

And there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them.
Luke 2:8-9



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Merry Christmas!

Dinner 2017

We had a great night at the Stand Up for Life Dinner! We honored Carly Freeth with the John and Harriet Stanton Young Leader Award, Dr. Monique Ruberu with the Defender of Life Award and Det. James Wood received the Saint John Paul II "Be Not Afraid" Award. Over 1,000 people gathered to celebrate the gift of life. We heard the good news about the amazing year we had at the Pro-Life Union and Guiding Star. Melissa Ohden delivered a phenomenal keynote address, opening our hearts to the impact of abortion survivors. Abortion does not only impact the women who make the choice, but also leaves a hole in the community.

Every year this event leaves us inspired to do more so that every life is respected, protected and cherished. The Sisters for Life joined us along with parish groups, school groups, Member Organizations and our partners from Harrisburg. We are so thankful for the team of volunteers, sponsors and the 1,000 attendees who make this event possible.



In Memory

In the last few months, we lost two giants in the pro-life community – Joe Pirolli and Bill Miller. Joe was the Treasurer of the Pro-Life Union for many years and Bill served on our Board of Directors. These men were champions for the unborn children in Southeast Pa. and never wavered in their commitment. They were amazing examples to everyone who knew them. It will take many men and women to step up and do more in order to fill their shoes. Their passing reminds of the famous quote by pro-life Congressman Henry Hyde - *"When the time comes as it surely will, when we face that awesome moment, the final judgment, I've often thought, as Fulton Sheen wrote, that it is a terrible moment of loneliness. You have no advocates, you are there alone standing before God – and a terror will rip through your soul like nothing you can imagine. But I really think that those in the pro-life movement will not be alone. I think there will be a chorus of voices that have never been heard in this world but are heard beautifully and clearly in the next world – and they will plead for everyone who has been in this movement. They will say to God, 'Spare him because he loved us,' – and God will look at you and say not, 'Did you succeed?' but 'Did you try?'"*

Christmas Gift Cards

Last year during the Christmas season, we were very blessed by many donations of gift cards collected by parishes to help our Guiding Star Ministry maternity home. These gift cards helped us to buy necessities for the home, bedding throughout the year, donations to mothers with older children who cannot live at Guiding Star and food for community meals. If you like to send us a gift card to Target, Walmart, Aldi's or any grocery store, we would be so grateful!

Support the Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia's mission through a secure, recurring online monthly gift.

Visit www.prolifeunion.org to learn more and share our work with others.

The Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia is a 501(c) 3 organization!

Ready to March!

This year's March for Life will be held on Friday January 19th, 2018. "The 2018 March for Life theme is "Love Saves Lives." Choosing life is not always easy, but it is the loving, empowering, and self-sacrificial option. Love is universally attractive because it is directed towards others. Love is what we all strive for because deep-down we are all drawn to give of ourselves in this way. Love saves lives in countless ways." www.marchforlife.org

The March for Life Rally will take place at noon on the grounds of the Washington Monument, near the corner of 15th Street and Constitution Avenue. Following the Rally, the March will begin on Constitution Avenue between 15th and 17th Streets at approximately 1:00 pm and proceed to the U.S. Supreme Court. At 3:00 pm, there will be Silent No More testimonies outside of the U.S. Supreme Court. Attendees are encouraged to visit local Representatives or Senators to advocate for life.

MARCH FOR LIFE

LOVE
SAVES LIVES

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2018

Plan of Correction

Another disturbing report about the abortion industry is available for Pennsylvanians. The inspection report for the notorious Philadelphia Women's Center defies the safe and rare mantra. In 2016, there were 5,733 abortions performed at this facility. The inspection report details issues with privacy, safety and sterilization procedures. Once again, the state outlines a "plan of correction," which does little for the women already impacted by the failures and the loss of a child. There is no "plan of correction" for abortion, because the industry takes the life of an unborn child while the state allows the evil to continue. The business of abortion is fundamentally corrupt and ugly and so we are compelled to do what we can to stand against abortion and for women. Please continue participating in outreach activities at these facilities.



What a year at GSM...

This Christmas, the PLU is amazed by the community built at our maternity home Guiding Star. We adopted GSM as a tangible sign of our commitment to life and as service to those who make the choice for life. That service has transformed those of us who have the joy of spending time with the families. We have housed twenty-three women, children, toddlers and new babies. Volunteer groups have painted walls, spruced up rooms, donated cooking classes and hosted brunches. The CSS team joined our GSM Staff to offer increased support and guidance, offering classes, life skills and encouragement to the families who live at GSM. Community outreach has grown, and CSS hosts a diaper bank and classes for families in need. So many parishes have provided support, gifts and prayers allowing us to grow. We are so thankful! (guidingstar.org)

Thank you!

This is an exciting time for the Pro-Life Union and Guiding Star as Tom Stevens begins his tenure as the CEO/President of the Pro-Life Union. Tom's personal faith and passionate commitment to life will lead the Pro-Life Union as the organization grows and expands to serve women and families and defend life at every stage.

The women and families we encounter through this work are truly amazing and a constant inspiration. Please continue to pray for these moms so that they are strengthened in their faith and become the women and mothers God intends!

Thank you to all volunteers, staff and supporters for the unwavering faith and constant prayers on behalf of the PLU during my time as Executive Director. It has been a joy to meet and work with so many of you over the years. Thank you very much for the prayers, kind words and encouragement!

Wishing you all a happy and holy Christmas and every blessing in the New Year.

Edel Finnegan

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary at midnight in Bethlehem in piecing cold, in that hour vouchsafe Oh my God to hear my prayers and grant my desires, through the merits of our Savior Jesus Christ and His Most Holy Mother Mary.