



40 Days for Life: Mar. 6-Apr. 14, 2019

Will you speak for those who cannot speak for themselves? The next 40 Days for Life campaign will be happening around the world from March 6-April 14. Its mission is to bring together the body of Christ in a spirit of unity during a focused 40-day campaign of prayer, fasting and peaceful activism, with the purposes of repenting and seeking God's favor to turn hearts and minds from a culture of death to a culture of life, thus bringing an end to abortion.

Visit 40daysforlife.com for more information and to sign up for dates and times at the following Greater Philadelphia locations:

- **Philadelphia**—Philadelphia Women's Center (777 Appletree Street)
- **Philadelphia**—Planned Parenthood (1144 Locust Street)
- **Northeast Philadelphia**—Northeast Women's Center (2751 Comly Road)
- **Warminster**—Planned Parenthood (610 Louis Drive)
- **Norristown**—Planned Parenthood (1221 Powell Street)
- **West Chester**—Planned Parenthood (8 S. Wayne Street)
- **Bryn Mawr**—Bryn Mawr Hospital (130 S. Bryn Mawr Avenue)

Lawsuit Filed by Abortion Centers in Pennsylvania over Medicaid's Ban of Abortion Coverage

A new lawsuit, Allegheny Reproductive Health Center v. Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, was filed on January 16, 2019. The plaintiff claims that Pennsylvania's Medicaid program's ban on abortion coverage violates the Equal Rights Amendment and equal protection provisions of the Pennsylvania Constitution. Current state law says that Medicaid can cover abortion only if the pregnancy is caused by rape or incest, or if abortion is necessary to save a woman's life. If the court sides with the plaintiff, taxpayers' hard-earned money would be contributed toward abortions covered by Medicaid.



Picture (Above): GSM mother and her newborn baby girl.

New Baby at Guiding Star Ministries!

Congratulations to one of the current residents of Guiding Star Ministries, who just gave birth to a healthy and beautiful baby girl in early January! We are also anxiously awaiting the arrival of another baby due in the next few weeks. Please continue to pray for all Guiding Star residents; may each mother continue to receive the comfort, compassion, and strength needed to care for herself and her family.



New Member Organization Spotlight

We are pleased to welcome our newest member organization, **Students for Life of America** (SFLA). Their mission is to abolish abortion by educating, equipping, and empowering students to facilitate discussion about the truth of abortion and change the culture on their campuses. SFLA serves more than 1,200 student groups in all 50 states, bringing them a variety of free trainings, displays, and educational resources and materials. More information can be found online at studentsforlife.org. To start a SFLA group at your school in the Greater Philadelphia area, contact Liana Hollendonner (Pennsylvania Regional Coordinator) at lhollendonner@studentsforlife.org.

**Pregnant?
We Can Help!**



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



March with the Pro-Life Union at Philadelphia's St. Patrick's Day Parade

We need you to march for life. Come march with the Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia in this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade!

Date: Sunday, March 10 (Note: Parade will not take place on the actual holiday of March 17).

Time: Parade starts promptly at 11:15 a.m.

Where: Parade route begins at 15th St. & John F. Kennedy Blvd. in Philadelphia.

Other Details: Visit PhiladelphiaStPatsParade.com for complete parade information.



Picture (Above): Bishop Shanahan students at SFLA Conference.

Bishop Shanahan High School Wins Students for Life's "High School of the Year" Award at National Conference

Congratulations are in order for Bishop Shanahan High School! Their Respect Life Club won the Students for Life "High School of the Year" award at the National Students for Life of America (SFLA) Conference held on January 19th in Maryland. There are more than 1,200 SFLA chapters in high schools and on university and college campuses. Bishop Shanahan High School was rated the best Students for Life chapter among U.S. high schools. As the award winner, Bishop Shanahan's Respect Life Club received a \$1,000 gift. Other local high schools that were in attendance include: Hallahan, West Catholic, St. Hubert, and Cardinal O'Hara.



Strong Messages from U.S. President and VP at March for Life

Encouraging words were shared with pro-lifers at this year's March for Life from Republicans, Rep. Daniel Lipinski (a pro-life Democrat in the House), speakers Abby Johnson and Ben Shapiro, as well as Vice President Mike Pence who made a surprise visit at the morning rally. A video message from President Trump was played for the crowd: "This is a movement founded on love and grounded in the nobility and dignity of every human life. I will always defend the first right in our Declaration of Independence: the right to life." He also promised to veto any bill that "weakens the protection of human life."

Beef and Beer Events Benefitting Guiding Star and The Gianna Center of Philadelphia

The **Blaney Beef and Beer** will happen on February 23rd from 7:30-11:30 p.m. at Polish Eagles Sport Club (3157 E. Thompson St., Philadelphia, PA 19134). A donation of \$40/person includes buffet, beer, soda and musical entertainment. Proceeds benefit Guiding Star Ministries. For more details, contact Ed Blaney at 215-840-8550. Individuals 18 years and older are also invited to "A Night at the Casino" **Beef and Beer** on March 9th from 6:00-10:00 p.m. at Saint Peter & Paul School's Hall (550 Hurst St., Bridgeport, PA 19405). Tickets are \$45/person; includes casino chips (\$1,000 worth), buffet and drinks. Proceeds benefit The Gianna Center of Philadelphia. For tickets and more information, contact Mark Kochanowsky at 610-431-3338.

Lawmakers Want to Take Away Our Right to Vote for Judges

Unfortunately, Pennsylvania lawmakers have resurrected a dangerous plan that would take away our right to vote for judges for appellate courts. The proposed bill would mean that a pro-abortion Governor would be given the power to appoint judges. Please call and email your state representative with this urgent message: "I don't want my right to vote for judges to be taken away. Please oppose so-called merit selection of judges legislation." If you don't know who your state representative is, or need contact information, visit the Pro-Life Union's "Education" page at prolifeunion.org/education. Please note that the proposed bill does not have a bill number yet, but a co-sponsorship memo for the bill is being circulated by Rep. Paul Schemel.

Pro-Life Union Op-ed Featured on Philly.com and in Philadelphia Inquirer

Below is an op-ed written by Pro-Life Union's President and CEO, Tom Stevens, which was published in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and on Philly.com on January 20th:

It's Time to Give Back Rights to Very Young Humans

Across Philadelphia in 2017, more than 11,000 very young humans died from abortion. Over 30,000 died across Pennsylvania.

There's this debate in America—or what I think is often a sort of *pretend* debate—about the moral status of the human life in the womb of a pregnant woman. That is, about what precisely it is that a woman is pregnant *with*. Dare to look closely and scientifically, and there is no denying the answer. Not a clump of cells, not an almost human, not a mere bio-byproduct. Rather, the immediate result of conception is a very young human. Many medical experts across the nation agree that life begins at conception.

“An important fact of embryology,” stated Micheline Matthews-Roth of Harvard Medical School, “is that each member of the human species indeed starts his or her existence as one cell...”

A human being, with unique DNA, begins life at the moment of conception. A heartbeat starts by the end of the first month, and the nervous system, digestive tract, and functioning limbs are present by eight weeks. The DNA created on day one will dictate the eye color, and the height and the temperament of a unique person who deserves the opportunity to experience the world and contribute to it. The forming heart that beats by the end of four weeks deserves the chance to beat slowly during a blissful sleep, and rapidly in the last two minutes of an Eagles game. The arms and limbs that stretch and shift and grab in week 8 deserve the freedom to reach for the stars or to embrace another.

The common sense civic debate Americans should be having is over how America, one of the wealthiest and most privileged societies in human history, can create a wide and broad social safety net to ensure that no unexpectedly pregnant woman is encouraged to abort her child. We should be having this debate because we care about our neighbors enough to not make every issue a partisan one. We should be having this debate because we have the means to provide all persons with a continuum of care that ensures a woman's opportunities need not be constrained by her becoming a mother. We can provide parent and family benefits, education and workforce training, housing, stipends, and whatever else is needed to return abortion to what even Democrats wanted it to be only a quarter century ago—“rare.”

But we don't have that conversation, and that's largely a fault of Planned Parenthood and other “choice” advocates who, in practice, offer only one choice—abortion. They receive hundreds of millions in public funding, and yet they're not using their power and influence to sufficiently broaden public debate about



Picture (Above): Page C2 where the op-ed by Tom Stevens was published in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* on January 20, 2019.

the range of options that should be offered to pregnant women. What does that tell you about their priorities?

Psychologically, biologically and scientifically speaking, we know what abortion does. The questions are all political. Abortion destroys all of the potential and opportunity and freedom of a very young human, because abortion ends a life.

Some will suggest that they were not yet “full” persons because they couldn't survive on their own, outside the womb. But we assiduously protect the lives of babies who can't survive on their own and prosecute those who would harm our defenseless youth. Self-sufficiency is no prerequisite for humanity. As a society we recognize that physical size, ability, and age do not alter one's basic human dignity and rights.

“We can all do better.”

The Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia seeks to offer real alternatives. And we want to continue to debate and determine how to address the “problem” of unexpected pregnancy with compassion, care, and practical help in the face of extreme challenges. There are many services and resources across Greater Philadelphia for expectant parents during each trimester and after birth: pregnancy resource centers, Catholic Social Services, local and state assistance programs, low cost/no cost medical clinics all support pregnant women, children, and families. There are homes and housing resources for pregnant women, and adoption services for parents who are unable to keep and care for their child.

Don't let the lack of hope, misdirected compassion, or status quo beliefs lead us to argue a non-debatable—life or no life. We all want life, but we also want opportunity. Let's work together to make a difference, help women experiencing trauma or extreme difficulty, and ensure there is always a way to make the choice for life. We can all do better.

NaPro Technology—A More Mindful Way to Plan and Conceive

It's common for women (and even men) to research the most effective ways to conceive. But is there a method to increase the probability of getting pregnant that can also detect any abnormalities or issues pertaining to fertility? Natural Procreative Technology (a.k.a. NaPro Technology) is a method of addressing all gynecologic issues without the use of contraceptives or In Vitro fertility.

Dr. Monique Ruberu, OB/GYN and Pro-Life Union board member, explains NaPro Technology:

How is NaPro Technology different from other types of reproductive health monitoring?

NaPro Technology patients learn to chart their bleeding patterns, mucous patterns and length of cycle to identify areas of abnormalities. After identifying the timing of ovulation, medical professionals can check lab values of estrogen and progesterone during the cycle and compare them to normal values. The goal of NaPro Technology is to understand the underlying cause for the abnormality and to supplement back to try and reach a state of normalcy. In most gynecologic training, similar patients are treated to suppress symptoms but not necessarily to address the underlying issue. For instance, if someone has PMS due to a lack of post ovulatory progesterone, the patient would be given contraceptive pills to suppress the cycle and suppress symptoms in a typical gynecologic office setting. There are many side effects to this treatment, and the underlying issue is not discovered or addressed.

What are the health benefits of NaPro Technology?

NaPro Technology give a woman the chance to truly understand her fertility and her gynecologic health. It allows her to find issues much earlier and address the root cause of any issues. During NaPro Technology, a woman is also respecting her body and not suppressing her fertility. Many women who are given the diagnosis of unexplained infertility can also find reasons for their difficulties through charting and lab draws.



Picture (Above): Dr. Monique Ruberu, OB/GYN and board member of the Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia.

What are some other advantages of NaPro Technology?

Financially speaking, it only costs about \$150-200 for a cycle of NaPro Technology in comparison to a cycle of IVF, which costs up to \$30,000. While IVF and many gynecologic treatments are in conflict with certain faith beliefs, NaPro Technology does not cause any ethical or moral issues for patients. NaPro Technology can be used to help infertile people achieve pregnancy, to help people with recurrent pregnancy loss if it is due to low progesterone, and can cure postpartum depression naturally and swiftly (within 24 hours at times).



Tom Stevens, President and CEO
tstevens@prolifeunion.org

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**“Love your neighbor
as yourself.”
—Galatians 5:14**

Support life. Give today.

☐ 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.

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Email _____
Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ CSC _____

☐ 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.