



Hundreds Attend Pro-Life Mass & Rally

It was a very pro-life day in the City of Philadelphia on Saturday, July 25th. The beautiful morning began with an 8 a.m. Mass celebrated by Archbishop Nelson Perez at the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul Church. Over 400 pro-life citizens attended the Mass and most processed through the streets to the Planned Parenthood at 12th and Locust for a Ecumenical Prayer Vigil and Rally for Life sponsored by the Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia.

Prayer, song and comments by local pro-life advocates inspired the crowd as a call for justice for unborn lives was heard by those in attendance as well as abortion clinic workers and passersby. The following are excerpts from the speakers. To read more of the transcripts from the event, visit <https://prolifeunion.org/2020/07/30/event-recap-ecumenical-prayer-vigil-and-rally/>



Archbishop Nelson Perez

Thank you so much again for your witness. Today we walk for the right to life, especially for the unborn - for those who have no voice but our voice right now. But I have to say they are a powerful voice. Jesus taught Paul a great thing, that when we are weak we're actually strong, right? So those little lives in the wombs of our moms, while they might not have the voice that we have, they have a powerful, powerful voice to the world. Never underestimate the power of the spirit of God working in you, through you, and despite you.



Father Christopher Walsh Pastor, St. Raymond Chairperson, Pro-Life Union



God is good and all the time. We gather at this spot on this day because we believe in the power of change. Amen? A great thing happened in the Planned Parenthood organization in the past week - did you hear this? They came to the truth a little bit and in the midst of America getting "woke" Planned Parenthood got woke a little bit. They admitted that the founder of this organization, Margaret Sanger, was an ugly, bitter, angry racist; that she wanted to kill people of color. Right? And just as they've welcomed that truth, we've got one more truth we want them to accept, amen? That every life is precious, amen? That life begins in the womb, amen? And that we need to help those children come to birth, amen?



Pastor, Curtis Saxton Pastor, Ekklesia of North Phila.

Let the church say amen! We're gathered here today, and what a privilege it is to be able to be with brothers and sisters, to call upon our great and awesome God in this time, knowing that He is a help to us at every moment. He's present. He's

powerful. He has all authority. He is indeed Cristo Rey isn't he? He is Christ the King. How do we keep up with this work, with this challenge? It's easier perhaps, right now, to gather together when there are several hundred of us. That's something that happens once in a while, but let's be honest, brothers and sisters. It's much more difficult on the days of oppressive heat or bitter cold, when you're alone, just by yourself - just you and God and a stream of people often sadly walking through these

gates. It's more difficult on those days when we see these decisions being made because of a lack of hope. It's difficult on those days. When we're faced with these challenges, how do we keep up? God's word gives us a picture of the source of our strength. It comes and we remember that there's a bigger picture, a bigger movement, a bigger agenda that we're a part of.





Dr. Monique Ruberu
Natural Women's Health, LLC
Board Member, Pro-Life Union

I just want to thank each and every one of you for being here today. I especially want to thank our youngest pro-lifers who are here, and there, and there, and all over the crowd. If a little child can come out here to 12th and locust Planned Parenthood, a small child who is defenseless, just as defenseless as those small babies in the womb, if they can understand the importance of those lives, if they can give of their time and their energy and fearless souls... Guys, I ask each and every one of you to take a lesson from these guys, and let's all be here. If we fill every hour that this place is open the numbers go down. Commit to one hour a week. We need to do this. Every other group that is standing up for what is wrong is committing and it's our turn to commit.

Tom Stevens

Pres. & CEO, Pro-Life Union

The Pro-Life Union's mission is as follows: we simply are using hope, we're using love for families to serve and accompany others by offering education, real alternatives to abortion, and public witness.

The purpose is that we would eliminate the perceived need for abortion. There's never ever ever a need for abortion, but there's a lot of people who are very afraid to bring a child into this world. I talk to them all the time. I've talked to a parent whose daughter has gone in to have an abortion and she has a mental illness. I have compassion for the difficulty, but there's never ever ever a need for an abortion. The answer is to never kill a baby in the womb. We can do that! A baby is not a disease to be ended. A baby is a life to be cherished. Let's work together. Let's find solutions.



Chris Massaro
Seminarian, St. Charles Borromeo

Why don't we just take a moment just to direct our hearts and our minds towards our Heavenly Father. Father we come before You as Your beloved sons and daughters. We praise You and thank You for the gift of our lives and the gift of Your love. We pray on this day with heavy hearts and also with joyful hearts, knowing that You are at work in this movement to end the culture of death and bring about a culture of life. We pray for all of those mothers who are considering an abortion and facing that fear and the agony of a crisis pregnancy. We just entrust them to You and to Your loving mercy. We pray for all the unborn children, especially those who are at risk right now of an abortion. We pray for all those who work and volunteer for Planned Parenthood and clinics like it. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Marlene Downing
Director, Hope Pregnancy Ctr.
Board Member, Pro-Life Union

When people come into the center they only see two alternatives: they see abortion, and they see either parenting. The other alternative that I like to present to people is that adoption is something that people really really don't think about, because what happens is it becomes taboo to some people, especially the communities that I work in. When they think about adoption they're thinking that, you know, "if I have this child I'm going to have to really live with shame because this baby is going to now be alive and the shame is going to follow me for the rest of my life." Little do they know that whatever decision you make, it's going to be for the rest of your life. So, I don't know if you guys all know but I know that if you're a Christian, you know that we are all adopted. Everyone is adopted. It says in Ephesians 1:5, it says this: "Having predestined us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will." You're special because Christ has adopted you. Okay? So you have to just put on your armor of God and just be that person for someone else. God bless you all.



Herb Lusk, III
Youth Minister, Greater Exodus
Baptist Church

All right guys we made noise for everybody else let's make some noise for Jesus. Come on y'all let's make some noise for Jesus! I want to say something to everybody who is under the sound of my voice and whether you are pro-life or you aren't pro-life, the blood is still crying from the ground It is important for us to know that in order for us to turn this thing around the way that it's supposed to be, it must be presented with a message of love. I want to tell everybody under the sound of my voice I believe the word of God. Unequivocally, unapologetically it says that if My people hear me - it doesn't say the world, it does not say those who are unbelievers - it says if My people who are called by My name would humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and heal their land. Listen, the onus is on us. We're looking for Planned Parenthood to change, but we got to change first. We're looking for them to change, but the onus is on us. One of the greatest quotes that I've ever heard in my life was from Dr. King. He said it's always the right time to do the right thing.



Ashley Garecht
Pro-Life Activist
Board Member, Pro-Life Union



A little over a year ago my daughters and I and our friend were praying here and we were harassed and doxed by state representative Brian Sims because he didn't like what we were doing, but praise God He used that moment. That was a hard day, let me tell you. I'm grateful even for hard days that God uses for good. My daughters and I were accused that day of being "pro-birth" but here's the truth: I am pro-birth. I'm pro-birth because every woman who is pregnant and walking into this building is carrying a unique and precious human being. That human being has been endowed with the inalienable right to life. These babies are not clumps of cells. They are not mere inconveniences. They are not almost babies. The truth is that we are fighting for the lives of actual, already present human beings. Women deserve better than abortion. Babies deserve better than abortion, and our city deserves better than abortion.



Richara Krajewski
Discipleship & Youth Ministry
St. Raymond of Penafort
Board Member, Pro-Life Union

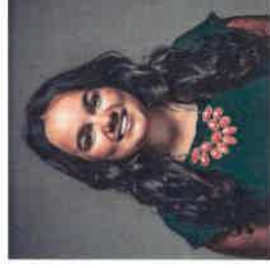
It's never been easy to be a pro-life person in the United States and certainly it has never been easy to be Black in the U.S. For me it's always been kind of awkward to be the pro-life Black person right and I used to feel like it was a burden, but increasingly now what I see is actually a blessing, right? We have to admit as a pro-life community is that this moment has challenged us, this moment of racial conflict has us scrambling for new ways to express what it is that we know has always been true: that every single human life is worthy of protection, worthy of love, and worthy of respect. I'm going to leave you with these words by Saint Francis DeSales. "You learn to speak by speaking. You learn to study by studying. You learn to work by working, and you learn to love by loving." We're not going to be a community that's poised to speak life into those places that are darkest, where we really need to be able to enter, if we cannot demonstrate the love that listens more than it speaks, a love that can meet and is willing to meet every single human person where they are, and ultimately a love that says at all times "Your pain and your story matter." This is our way to rise to the challenge of



Mark Houck
Co-Founder, The King's Men



It is good that we're here, amen? But how many of us avoid coming down here? I'm not pointing any fingers. Days like today are necessary. Marches are necessary to raise national awareness, but being here intervening in the last moments of a child's life are the most critical thing that we can do with our day, our time, our year. It is the reason why we are here today. I've had the privilege of being here when women have said yes to life and I've also had the privilege of experiencing the rejection of that love and mercy. I say privilege because there's no greater thing I've ever done in my life than saying yes to being a catalyst or an instrument in the hand of God, the Holy Spirit and helping a pre-born child leave this facility alive, and I also say I've had the privilege to experience the loss, rejection, derision, embarrassment, and humiliation here at this place. It is here at 12th and Locust, and other places like them around this city, that we can find this completion of our work. I hope you can come down here for the next 40 days for life. I hope you can come down here for the finest hour of my life is when I am at this gate of hell.



Liana Hollendonner
Regional Coord., Students for Life

I'm so happy to be here in person, masks and everything, and it never ceases to amaze me how we know how to bring out a pro-life crowd in Philly, don't we? I get to work with students all over the country, but specifically in Pennsylvania and in Delaware, and for those of you who are unfamiliar with Students for Life, our mission is to recruit, train, and mobilize students, young people, the pro-life generation to abolish abortion in our lifetime. These students truly blow me away and they are as young as 15 years old. They are so bold, and so courageous, and they've already dedicated a huge portion of their lives to this cause, and they know what they signed up for. They know the names that they're going to be called. They know that they're going to get flipped off on the street. They know they're gonna get treated unfairly by their school administrations and their peers, and it seemed to only strengthen the resolve. I challenge each of you, especially the young people, especially the people who have maybe never tried this before, I challenge you to say yes not just today but to say yes to the opportunities that God puts in your life every day to save lives, to serve and advocate for these women and to ultimately change our culture.

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

Edmund Burke

Rest in Peace, Kathy

The Pro-life movement lost another warrior last week. Kathy Cox, a tireless pro-life advocate was called home by Our Lord on Tuesday, July 22nd. Kathy was the president of Bucks County Right to Life, a chapter of the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation, for 18 years. During this time, she developed a strong outreach for this chapter to Bucks County residents. Besides raising funds for our CPCs, donations of clothing and baby equipment were given to these centers, and clothing was given to Father Onunwa for his home in Nigeria. Kathy always made sure there was pro-life literature available at the sale and sign-up sheets for those who wanted to become more active in the pro-life movement in Bucks County. Her labor bore much fruit.

Donations may be made to the First Line Nigeria Village Empowerment, c/o Fr. Paschal Onunwa, 235 E. State St., Doylestown, PA 18901, or to the Legacy of Life Foundation, 24 S Main St #217, Yardley, PA 19067.

The Love I Have Experienced in the Pro-Life Movement - By Karly Brown, PLU Intern

Gentle. Joyful. Patient. Full of Humility. Courageous. Faithful. Hopeful. This is the portrait of words painted in my head when I think about the Pro-Life movement, especially in the Philadelphia area. Throughout my journey of faith, I have come to believe that God speaks to each and every one of us in different ways. Everyday, he is careful to reveal himself in unique ways through the events, places, and people that we experience. Over the last four years, I have come to understand the deep and personal love of my Father through the Pro-Life movement.

I was first convinced of this when I was given the gift of witnessing Dr. Monique Ruberu on the sidewalk of the Philadelphia Women's Center, as she shared her gentle words of peace and hope with the abortion-minded women. I was then able to encounter Mr. Tom Stevens and Mrs. Anne Hinnegan, two individuals who would joyfully and courageously give time, energy, and life for any unborn child or woman in crisis. If this wasn't enough, the Lord then allowed me to meet Mr. Pat Stanton, a faithful and patient man who would spend every minute of the day in front of an abortion clinic if he could. Not only have I seen the love of Jesus at work in Pro-Life activities, but I have also experienced this deep love in the daily interactions that I am blessed to have with these individuals. Their profound understanding of the value of human life translates into a profound love of the human person — every human person. If you are ever blessed to meet people like the ones that I have just described, they will show a genuine concern for every facet of your life: family, friends, hobbies, interests, etc. In every individual, they see a new window into the Heart of God, a new and unique opportunity to see a side of God that couldn't be revealed in any other way. They truly understand what it means for the human person to be made in the "image and likeness of God".

The people that I have met in this Pro-Life movement, and their cooperation with the grace of God, have given me a gift that I could never dream of on my own. They have revealed to me the personal and unique love that the Father has for me, his little daughter. Could you ask for anything more than to experience and know the love of God through the people he's given you? This is the love that I have experienced in the Pro-Life movement.



Board of Directors

Fr. Chris Walsh – Chairman
 Paul DeCamara – Vice Chair
 Bob Biggs – Treasurer
 Helene Hallowell – Secretary
 Kim Bennett
 Estela Bugg

Marlene Downing
 Ashley Garecht
 Liana Hollendonner
 Richara Krajewski

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

Tom Stevens, President and CEO
 tstevens@prolifeunion.org