



A Message of Love

The Pro-Life Union led a prayerful witness at the Philadelphia Women's Center on Saturday, July 20th. A message of love and respect for life was shared by over 100 pro-lifers on this early and warm summer day. Women entering the facility were offered information and invited to make the choice for life. Heartfelt prayers were offered for the conversion of those involved in the abortion industry.

After the vigil, Archbishop Chaput celebrated Mass for the pro-life community at the Cathedral Chapel. He spoke to us of the need for humility and meekness in this work and encouraged all of us to persevere in our efforts to build a Culture of Life. After Mass, the Office for Life and Family sponsored a pro-life summit which addressed the concerns of the impending HHS Mandate. We encourage everyone to visit the new blog www.phillycatholiclife.org to learn more about the HHS Mandate and the efforts of the Office for Life and Family.



The Story Behind the Story

Fr. Thomas VanderWoude, pastor at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Gainesville, Virginia learned that a child that had been diagnosed with Down Syndrome would be aborted. After speaking with the parents, a plea was posted on Facebook through the parish, saying that if a couple willing to adopt the baby could be found, the birth parents would carry to term and make an adoption plan. The church received over 900 phone calls within just a few hours. The heartwarming story made national news, and was celebrated by even the secular press and a life was saved.

What made this story even more touching is that Fr. VanderWoude has a special connection for those living with Down Syndrome. His younger brother, Joseph, has Down Syndrome and was in an accident in 2008. According to www.lifesitenews.com, "Thomas, Sr., (the dad of Fr. VanderWoude and Joseph) died after leaping into a septic tank to save his youngest son, Joseph, who had fallen in. According to sources at the time, Thomas, 66, allowed himself to sink beneath the sewage while holding 20-year-old Joseph above his head until rescuers arrived. His father died so that his special needs son would live."

The Mandate

Obama "healthcare" includes mandates for employers, non-profits and individuals. The mandates require that contraception and abortifacient drugs are covered by all insurance plans. This includes religious entities, such as the Catholic Church, Catholic Schools and Catholic Hospitals.

Several suits have been filed against the Mandate, and in general, are progressing well. Observing the negative reaction to the Mandate, the administration has rescheduled some of the compliance data. The Mandate involving the Catholic Church has been moved from August 1, 2013 to January 1, 2014. We encourage you to stay informed and participate in the anti-Mandate campaign.

Contraception Deaths

Another Class Action Suit has been filed in Canada against Bayer, the maker of Yaz and Yazmin birth control pills. It is believed that at least 23 Canadian women have died after taking the pills. A previous suit was filed in March of 2010. It has been stated that Bayer has set aside \$1 billion for suits in the U.S.

Abortion Facilities

We have been reporting the decline in abortion companies here in Pa. and across the nation. In 27 states and D.C. there has been a decrease. Sadly, in Philadelphia, a new firm has opened to kill pre-born children. It is the "Drexel OB/Gyn Associates," located at 216 N. Broad Street. During the first quarter of 2013, two children were lost there and their mothers were left wounded.

U.S. House Action

In June, the U.S. House passed H.R. 1797 by a 228-196 vote. It prohibits, with some exceptions, abortions after 20 weeks, as science indicates, that at 20 weeks, pre-born children feel pain. The Pa. delegation supported the bill 18 to 6. Four of the no votes came from our area – Brady, Dent, Fattah and Schwartz – joined by Doyle and Cartwright. While the U.S. Senate will not support this bill, we do hope there is a Senate vote. We believe this vote in the House indicates real progress for our nation.

God Bless Texas

Texas became a serious battleground in the battle to protect life and protect women from the abortion industry. The abortion industry and their friends came



to Texas to stand against a law which would ban abortions after 20 weeks and also would require that abortion facilities operate as Surgical Centers. Pro-Life groups were harassed and threatened, yet they remained peaceful, prayerful and strong. The leadership remained strong in their commitment to the legislation, the entire pro-life movement in Texas joined together and with the leadership of Gov. Perry this land-mark legislation passed. Planned Parenthood announced that three abortion sites will close in August. It has been predicted that many other abortion facilities will follow.

In other states, similar pro-life legislation is moving forward. And in North Carolina it is about to become law. North Dakota has passed a law preventing abortions when a heartbeat can be detected. We can take much encouragement from legislative action in a number of states.

Gov. Cuomo Stopped

In NY, the Governor planned to pass new legislation called the "Woman's Equality Act," which would have eliminated most exceptions to abortion. But, Senate leaders in both parties stopped the bill from becoming law.

Kane Says “No”

Following the U.S. Supreme Court’s rejection of traditional marriage, the ACLU was in court representing ten homosexual couples who wish the state to recognize their relationships as marriages and thereby voiding current law. It is the responsibility of the Pa. Attorney General to defend state laws. But A.G. Kathleen Kane has stated that she will not defend Pa. law upholding marriage as between a man and a woman only. While her refusal is illegal, should we lament it?

40 Days For Life

This inspiring event runs from Wednesday, September 25th to Sunday, November 3rd. A constant witness in front of Planned Parenthood on Louis Drive in Warminster will be held from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day. An opening Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday evening, September 24th at Nativity of Our Lord Church at 7 p.m. and recitation of the Rosary will follow the Mass. If you can dedicate one hour or more to pray at this facility during this witness, please contact Mary Paris at 215-348-7480.

Plan B

Earlier, we reported that federal judge Edward Korman “ruled” that women and girls of any age could procure Plan B (The Morning After Pill). This concoction is a contraceptive and an abortifacient. This ruling was even more extreme than the Obama HHS policy. The HHS decided not to oppose. So now, a child of any age can purchase this product. Parents are not involved. This is a blow against chastity, women, and the family.

A Message from Our Friends

Alpha Pregnancy Services is an outreach of the Christian community to those in physical, social and spiritual need due to pregnancy. Our desire is to demonstrate Christ’s love to those we serve by providing compassionate alternatives to abortion and the life skills necessary for well-being. We do so by providing social services, medical referrals and education to women and their families. We have served approximately 12,000 families over the past 32 years and handled more than 30,000 calls. We are located at 1601 Lombard Street in Philadelphia. For more info, refer to alphapre.org or www.facebook.com/AlphaPregnancyServices



Save the date for Alpha’s 2013 banquet!

Our annual 2013 banquet will be held at the City Line Hilton on Thursday, October 17, 2013, and we are happy to announce that Roland Warren will be our speaker. Roland C. Warren is currently the CEO of Care Net, a network of more than 1,100 pregnancy centers across North America. Prior to that he served as president of the National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI), where he was dedicated to the mission of improving the well-being of children by increasing the proportion of children that are raised with involved, responsible and committed fathers. Roland is also a long-time friend of Alpha’s. His wife, Dr. Yvette Lopez-Warren, served as an Alpha board member and medical director when they lived in the Philadelphia area. For sponsorship information or invitations, email aps@alphapre.org.



Great Job, Marybeth!

Kudos to our Pro-life Union blogger extraordinaire for her touching piece, that can be found at www.feministsforlife.com. Supporters of the Pro Life Union are deeply grateful for Marybeth’s contribution to building a Culture of Life and most especially for her faithful writing on our Facts of Life blog over the last year. We encourage everyone to read Marybeth’s piece and also follow the whole series which addresses women’s conversions from pro-choice to pro-life.

Pro-Life Pride While You Ride!

Show your support for life by purchasing a Pa. Choose Life License Plate! It’s not hard to do and thousands of citizens will see the message of life.



There is a one-time charge of \$44 (\$24 to PennDot and \$20 to a pregnancy center) As a result of this program, \$24,560 has been distributed to pregnancy resource centers and homes in Pa. Visit www.pachoose-life.org or call 215-885-2919.

Come and Get it!

It’s almost Dinner time! November 24th will be here sooner than you think and tickets are already selling! Our speaker, Sister Jane Dominic Laurel, is sure to inspire. Visit our website or call our office to order. More info will follow in our September Update.

Anthony Levatino, M.D.

This is a man who committed some 1,200 abortion – yes, 1,200. Then his little daughter was killed in an auto accident. His abortion career ended. Since then, he has been a public advocate for life. Recently, he testified on behalf of H.R. 1797 and vividly explained why a human fetus encounters pain during an abortion. Thank you, Lord for helping this man after his personal tragedy.

Gianna Center

Please pray that the Gianna Center will soon open in Philadelphia. The National Gianna Center was founded in 2008. The mission is to provide pro-life, authentically Catholic healthcare for women and families across the spectrum of life. Founded in NYC the center consists of 6 practices. At this time the center has been invited by Archbishop Chaput to explore the possibility of establishing a center in Philly. To get involved, contact Michele Giuliani at [732-565-5451](tel:732-565-5451) or mgiuliano@saintpetersuh.com.

Irish Poles Go South

Led by Prime Minister Edna Kenny, the Irish Parliament, by a 127-31 vote, has ruled that certain abortions can now be committed in Ireland. This is of great significance in Europe, as only Ireland and Malta have been abortion-free. Just prior to the vote, over 50,000 Irish citizens in Dublin marched and rallied against abortion. Reports indicate that the Irish people oppose abortion and wish for a referendum. Mr. Kenny, who leads the Fine Gael Party, ousted members who voted no. They will not be able to run again as members of the Party.