the pro-life movement remain an essential tool in defeating the Culture of Death. Yet the best way for us to build the Culture of Life will remain good moms doing what my mom did for me!



Save the Date!

This year's Stand Up For Life Dinner will be held on Sunday, November 24th at the Sheraton Philadelphia Center City. Early bird registration is available online now until July 12th. Visit the event page on our website.

Pro-Life Vigils

Prayer is still the best effort we can make to end the Culture of Death. This year is the 20th year of weekly vigils. Bless the Helpers of God's Precious Infants who have been instrumental in encouraging prayer and witness at the vigils.

Protestants – 2nd Saturday, Planned Parenthood, 12th & Locust – 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Catholics – (The Rosary will be prayed after each of these Masses. Location in parentheses.)

2nd Friday – 9 am Mass – St. John Chrysostom, 615 S. Providence Rd. Wallingford (RHCC)

3rd Friday – 8 am Mass – Nativity of Our Lord, 625 W. Street Rd. (PP Warminster)

1st Saturday – 7 am Mass – Christ The King, Morell & Chesterfield (PP Comly & Blvd.)

1st Saturday – 8 am Mass – St. Agnes, West Chester (PP West Chester)

2nd Saturday–8:30 am Mass–Newman Chapel, U of P, 38th & Chestnut (Penn Family Care, 39th & Chestnut)

3rd Saturday – 7 am Mass – St. John, 13th & Market (PP 12th & Locust)

4th Saturday – 6:30-8:30 am – Phila. Women's Ctr., 8th & Cherry

Celebrate the Good News

- ☞ There are real judges in Alabama. Their Supreme Court recently found that pre-born children are people! The court referenced Alabama's Declaration of Rights, which employed our Declaration of Independence – "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness."
- ☞ Reggie Littlejohn, a Yale Law School grad, was a high-powered San Francisco lawyer who became ill and was disabled for five years. She promised God that if she was returned to health, she would make her life count. She founded "Women's Rights Without Frontiers," which focuses on the embattled women of China facing forced abortions. Again, we see the *power of one*.
- ☞ On 4-22-13, citizens met with the Abington Hospital Board of Trustees. Last July, the hospital announced a merger with Holy Redeemer which would have stopped abortions, but the hospital cancelled this merger. Speakers urged the trustees to stop the violence. An M.D. who served at the hospital reminded the trustees that they are partners with the abortionists.



Follow us on Twitter (@prolifeunion) and like us on Facebook so that we can keep you posted about news and upcoming events!



Upcoming Events

Generation Life will hold its 2nd Annual Banquet on **Sat., June 22nd** from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the Plymouth Country Club, 888 Plymouth Road, Plymouth Mtg., PA 19462. Join them for a night of celebration and hear about the wonderful work that Gen Life is doing throughout the world. Tickets are \$60 for adults, \$30 for students and a table of 10 is \$500. RSVP by June 11th by contacting Emily Ortiz at eortiz@generationlife.org or visit www.generationlife.org.

The **Archdiocese of Phila.** is hosting a "**Be Not Afraid Peer Ministry Training**" to prepare peer ministers to offer support to parents who are carrying to term following a poor prenatal diagnosis. Those who have experienced such a prenatal diagnosis or those who have experienced a loss such as miscarriage, stillbirth or newborn death can be peer ministers. Those interested in volunteering are also welcomed. **Saturday, June 29th**, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Mary, Mother of the Redeemer, 1325 Upper State Rd., North Wales, PA 19454. Contact Sr. Kathleen Schipani at 215-587-3530 or rschipa@adphila.org.

Archbishop Chaput will celebrate a pro-life Mass on July 20th at 9 a.m. at the Cathedral Chapel of SS. Peter & Paul. Following Mass, a summer Pro-Life Summit will be hosted by the Archdiocesan Office of Life, Family & Laity. Details to follow; call our office for more information.

We Are Making a Difference

The 40th Anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* was marked this past January. Per Time Magazine, it was a great pro-abortion victory, but they have been losing ever since and many positive trends are in place. Since 1991, 1,516 abortion facilities have closed, with 96 closing in 2012. During recent years, the number of abortions has declined. In 1980, there were 65,777 abortions in Pa. During 2011, there were 36,280. A 45% decrease! However, each of the 36,280 children, made in the image and likeness of God, wished to continue living and should be here with us. In 1980, 34,167 children died in the Greater Philadelphia area and in 2011 that number decreased to 20,212. Polling also reveals that more young Americans are in favor of Life. We rejoice with these changes



Remember Karnamaya Mongar

The story of one of Gosnell's victims has been shared. Karnamaya Mongar and her family came to America in 2009 as refugees seeking a new life. Mrs. Mongar was pregnant and believed abortion was the answer. She didn't know or understand that the pro-life community is here to help women and their families. Tragically, Karnamaya's life and the life of her unborn child were cut short at the Gosnell facility. Pray with us for the many women who choose abortion because they feel they have no choice. May they find the support and help they need so that they can let their children live. Archbishop Chaput summed up the lesson of the Gosnell story perfectly. "The brutality in abortion is intimate, personal and permanent. It violates women, and it kills a developing human life every time – whether the venue is a "Women's Medical Center"-style meat factory or a soothing suburban cline. What makes the Gosnell story unique is that it should distress *anyone* with its details..."

Partner with Us

The Pro-Life Union was founded in 1971 and serves as Philadelphia's largest pro-life group. Our mission is to build a Culture of Life by promoting the sanctity of life. We are actively involved in every area of the pro-life movement – outreach, education, public policy and supporting alternative services. Our prayer, outreach and activism efforts keep the sanctity of life a priority.

We encounter abortion-minded women through our 24 Hour Hotline service and during prayer vigils outside of abortion facilities. Over the last few weeks, as the story of abortionist Kermit Gosnell has been recounted in the media, the faithfulness of those who prayed outside of his facility is also remembered. Every month, prayer warriors prayed in reparation for the abortions being committed inside. Information about abortion was distributed, and those witnessing explained how the abortion industry attacks poor communities. Women were offered real alternatives and invited to make a choice for life. The Pro-Life Union knows that being present at these facilities is critical to building a culture of life. We are grateful for the opportunity to share the truth about the humanity of the unborn child and the damaging effect of abortion on mothers.

The Pro-Life Union is honored to partner with many groups throughout the area so we can together transform Greater Philadelphia into an area where every life is respected and protected. This work is done only with God's grace and your help and support. Please consider how sharing your time, talent and treasure can help.

Put Life in Your Will!

It's easy! Contact your lawyer (our lawyers can help) and make the Pro-Life Union a beneficiary. Rita Pellegrino, a member of the PLU, chose us as the beneficiary in her will. That gift is being used to support the newly opened Women's Center in Philadelphia.



Pro-Life Pride

It's a great feeling to be driving down the expressway or some back road in Pennsylvania and see a fellow citizen showing pro-life pride with a Pa. Choose Life Plate. For a one-time charge of \$44 (\$24 to PennDot and \$20 to a pregnancy center) you will be showing the beautiful message of Life to thousands of people. As a result of this program, \$24,560 has been distributed to pregnancy resource centers and homes in Pa. Visit www.pachoose-life.org or call 215-885-2919.



Harrisburg

Our first priority is "Obama Opt Out," which rejects federal funds for abortion as provided by Obama "healthcare." On 4/23/13, the House, by a vote of 142-55, passed H.B. 818, which would accomplish this rejection. We anticipate a yes vote in the Senate and a quick signature by Gov. Corbett.

Our second priority is to stop all public monies from reaching abortion providers. Our State still provides these funds, sometimes via "family planning," another dishonest term.

PA Abortion Statistics

Abortion hospitals committed the following during 2012: U of Pa. – 343, Einstein – 241, Pennsylvania – 154, Abington – 89, Hahnemann – 25, Lankenau – 25, Bryn Mawr – 22, Jefferson – 12, Phoenixville – 11, Crozer-Chester – 2, Paoli – 2. No abortions were reported at Temple, Taylor or Doylestown.

Abortion facility leaders during 2012: PP, 12th & Locust – 5,883, Phila. Women's Center, 8th & Cherry – 5,070, PP, Comly Road – 3,334, PP, West Chester – 1,058, PP, Warminster – 919, PP, Norristown – 536.

Confusing a Culture

In Phila., Councilman James Kenny wants all city buildings to provide three lavatories – Male, Female and Uncertain - and wants to prohibit the terms "mother" and "father," replacing them with "parent #1" and "parent #2."

The actions of Mr. Kenny and others are extreme. Their attempts to show empathy for those with same-sex attraction and gender confusion will have a far-reaching cultural impact. Pray that all will accept God's plan for love and for life.

Obama Vows

On 4-26-13, Pres. Obama vowed to stand with Planned Parenthood. He was reacting to recent pro-life legal efforts in many states. He lauded the "100 years of PP." We have to ask, "Why?" PP continues to make abortion the cornerstone of their "services." Abortion and contraception are not healthcare, nor do they help women. In fact, the acceptance of these practices has caused enormous physical, emotional and spiritual harm to women and children. Planned Parenthood is not the answer, but instead part of the problem.



A Night to Remember

Some 250 people gathered on 4-25-13 to celebrate a combined 45 years of two pro-life homes – Our Lady's House in Glenside and Guiding Star in Germantown. These havens have housed over 330 mothers and 350 children. Six young mothers described the poverty and isolation they suffered when they were pregnant. With overwhelming gratitude, they recounted their joyful rescue and the new life they received at the homes and each story told of the triumph of good people bringing joy to mothers greatly in need. The housemothers were honored, as well as Father George Moore, Pastor of St. Benedicts which is the site of Guiding Star. Also honored were Jim and Kitty Moore. The Pro-Life Union is grateful that your generosity enables us to provide ongoing monthly support to these two homes.