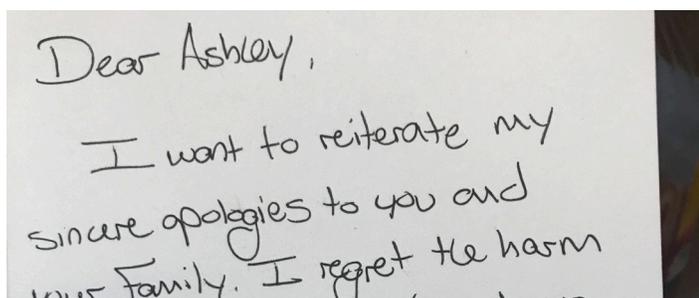




**Pictured (above):** Rep. Stephanie Borowicz (R-Clinton County) talked to media and other attendees at a press conference on October 21, 2019, introducing Pennsylvania's Heartbeat Bill.

## PA Heartbeat Bill Introduced at Recent Press Conference in Harrisburg

On October 21, 2019, Sen. Doug Mastriano (R-Franklin County) and Rep. Stephanie Borowicz (R-Clinton County) held a press conference in Harrisburg to introduce the Heartbeat Bill in Pennsylvania—Senate Bill 912 and House Bill 1977. The Heartbeat Bill would prohibit an abortion once a fetal heartbeat can be detected. According to the American Pregnancy Association, a heartbeat can be detected and viability can be assessed from 6 ½ -7 weeks. Although PA Gov. Tom Wolf has vowed to veto the bill if it ever reaches his desk, Rep. Borowicz declared at this press conference, “When you hear a baby’s heartbeat, everything changes. If you can be declared dead when the heart stops, why not declared alive when it starts?”



## Rep. Brian Sims Sends Non-Public Handwritten Apology 5 Months After Harassment of Pro-Lifers

Pennsylvania State Rep. Brian Sims finally apologized for his actions toward Ashley Garecht, her teenage daughters and their friend. Sims videotaped himself harassing them outside a Philadelphia Planned Parenthood back in April. The handwritten card’s inside message read: “Dear Ashley, I want to reiterate my sincere apologies to you and your family. I regret the harm that I caused and I have learned a great deal from this. I can only ask for your forgiveness and I wish you all the best in the future.”

## Join 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Stand Up For Life Dinner

A lot has happened this past year! Don’t miss the Pro-Life Union’s 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Stand Up For Life Dinner! Enjoy this special evening of fellowship, reflection, and inspirational messages to keep advocating for the sanctity of human life.

**WHEN:** Sunday, November 24, 2019—cocktail hour begins at 4:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 5:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Philadelphia 201 Hotel (201 N. 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103).

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:** Rachel Guy

**BRIEF BIO:** Rachel Guy has used the reality of her own story to advocate for the unborn. While in the womb, doctors gave a grim diagnosis to her parents who were encouraged to abort Rachel. Her parents chose life instead. Rachel was considered a “medical miracle” born at 1 lb. 2 oz. and became healthy during her five month stay in the NICU. She founded His Love and Care, a ministry that connects expectant mothers with pro-life OB/GYNs and physicians.



**MEDICAL EXPERT:** Dr. Monique Ruberu, pro-life OB/GYN, will share the story of an event in medical training that made her say, “Never again!”



**TICKETS/TABLES:** \$75 Adult

Ticket; \$50 Student Ticket; \$700 Full Table (discounted) for 10 Persons; \$500 Student Table for 10 Persons; \$50 Sponsorship of a Student’s Ticket.

**ORDER ONLINE:** To purchase individual ticket(s) and/or table(s), visit our Dinner page: [prolifeunion.org/events/dinner](http://prolifeunion.org/events/dinner).

**MAIL YOUR ORDER:** You may also send your reservation and payment by mail to: Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia, 88 Pennsylvania Avenue, Oreland, PA 19075.

**QUESTIONS?** Contact Anne Hinnegan (Pro-Life Union) at 215-885-8150 or at [ahinnegan@prolifeunion.org](mailto:ahinnegan@prolifeunion.org).

**SHARE ON SOCIAL:** Visit our Facebook page (@ProLifeUnion), click on our Facebook event page for the Dinner to let others know you’re attending, and share the event with family and friends!





**Pictured (above):** Peaceful witnesses praying outside Planned Parenthood at 12<sup>th</sup> & Locust Streets in Philadelphia.

## Testimonials from 40 Days for Life

The latest 40 Days for Life campaign began on September 25 and just ended on November 3. During this period of time, we've heard uplifting stories—not just baby saves, but of those who have shared words of encouragement for our prayerful witnesses. Dr. Monique Ruberu, one of the 40 Days for Life Philadelphia leaders, provided daily updates of these experiences during the most recent campaign. Here are some examples of these encounters:

### Story #1

“There was a woman who came up to us praying and wanted to give us encouragement. She indicated that she had brought her daughter to 777 (Appletree Street) for an abortion in August 2018. She indicated that she, herself, is a Christian and didn't want her daughter to get an abortion but her daughter insisted that this is the only option for her. They came to the clinic and five women were outside praying and offered her a brochure. They politely declined. While in the clinic the mother indicated she could 'feel death' in there and told her daughter she couldn't be there to watch this happen. She exited the building and spoke to the women outside. Shortly after, her daughter followed and said she was confused on what to do. The five women outside consoled her and offered her a brochure, which she took. Her daughter walked off, but the five women asked if they could pray with the mother. This woman came up to let us know her grandchild is now five months old and they couldn't be happier and couldn't imagine their lives without her. The woman wanted us to know that what we do makes a positive difference and encouraged us to keep it up.”

***“This woman came up to let us know her grandchild is now five months old and they couldn't imagine their lives without her.”***

### Story #2

“Today at 12<sup>th</sup> & Locust Streets, Carol and Ann Marie from

### ***(“Testimonials from 40 Days for Life” Article Continued)***

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church were praying. They noticed a mom sobbing in the courtyard. They began to speak to her, consoling her, and offering her love and help. She was so upset about being pregnant. They took her to the Community Women's Center in Philadelphia where she met with the people working there. She decided then and there not to return to Planned Parenthood, and is scheduled for an ultrasound later this week!”

### Story #3

“Yesterday as we were handing out resources and praying outside Planned Parenthood, a gentleman who was cleaning the sidewalks stopped in between us and the escorts. He told us that he always stops here and tells everyone that his mother got pregnant with him at the age of 14 and that he very easily could not be here. Making the right decision, she kept him and gave him up for adoption. He spoke of how lucky he was as he eventually got to have two moms and two dads. He said it was his duty to show people how he wouldn't be here and that everyone matters!”

Become a Sidewalk Servant all year round (not just during 40 Days for Life campaigns)! Visit our website at [prolifeunion.org/outreach/sidewalk-servant](http://prolifeunion.org/outreach/sidewalk-servant).



**Pictured (above):** Feet of an aborted 10-week-old baby; this image, which was taken by Dr. Russell Sacco, became a symbol of the pro-life movement.

## Bill to Respect the Humanity of Unborn Children Passes PA House Committee

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, the Pennsylvania State House Health Committee passed HB 1890, a bill that requires healthcare facilities to properly handle disposition (burial or cremation) of unborn children who have died from an abortion or miscarriage. This bill is similar to one passed in the state of Indiana that was recently upheld as constitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Thank you to Chairman Kathy Rapp (R-Warren), lead sponsor Frank Ryan (R-Lebanon), and all of the Republican members of the House Health Committee who voted to pass this bill on to the House floor. All of the Democrats in the Committee voted against it. The final vote was 15-10. In the midst of this debate, Rep. Wendy Ullman (D-Bucks) wanted to know why the legislature should go to all this fuss for just “a mess on a napkin.”

HB 1890 now goes to the full House for a vote. Please contact your state representative and ask them to vote “yes” on HB 1890 to uphold the dignity and humanity of unborn children. Visit [prolifeunion.org/publicaffairs](http://prolifeunion.org/publicaffairs) to find your state representative and his/her contact information.



## Pro-Life Union Launches *Baby Steps* Monthly E-Newsletter for Respect Life Leaders

Last month, the Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia released its first edition of “Baby Steps,” an e-newsletter with content specifically designated for Respect Life and/or Pro-Life Leaders in parishes, schools, and groups. The monthly e-newsletter provides tidbits of resourceful information to inspire and flourish their group’s mission and involvement in promoting the sanctity of human life.

## Memorial Crosses Vandalized on Church Grounds

An unfortunate event happened last month outside Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Buckingham Township (Central Bucks County). Memorial crosses, which are displayed each year to remember the lives killed through abortion since 1973, were vandalized. In reaction to this destruction, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church organized a prayer vigil on October 19, 2019, at the site where these memorial crosses were ruined. Over 100 people attended to show their support for the parish and to pray for this erratic behavior to stop.



## Christmas Shopping on Your Mind?

It’s that time of year—Christmas shopping on the horizon! Consider the Pro-Life Union in your heart this season. Gift cards are a simple way for us to acquire materials needed. Gift cards are also easy to use to purchase items for Guiding Star Ministries (our maternity home), their annual Christmas party and other events for residents. Suggested stores for gift cards include: Walmart, Aldi, Giant, and Target. Call the Pro-Life Union office at 215-885-8150 if you have questions. We appreciate your generosity, which enables us to help mothers and their unborn/born children.



## New Board Members Inducted to Pro-Life Union’s Board of Directors

The Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia recently welcomed seven new Board Members to serve alongside nine active Board Members. We are excited to have the following individuals join our Board of Directors:

- **Kim Bennett**—Nurse, AlphaCare
- **Estela Bugg**—Director, Archdiocesan Project Rachel Program
- **Cason Cheely**—Attorney, Stone Crosby, P.C.
- **Marlene Downing**—Director, HOPE Pregnancy Center
- **Ashley Garecht**—Public Speaker; Homeschooling Mother
- **Liana Hollendonner**—Regional Coordinator for Pennsylvania and Delaware, Students for Life of America
- **Joe Zalot**—Staff Ethicist, National Catholic Bioethics Center

These new Board Members were nominated and voted into the Pro-Life Union’s Board of Directors for their pro-life activism in the community, motivation to reach different generations and educate them about the sanctity of human life, and their participation in pro-life efforts.

Liana Hollendonner shared her enthusiasm about this new role with the Pro-Life Union: “It is an honor to join a board of so many influential pro-life leaders. I look forward to bringing more youth into the movement and helping to create a culture of life.”

Kim Bennett also expressed her positive outlook toward this leadership opportunity: “I look forward to partnering with the Pro-Life Union in order to help promote a culture of life in Philadelphia and the surrounding areas. Women who make the courageous decision to continue a pregnancy to term need to know there are those who want to walk alongside them.”

Learn more about our new and current Board Members online at [prolifeunion.org/leadership](http://prolifeunion.org/leadership).

## Don’t Miss Philadelphia’s Pro-Life Conference for Women (Nov. 16)

Philadelphia will hold its first pro-life conference for women, “Ladies Love Life,” on Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at New Life Church (Huntingdon Valley, PA) to engage, empower, and educate pro-life women. This conference is organized by Dr. Monique Ruberu, a pro-life OB/GYN. Speakers include: Dr. Ruberu, Ashley Garecht, Kathy Barnette, Carla D’Addesi, and Theresa Kuhar. When we learn how to help, we step into action where our talents are best used. To register, become a sponsor or vendor, and for more details, visit the conference website at [ladieslovelife.com](http://ladieslovelife.com).



## Pro-Life Union Welcomes Two New Member Organizations

The Pro-Life Union also welcomed two new member organizations a few months ago in September 2019—Save a Life International and Good Counsel Homes. These organizations share our mission of fostering a cohesive vision and strategy for a Culture of Life, as well as our belief statements.



**Save a Life**  
INTERNATIONAL



**Save a Life International** is a pro-life non-profit based in the United States. They support women in crisis in Eastern Europe and beyond its borders including the U.S. Their support includes crisis pregnancy support, violence and domestic abuse assistance, and humanitarian aid for mothers and their children. They also aim to educate youth about sexual integrity and the sanctity of life. For more information, visit their website at [savealifeintl.org](http://savealifeintl.org).

**Good Counsel Homes** is a nationally recognized nonprofit leader and innovator in creating supportive residential care and community-based services for homeless, expectant, and new mothers and their children in the context of the Catholic social tradition. Pregnant and expectant mothers, with or without other born children, including mothers with mental health or addiction challenges, from any location, are able to receive help in a Good Counsel home. Their headquarters are located in Hoboken, New Jersey, where Good Counsel Homes was founded as an outreach program in 1985 and continues to flourish to this day. Good Counsel now has five homes: four in New York counties (Bronx, Richmond, Westchester, and Rockland) and one in Burlington County, New Jersey. For more information, visit their website at [goodcounselhomes.org](http://goodcounselhomes.org).

**PENNSYLVANIA**  
**MARCH FOR LIFE**

**Harrisburg, Pa | May 18, 2020**

**11:00 a.m.** Rally at the State Capitol, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania  
**12:00 p.m.** March for Life

**“We envision a Greater Philadelphia with no abortion or euthanasia”**

**Upcoming Events:** (Visit [prolifeunion.org/events](http://prolifeunion.org/events) for complete details about these events)

**11/16 from 9:00am-5:00pm—Ladies Love Life Conference**—Join the Philadelphia region’s first pro-life women’s conference at New Life Church (Huntingdon Valley, PA)! This conference will engage, empower, and educate pro-life women in the Philadelphia and tri-state area. Speakers include: Dr. Monique Ruberu, Ashley Garecht, Kathy Barnette, Carla D’Addesi, and Theresa Kuhar. For tickets and more details, visit [ladieslovelife.com](http://ladieslovelife.com).

**11/17 at 3:00pm—Theology of the Body/Eagles Football Game Event**—Sponsored by St. Peter Parish’s Respect Life Committee, all high school boys, fathers, and father figures are encouraged to attend this event at the parish’s Bethany Room and Celebration Center (West Brandywine, PA). Theology of the Body speaker, Brendan McCauley, will talk about St. John Paul’s teaching on love, life, and human sexuality so men can build a culture of life. Then watch the Eagles play against the Patriots at 4:30pm. To RSVP and for more details, contact Tracy at [tracymphillips@yahoo.com](mailto:tracymphillips@yahoo.com) or 610-220-4346.

**11/18 at 7:00pm—End-of-Life Ethics Seminar**—Joe Zalot, Staff Ethicist at the National Catholic Bioethics Center, will lead a discussion at Saints Simon and Jude (West Chester, PA) about the ethics of advance directives, focusing on Power of Attorney for Health Care and the Living Will. For more details, contact Joe at [jzalot@ncbcenter.org](mailto:jzalot@ncbcenter.org).

**11/24 for 4:30pm reception, 5:30pm dinner—Pro-Life Union’s 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Stand Up For Life Dinner**—See Page 1 of November 2019 newsletter or visit [prolifeunion.org/events/dinner](http://prolifeunion.org/events/dinner).



Tom Stevens, President and CEO  
[tstevens@prolifeunion.org](mailto:tstevens@prolifeunion.org)

### Board of Directors

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Paul DeCamara – Vice Chair  
Bob Biggs – Treasurer  
Helene Hallowell – Secretary  
Kim Bennett  
Estela Bugg

Cason Cheely  
Marlene Downing  
Ashley Garecht  
Liana Hollendonner  
Richara Krajewski

Lisa Liccione  
Monique Ruberu, M.D.  
Tom Shakely  
Patrick Stanton  
Joe Zalot

