



A Night For Life



The ballroom at the Sheraton was once again filled with the pro-life community at the annual Stand Up For Life Dinner on November 18th. Students, young adults, families and babies celebrated the gift of life together. Father Christopher Walsh served as the Master of Ceremonies and introduced our new name and logo, both of which appear in the heading of this Update. The logo illustration blends Philadelphia's skyline with lines that appear on an ultrasound screen of a pre-born baby's heartbeat.

Dr. Eoghan de Faoite, M.D. delivered a passionate address to the attendees and encouraged all of us to recommit ourselves to this great cause. (Links to video and audio coverage of Dr. de Faoite's speech

are available at our website.) He serves as chairman of Youth Defence, Ireland's most effective grassroots pro-life group. The Irish people have consistently voted against abortion, despite pressure from outside forces and the weakness of many politicians. The recent, tragic maternal death of Savita Halappanavar in an Irish hospital is being used by international pro-abortion groups to foist abortion on the Irish Republic.

Dr. de Faoite noted that "the Culture of Death" is relentless, and so must be our commitment to the culture of life. Phil Carrol, a Temple University Film student created an outstanding video to highlight the work of the PLU and our award recipients. Megan Mastroianni received the Chastity Award, Anne Pirmann was the recipient of the Pro-Life Pioneer Award and Barry Kirsch of Archbishop Carrol HS received the Defender of Life Award. The Pro-Life Union is honored and humbled by the great work of these three people who made a commitment to participate in building a Culture of Life.

Fighting for Life in Ireland

As this issue goes to print, powerful pro-abortion lobbying groups are continuing to use the death of Savita Halappanavar to pressure Ireland to accept abortion. Savita, died in an Irish hospital in late October after presenting at the hospital showing signs of a miscarriage and infection. Every detail of the story has been distorted by the media in Ireland as they continue to imply that killing Savita's child would have saved her life. The truth is that abortion never saves the life of a mother - it only causes the death of the preborn child. In a recent interview with Lifesite News, Niamh Ui Bhriain, of The Life Institute noted that *"in fact, the UK, the US and especially India lag far behind Ireland in maternal care."*

The Irish Bishops released a statement clarifying the difference between directly killing an unborn child and treating a mother. *"The Catholic Church has never taught that the life of a child in the womb should be preferred to that of a mother. By virtue of their common humanity, a mother and her unborn baby are both sacred with an equal right to life. Where a seriously ill pregnant woman needs medical treatment which may put the life of her baby at risk, such treatments are ethically permissible provided every effort has been made to save the life of both the mother and her baby. Whereas abortion is the direct and intentional destruction of an unborn baby and is gravely immoral in all circumstances, this is different from medical treatments which do not directly and intentionally seek to end the life of the unborn baby."*

Upcoming Events

- ❖ **December 8th, 2012:** Pro-Life Prayer Vigil - Sponsored by Generation Life from 8-9am at the Philadelphia Women's Center at 777 Appletree St. in Philadelphia. For more information visit Generation Life on their FaceBook page.
- ❖ **December 12, 2012:** Our Lady of Guadalupe Dinner -Mass at 5:15 p.m. at St. Pius X, Broomall, Pa The dinner will follow immediately in the auditorium. Tickets are \$25.00, \$45.00 for two, tables of 8, 9 or 10 are \$200.00. Contact John Williamson at 610-446-5600 or via email at jpw0077@gmail.com. Sponsored by the Pius X Respect Life Committee and the Delaware County PLU!
- ❖ **January 12th, 2013.** Pro-Life Summit - Join area pro-life leaders at the Prayer Vigil, Mass and Summit. We will discuss how to effectively build up the pro-life and pro-family movement. Pro-Life Prayer Vigil : 8-9am at Phila. Women's Ctr. (777 Appletree St.) 9:30am Mass at the Cathedral. The Summit, hosted by the Office for Life, Family and Laity, will follow Mass at 222 N. 17th St.
- ❖ **March for Life:** will be held in Washington, DC on Friday **January 25th, 2013.**

Pa. Legislature

Our Pa. House and Senate remain basically the same after the November election. The majority of members, including leaders, express that they are pro-life. We had a success when the Abortion Facilities Regulations became law. We are confident that, with the encouragement and witness of pro-life citizens, more will be accomplished. During December, please contact your State Reps and State Senators and encourage them to live out their pro-life beliefs and ask them how we (pro-life citizens) can help build a Culture of Life in our State. Just submit the question and let us know the response you receive.

November 6, 2012

1 Thessalonians 5:18 says "Give thanks in all circumstances." So, despite our disappointment at the results of the recent election, we give thanks. This moment will serve as an awakening. We can rebuild the culture with God's help and the work and prayer of His people. We have education and evangelization at our disposal. In our families, communities and churches, there is a great need for educating fellow citizens about the tragedy that is abortion. We can evangelize by simply sharing the incredible work being done by the pro-life movement with others, including our elected officials. We can share the truth about America's Christian Heritage. Our rights, as proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence, to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" come from the Creator. When this truth is embraced, it will be reflected in every election.

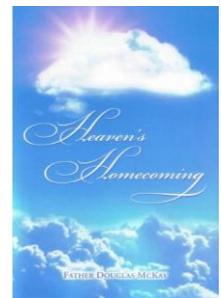
Faith and trust enable us to turn disappointment and discouragement into action. We re-commit ourselves to fervent prayer and to joyfully sharing the truth about the dignity of each person.

Pro-Life Leaders Needed

As most readers know, "racial purity" was a major element of Planned Parenthood's agenda. Founder Margaret Sanger spoke to the KKK and lived by the PP mantra, "More from the fit, less from the unfit." More than 16 million black children have died from abortion and over 263 mothers have died in "safe, legal abortions." PP abortion chambers are located in or near black communities. 62% are within walking distance, according to Life Issues. Some 10% of whites have been lost to abortion, 15% of Asians, 17% of Hispanics and 30% of African Americans. Courageous black leaders stand against this genocide – Rev. Johnny Hunter, Rev. Clenard Childress and comedian Dick Gregory are a few. We are confident that such leaders are here in Philadelphia. Pastor Herb Lusk is one. We can do more to save the lives of the black babies being killed.

Heaven's Homecoming

This book is a collection of testimony by elderly people as they awaited the end of their earthly life. It was compiled by Fr. Douglas McKay. For 18 years, he has been the Chaplain at Holy Family Home, operated by the Little Sisters of the Poor. Needless to say, it is an uplifting book in the very real sense and possesses much peaceful reality and good humor. Fr. McKay has donated a number of these beautiful books to the Union and they are available for just \$20. Quantity discounts are available.

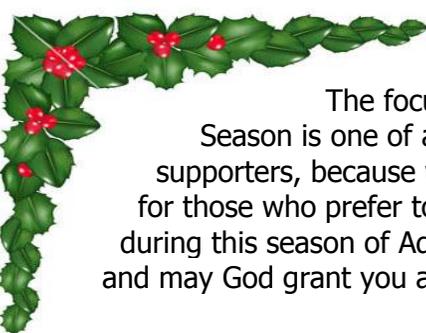


The HHS Mandate

Individual corporations have been filing suits opposing the HHS Mandate. Not all have been successful, but the Weingartz Supply Co. in Michigan has secured an injunction. They are the second successful corporation. Also, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals has been ordered to rehear a lawsuit against the HHS mandate. Mat Staver, the dean of Liberty University Law School, who filed the case, said "the ruling breathes new life into our challenge to Obamacare." As our readers know the Obama mandate would force employers to furnish insurance to their employees which would cover contraception, sterilization and abortifacients.

Briefs

- ✓ Consistent with their denial that contraception harms women's health, the American College of OB-Gyns has now called for all contraceptives to be available over-the-counter with no prescription required.
- ✓ Will China modify their "One Child" (read one boy) policy? Some Chinese citizens have urged their government to make a change because of the gender imbalance caused, the desire of a young population to serve the older generation and the particular ugliness of forced abortion.
- ✓ Catholic Charities of Chicago is advising TV viewers that the \$5 million fine from the Obama mandate will seriously hurt their work among the poor. This will happen when they refuse to obey his contraception, sterilization, abortifacient mandate.
- ✓ We recommend "Adam & Eve After the Pill" by Mary Eberstadt. Her female perspective helps the focus of this sad 50-year revolution. It covers the obvious penalties incurred by women, but also the loss of manhood.
- ✓ The federal CDC reports that the U.S. birthrate has declined for the fourth consecutive year. Births to teenage mothers dropped to their lowest since 1948. The CDC did not factor in abortion as part of the decline. Our birthrate is now 1.9, which is below the 2.1 needed to maintain current population.
- ✓ Stephen Rattner is the former counselor of Obama's Secy. of Treasury. His opinion piece was just printed by the *NY Times*. His thesis is, "We Need Death Panels"... the exploding cost of Medicare will swamp the federal budget. The big money in medicine can be found in reducing the cost of treating people in the last year of life.



Our Christmas Plea

The focus of Advent is to prepare for the coming of the Lord. For Christians, this Season is one of anticipation and our joy increases with each day. We are so grateful to our supporters, because without you, this work would not continue. A reminder envelope is enclosed for those who prefer to give at the end of the year. Thank you in advance for the sacrifices made during this season of Advent. Be assured of our prayer and on behalf of those we serve - thank you and may God grant you a Happy and Holy Christmas!