

Cherish Life.



88 Pennsylvania Avenue
Oreland, PA 19075

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prolifeunion.org

RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY 2018 EDITION

Wonderful!

Tom Stevens, President and CEO, Pro-Life Union

One of the many profound and formational experiences I had as a student at Villanova University was participating in Handicapped Encounter Christ Retreats. Forty extremely physically disabled men and women would be afforded the opportunity to leave their full-care institutions and enjoy a taste of freedom, change, friendship and fun. The only way it could happen was to have “able-bodied” partners for each attendee.

Fr. Bob had been an incredible musician, teacher, writer and speaker. After his stroke, however, he was confined to a wheelchair and was only able to form single syllable sentences at best. It was midnight on the first night, I was a tired college junior and definitely ready for bed. When Fr. Bob vomited on himself as I was about to brush his teeth, I wanted to run. Instead, I knelt next to him and cleaned the vomit, changed, brushed and got him into bed. He just said “Oh, oh” and had apologies in his eyes. For me it was quite humbling, certainly stretching, and somehow a remarkably beautiful moment. It was one example of many experiences during those retreats where I learned more about the human heart, spirit, and service and true joy than any class.

There is an understandable drive in our society towards productivity, efficiency, effectiveness, ambition, planning and achievement. Rightly so, I push my own kids to do well in school, be their best, be physically fit, great competitors and get into

good colleges. We’re paying a huge price in society if we are not equally valuing, celebrating and enjoying all human life and love. Whether a long-term care resident, premature baby, stroke victim, convict in prison, severe addict in Kensington, quadriplegic at Ingles House or three-week preborn in a mother’s womb, each individual carries a unique, intrinsic and amazing human value and story to be told or yet to be written. “I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” (Psalm 139:14) So are you. So are they. Let’s take a breath from productivity and achievement; look around you and recognize that inside each pregnant woman and within each human individual, is someone wonderful.

“Gosnell” Movie in Theaters Oct. 12

The film *Gosnell: The Trial of America’s Biggest Serial Killer* will be released in select theaters nationwide on Friday, October 12. Based on the true story of Dr. Kermit Gosnell, this movie shows the investigation and trial of the Philadelphia abortion doctor who killed hundreds of infants born alive during abortion procedures. *Gosnell* is not just a powerful film, but an opportunity to spread the pro-life message. Group tickets and theater buyouts can be coordinated; visit gosnellmovie.com to find specific theater locations.



Matthew the Great!

Drew and Ariann Corpstein were told that their preborn baby boy had a malformed, undeveloped brain and doctors provided no hope that he would survive. They advised the couple to induce early labor and abort their son. The Christian couple, who had suffered a previous miscarriage, refused abortion but began plans to say goodbye to their baby.

On July 27, 2018, the couple was told that it was time to induce labor and after two days, Matthew James was born alive and regulating his own heartbeat. He began to nurse and respond to light, voices and touch. After another MRI, the Corpsteins were told that their baby had been misdiagnosed and that while he'll need surgery to drain some extra fluid from his brain, "Matthew the Great," as he has been dubbed, has every chance at a normal life. He went home after only spending one week in the hospital.



The Pro-Life Union and Guiding Star Ministries frequently receive calls from parents who are frightened because they have been given a poor prenatal diagnosis. Recently, Wendy was told that her preborn baby had a serious physical defect and called us after she had gone not once, but twice to an abortion clinic, but just couldn't take the life of her baby. We thank God that we were able to offer her an emergency room at Guiding Star where she is happily awaiting the birth of her baby.

High School Girl Changes Mind, Chooses Life for Unborn Child

Monique Ruberu, OB/GYN

I was standing on the sidewalk deep in prayer with Tom Stevens, the head of the Pro-Life Union, when we spotted her coming out.

She was a young girl, maybe late high school age, and she looked scared and sad. She came out of the gate and I approached her saying, "Hi, I have some resources I'd like to share with you." I told her I was an OB/GYN physician and I could take her to the Philadelphia Community Women's Center where they could offer her real help and solutions for whatever problem was pushing her in an abortion clinic. Then I asked, "Can I take you over there right now? It's just across the street."

I was so surprised when she said "yes" in a quiet voice.

Along the way she told me that she was 17+ weeks along. I told her that the baby has fingers and toes and all of its organs. I asked her how she felt and she said she didn't want it. I started speaking about the beauty of adoption where she could let someone else take care of the baby, but she could still be a part of its life if she decides to give this baby the gift of life. By that time we were inside the center and I introduced her to the ladies working there. They lovingly welcomed her, and I made my way back down to continue praying for her.

In that one hour we encountered so many people: men, women,

young girls, the abortionist and workers. We met each one with kindness and compassion. We offered resources and we prayed. The escorts from Planned Parenthood were kind enough to allow us to carry out conversations without interrupting too often; when they did, it was just mild protests that we want to shut Planned Parenthood down, which I guess isn't far from the truth.

God was so good. As I continue to visit abortion clinics, I'm asking you all to keep us in prayer. Keep us strong, keep us focused in prayer; pray that hearts and minds of the abortion seeking people are changed, and pray that lives are saved.



**Pregnant?
We Can Help!**



**Call 610-626-4006
or text 484-451-8104.**

Stand Up For Life Dinner

You're invited to the Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia's 35th annual Stand Up for Life Dinner in Center City! Join us for an evening to look forward to the future.

When: Sunday, November 18, 2018

Time: Cocktails at 4:30 p.m., followed by Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Location: The 201 Hotel Sheraton - Center City, Philadelphia

Reservations:

Individual tickets: \$75

Tables of ten (adults): \$700

Student tickets: \$50

Reserve tickets and tables online by visiting prolifeunion.org/events.

You may also send reservations by mail to:

Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia

88 Pennsylvania Avenue

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About our Keynote Speaker:

A native Washingtonian, Sr. Grace Dominic currently serves vulnerable pregnant women in Philadelphia, where the Sisters of Life have opened a new mission. A graduate of Catholic University and Franciscan University of Steubenville, she worked as a journalist for five years before entering the Sisters of Life in 2008. Moved by the powerful witness of John Paul II while covering World Youth Day in Toronto, Sr. Grace Dominic first felt the invitation to give her heart completely to Jesus, a surprise unto herself.



Keynote Speaker:
Sister Grace Dominic
(Sisters of Life, Philadelphia)

Any Questions?

Contact Anne Hinnegan at 215-885-8150 or ahinnegan@prolifeunion.org.

Had an Abortion? There's Healing!

Mothers who have had abortions have lost a child. Sometimes their grief and pain does not manifest itself until many years later. There is help and hope for women who need post-abortion healing. Two organizations, Project Rachel and Rachel's Vineyard, can help.

Their names are inspired by scripture; "Rachel mourns her children, she refuses to be consoled because her children are no more" (Jeremiah 31:15).

If you, or others you know, are experiencing sadness or depression from an abortion, please contact them.

Project Rachel (hopeafterabortion.com):

1-855-722-4354; projectrachelhope@gmail.com

Rachel's Vineyard (rachelsvineyard.org):

877-467-3463; rachel@rachelsvineyard.org



Volunteer!



There are so many ways to volunteer your time with the Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia! Visit prolifeunion.org/volunteer or call 215-885-8150.

Adoption is a Loving Option

An unintended pregnancy can seem daunting, particularly if the mother's circumstances are far from ideal. Many people think that there are only two ways to act in this case—give birth and keep the baby, or abort the baby. But there is another wonderful option. Adoption.

Adoption is a Loving Option is a local group who provides hope and support to women who face this decision. Founded by two adoptive moms, Maria Malone and Jenny Galiani, this group also visits as many high schools and universities as possible to educate about adoption.

If you, or someone you know, would like to learn more about the beauty and joy of adoption, visit their website at adoptionisalovingoption.org. You may also contact 215-527-5828 or email info@adoptionisalovingoption.org.



Adoption is a Loving Option Founder, Jenny Galiani, and her son Thomas (now 10 years old)



Resident Spotlight: Kiana and Baby Ayana

One of our residents at Guiding Star Ministries, Kiana, gave birth a few months ago to her beautiful, 6.7 lb. daughter Ayana. Before having her baby, Kiana was attending job fairs and interviewing for work.

Kiana had these kind words to say about Guiding Star Ministries: "It made me feel so good when I came to Guiding Star and there was a sign up that said 'Welcome' which had my name on it. That made me feel really special. Guiding Star is not like other shelters. There is time and space here to make sure you're okay, and there is a respectful environment. I'm relieved that I don't have to worry yet about paying rent; instead, I can focus on finding work and caring for my newborn."



Tom Stevens, President and CEO
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**Respecting life,
today and every
day.**

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☐ 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.

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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.