



**“You knit me in my
mother’s womb.”
—Psalm 139:13**



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RESPECT LIFE MONTH 2019



Life is Worth It!

By: Tom Stevens, President and CEO, Pro-Life Union

Once in a while, a little navel gazing is important. Consider your own belly button! Early in your life, there was an umbilical cord extending from your abdomen to the placenta in your mother’s womb. It’s how you were nourished. When you were born, it was cut, and eventually you were left with the belly button reminder of where you spent the beginning stages of your life.

“Truly you have formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother’s womb. I give you thanks that I am fearfully, wonderfully made; wonderful are your works. My soul also you knew full well; nor was my frame unknown to you when I was made in secret, when I was fashioned...” (Psalm 139:13-15).

You were a distinct, unique human during your time in your mother’s womb—a completely separate person from your mom, though living and developing within her. Even as you rapidly grew, the pattern for your whole self (your DNA) had been there since conception. Out of the 7 billion people in the world, there never has been, or will be, another you. You were, and are, so precious. You are fearfully, wonderfully made.

There have been, and will be, bumps in the road. Real devastation, difficulties, and heartache are part of every life; some people certainly experience more severe tragedies and lifelong struggles

than others. But your precious life is worth it. Sometimes the bad things that happen can be shocking, confusing, and cause us great questioning—but is that a reason to end a life prematurely? When we are being formed in the womb, we have a right to protection, safety and life. Throughout our lives and even at the end of life—because of the importance, sanctity and inviolability of human life—we don’t possess a right to end our own life or someone else’s too soon, do we?

It’s unfathomable that more than 15,000 precious unborn babies are losing their lives each year at abortion centers in Greater Philadelphia. They don’t even have belly buttons yet, but are precious, unique, and fully human, though not fully formed. Certainly those precious ones in their mother’s womb have a right to life. Don’t they?

This is why the **Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia** uses hope and love for families to serve and accompany others by offering education, alternatives, outreach and public witness to eliminate the perceived need for abortion and euthanasia. We hope you’ll educate yourself. Think about it. Pray about it. Got a question? Want to talk? Visit prolifeunion.org and use our online chat, send us an email, or give me a call.

Become involved in your church’s respect life activities, in the Pro-Life Union or other groups’ activities, and in 40 Days for Life. Attend the first-ever PA March for Life on May 18, 2020. No time to lose; take action now.



How Methotrexate Abortion Reversal Saved My Unborn Child's Life This Year

Dr. Monique Ruberu, pro-life OB/GYN, shares a patient's testimonial about the use of abortion pill reversal:

I found out I was pregnant in March. At first I started to laugh, then I started to cry and I called my ex. It was all so strange; we had just broken up, and his first response was "Get an abortion."

I didn't know what to do; I grew up in a Christian household. I knew it wasn't right, but I thought it was the smartest choice. I scheduled an appointment at the abortion clinic. There were people praying out front and they tried to reach out to me. I ignored them and went in, but their presence pricked my conscience. It was a disgusting office. The environment wasn't inviting, and I felt so uncomfortable.

I guess God was trying to send me a sign when the doctor couldn't show up because of a flat tire. I had my initial ultrasound and was given instructions to return the next day. The ultrasound was covered by insurance. It showed I was 7 weeks pregnant and was able to have a chemical abortion.

I went back the next day. The prayer warriors remembered me, and said, "This isn't God's plan. The church is offering support." I didn't feel harassed, but it did make me feel more uncertain and worse about what I was preparing to do. If they weren't there, it might not have bothered me as much.

When I went inside, they put me in the room. They didn't offer me any support or counseling other than telling me not to eat anything healthy to try and deprive the baby of nutrients.

I went upstairs and nobody was allowed to be there with me. I called my best friend. She said she would support me either way, but then instantly began researching the effects of abortion and came across the abortionpillreversal.com website. She later sent a screenshot of the website to me. Thank God!

The doctor came in and asked me to get undressed. I had been contemplating and crying for over an hour. He checked my uterus and prepared to give me the methotrexate injection. At the last moment I said, "Wait, wait!" but it was too late. He injected it all anyway.

("Methotrexate Abortion Reversal" Article Continued)

I fell to pieces as the nurse explained that five days later I had to insert pills to push the remains out of my uterus. I was to expect bad cramping and pass it in the toilet. I was supposed to follow up a few weeks later to make sure everything was ok.

I went home and my mom still didn't know about any of this. I had a pounding headache, and I told her everything. She told me she had been in the same situation at age 18 and had chosen abortion, but then when she was pregnant with me, I had a hole in my amniotic sac at 12 weeks and she was put in the hospital. At that time the doctors advised her to abort me, but she refused. She told me that I was her miracle and she encouraged me to keep mine.

When my friend sent me the abortionpillreversal.com screenshot, I called the number and got a hold of the nurse who connected me to Dr. Ruberu. We started the treatment to reverse the abortion after she told me of all the possible side effects of the methotrexate that had been given to me. I knew that if there was any chance for life, I had to fight for my baby. I flushed the pills the abortion center gave to me and made an appointment to meet Dr. Ruberu.

The road hasn't been easy since then. Every ultrasound has been full of anxiety until I receive the good result. Thus far, my little "Lively" is very much a miracle child who I am sure will have much to share with the world as an abortion survivor.

My relationship with the baby's father has been challenging, but we are both working toward being the best parents that we can be. Dr. Ruberu talks to me about embracing chastity and focusing on preparing for a strong life with my child. I think I may follow her advice.



End-of-Life Ethics Seminars

Joe Zalot, Ph.D., Staff Ethicist at the National Catholic Bioethics Center, and new Board Member of the Pro-Life Union, will be discussing Catholic teaching on end-of-life ethics challenges at two presentations happening in October and November at Saints Simon and Jude Parish (West Chester, PA). Join him on **Monday, October 21** at 7:00pm as he covers the topics of "Ordinary and Extraordinary Treatments" and "Medically-Assisted Nutrition and Hydration." Joe will lead another discussion on **Monday, November 18** at 7:00pm to talk about the ethics of advance directives, focusing on the Power of Attorney for Health Care and the Living Will. For more information about these events, contact Joe Zalot at jzalot@ncbcenter.org.

Pregnant?
Need Help?

Text 484-451-8104 or
call 610-626-4006.

Protect the Unborn in Our Beloved City

By: Ashley Garecht

It has been six months since my encounter with State Representative Brian Sims in front of the Planned Parenthood at 12th and Locust St. in downtown Philadelphia. While my memories of that day and the media storm that followed are still jarring, I am also deeply aware of the ways that God was walking with us and working for good. I know with utmost certainty that while Satan “meant for evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive.” (Gen 50:20)

Many readers of this newsletter are familiar with my story. On Holy Thursday this past April, I went with my two daughters and their friend to quietly pray in front of the abortion facility. In the middle of our rosary, we were aggressively harassed by a man we later learned was State Representative Brian Sims. He came back a second time with his phone and filmed the three teenagers, ultimately doxxing them by offering \$100 if anyone could provide their identities. Mr. Sims posted the video to his public Twitter account and it went viral a few weeks later. Before that video, he had also posted another video of his eight-minute long haranguing of a woman praying alone in front of the same facility.



Pictured (above): Ashley Garecht addressing the crowd at the Pro-Life Rally Against Bullying on May 10, 2019.

Days later after the public saw both viral videos, more than 1,000 people attended a Stand Against Bullying Rally in front of that Planned Parenthood. National pro-life activists Lila Rose, Abby Johnson, and Matt Walsh came to Philadelphia at their own cost to denounce the actions of Mr. Sims and call for an end to the slaughter of abortion. A few weeks later, Representative Jerry Knowles (R-Schuylkill, Berks and Carbon Counties) introduced House Resolution 387 calling for the formal Censure of Brian Sims in the Pennsylvania General Assembly. The resolution currently has 46 co-sponsors and my husband and I continue to work toward its passage in the House because it stands as both a public rebuke of Mr. Sims' dangerous behavior; and as a substantive defense of the inviolability of our civil and religious liberties as guaranteed by the First Amendment.

As I reflect on all that has happened, I am mostly aware of several points of stark contrast. In the exact location where Mr. Sims used anger and intimidation in defense of abortion, an entire



Pictured (above): Guiding Star resident Ivory (second from left) with her daughter, Adelae, posing with GSM associates and Tom Stevens.

“You Made Me Feel Welcome!”

Guiding Star Ministries (GSM) is a maternity home and outreach program of the Pro-Life Union that provides shelter and assistance to single pregnant women and their children. After some time living at Guiding Star, former residents Ivory and her daughter Adelae, recently transitioned into a new apartment. Ivory also landed a new job. She told Guiding Star how the maternity home changed her life: “I was so scared when I came. You made me feel welcome...I’m in such a different place now. Guiding Star helped me reach my goals, be ready for independent living, and be a new mom. I’m planning to own a business in the future.” Congratulations to Ivory for staying strong, pursuing her goals, and becoming independent! To learn more about Guiding Star Ministries, visit prolifeunion.org/guidingstar.

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

“Protect the Unborn in Our Beloved City” Article Continued

community came together in love and peaceful protest to declare the sanctity of life in the womb. Mr. Sims used the internet to threaten and intimidate, but with the support of thousands of individual donors we used the internet to raise nearly \$130,000 for the work of the Pro-Life Union. Mr. Sims tried to make a mockery of the prayer warriors who stand in front of Planned Parenthood, but instead many people who had never found the courage to attend any type of pro-life event came to a nationally televised rally and signed up to learn more about the Sidewalk Servants. At every juncture, evil was overcome with good.

I have prayed in front of the Planned Parenthood at 12th and Locust Sts. several times over the last few months and my family will be there together during this fall’s 40 Days for Life campaign. When we go it will be with a renewed sense of the Lord’s presence and purpose, and a deeper appreciation for the pro-life community as we battle together to protect the unborn of our beloved city.

**Talk to someone before you do what cannot be undone.
There’s hope. There’s help. You are going to make it!**



Join 40 Days for Life from September 25 to November 3. This nationwide campaign has helped to save 16,004 unborn babies' lives, has seen 104 abortion clinics close, and 191 abortion workers quit their jobs and become pro-life. For locations, days, hours, and leaders' contact information, visit prolifeunion.org/outreach/40-days-for-life.

Other Upcoming Pro-Life Events

Full event details at prolifeunion.org/events

10/12—"Newby Saturday" for Sidewalk Servants from 10am-12pm outside Planned Parenthood at 12th & Locust Sts. (Philadelphia)

10/17—AlphaCare's Annual Fundraising Event: Rooted & Established will hold lunch at 11:30am and dinner at 6:30pm at the Hilton City Avenue (Philadelphia)

10/22—The Gianna Center of Philadelphia's First Annual Gala from 6-9pm at The Union League of Philadelphia

11/2—Save a Life International's Annual Fundraising Banquet at 6:30pm at the Ukrainian Cultural Center (Jenkintown)

11/16—Ladies Love Life Conference from 9am-5pm at New Life Church (Huntingdon Valley)

Stand Up for Life Dinner!

Don't miss the 38th Annual Stand Up For Life Dinner on Sunday, November 24th for an evening of fellowship, reflection on our pro-life efforts throughout 2019, and our outlook toward the future! Meet us at the Philadelphia 201 Hotel for a cocktail reception at 4:30 p.m., followed by Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

TICKETING: \$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.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: 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 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."

ONLINE ORDERING: To purchase individual tickets, tables, and ad sponsorships online, visit 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 the Pro-Life Union's Anne Hinnegan at 215-885-8150 or at ahinnegan@prolifeunion.org.



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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.

☐ For Pro-Life Union.

☐ For Guiding Star Ministries Home for Single Moms and Children.