



The Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia affirms the sanctity of life through leadership, service to those making the choice for life, and witness to a culture of love.

## January 2017

### January 22, 1973

On January 22, 1973, the court ruled that the unborn child had no right to life. Since that day, close to sixty million children have lost their lives. Their mothers are left deeply wounded. Our country remains deeply divided and the culture of death has a grip on all of us. Abortion is traumatic.

The abortion industry and the purveyors of the culture of death hope that the seemingly insurmountable numbers will keep us quiet. However, as the pro-life movement has proved, we will never be silent while the most defenseless among us are denied life and dignity. We can all do something to end abortion. Every one of us has an obligation to speak and act in defense of the unborn and on behalf of the gift of life. We cannot allow the darkness of the culture of death to stand unchallenged.

When those who understand and respect life get involved, hearts are changed. The massive impact of outreach at abortion facilities and through 40 Days for Life is well known. The education efforts of these 40-plus years have created a generation of young adults who understand that an unborn child has a right to life. Moreover, in states all over the country, restrictions have been placed limiting abortions.



### Upcoming Events

- **January 21<sup>st</sup>:** Pro-Life Women's March on Washington. Pro-life groups from across the nation will be participating in the Women's March on Washington - promoting the sanctity of life and the dignity of women. We will gather outside of the Supreme Court and walk to the Women's March on Washington together.
- **January 22<sup>nd</sup>:** 24th Annual Chester County March for Life at St Agnes Church in West Chester. There will be a program inside the church with speakers and music. A march to the old Chester County Courthouse with pro-life signs will follow.
- **January 27<sup>th</sup>:** March for Life, Washington DC. Schedule - 11:45 a.m. Musical Opening, 12:00 p.m. Rally 1:00 p.m. March, (approx.) 3:00 p.m. Listen to *Silent No More* testimonies outside U.S. Supreme Court 3:30 p.m. Visit your Representative or Senator to advocate for life. The theme for this year's March is "The Power of One" because one person can make a difference.
- **January 27<sup>th</sup>:** The Respect Life Committee of Our Lady of Guadalupe will sponsor "A Memorial for the Unborn Innocents" at Planned Parenthood, Warminster PA at 12:00 noon.
- **January 28<sup>th</sup>:** Witness for Life at PP in Center City Philadelphia. Join us from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. with the Pro-Life Union and pilgrims from the Diocese of Omaha for this public prayer event. Groups will gather beforehand at the 7:45 a.m. Mass at St. John the Evangelist.



### Gosnell – The Movie

We all remember the tragic story and case regarding the notorious abortionist Kermit Gosnell. The story opened the eyes of reporters, the media, and elected officials about the hidden reality of the abortion industry. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia Office of Life and Family will sponsor a showing of the movie this month. Special thanks go to Denise Wilcox of the PA Pro-Life Federation for bringing this event to fruition.

Join the pro-life community for the semi-annual Pro-Life Summit on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017: The film *3801 Lancaster: American Tragedy* will be shown at 1 p.m. in the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center. JD Mullane, who covered the trial, and the film's writer and director, David Altrogge, will speak after the film and answer questions. There will be a Mass in the Chapel at 12:05 p.m. and there will be sandwiches for lunch prior to the showing.

### Carrie's Story

The world was saddened recently by the death of Carrie Fisher and then by the death of her mom, Debbie Reynolds. There is a different Carrie Fischer, who is alive and has an incredible story.

Carrie Holland-Fischer was born in 1969 after an unsuccessful abortion attempt. She recalls having dreams about an unborn child in distress. She told her grandmother about the dreams. She then learned about the abortion attempt. Carrie's mom explained that the man that she was dating promised to leave her if she brought her pregnancy to term. The abortion failed and Carrie was born with a facial disfigurement. Doctors told her mother that she would never be normal physically or mentally. She was teased and bullied. She blamed society and God for her pain and became so disparaged, she attempted suicide by ingesting a bottle of anti-depressants and a bottle of wine.

Miraculously, Carrie awoke the next day with no side effects at all from her suicide attempt. She realized at that moment that God had a plan for her. She began to love herself and see herself as a beautiful person in Christ. She is happily married and now advocates for the unborn child. Carrie shared these words on an abortion survivor website – "Abortion leaves scars that take years to heal. It took me a long time to get past the hurt, anger, and pain. By God's mercy and grace, I am free to share my story. My hope is that by doing so, lives can be saved, healed, and restored."

## Guiding Star Update

Our Guiding Star and Pro-Life Union families had a truly blessed Christmas. We celebrated on December 18<sup>th</sup> with our annual Christmas Party at the home with current and alumnae residents. Patrick Stanton led us in a rousing rendition of the twelve days of Christmas and the children were thrilled to see Santa.

The kitchen was updated between Christmas and New Year's, and now every family has their own space for food. A wonderful family volunteered on Christmas Eve and painted five rooms in the home. Fourteen new windows were installed in the building. We believe that by creating a beautiful home that is welcoming, our families will experience the love and joy of God during their stay at Guiding Star. The updates, renovations and repairs will allow us to serve more families in need. Your generosity and support is appreciated. Please be assured that it makes a difference.

We are thrilled to be initiating a new component of the Pro-Life Union Alternatives effort. We have created new baby layette bags for distribution to mothers in need. We meet many women through our hotline, outside of abortion facilities or from calls to Guiding Star. The mothers we meet are often considering abortion, and always in need of support and help. GSM will distribute layette bags to mothers in need. They include a pack of diapers, baby wipes, onesies, soaps and clothing. In each bag, moms will be given a list of resources and information on life, love, living healthy relationships. Most importantly, this outreach will allow us to meet women and let them know they are loved, and experience the dignity of the human person.

We are amazed by the opportunities that have been presented to us through our adoption of Guiding Star. We are so thankful to all of you for supporting this effort!

## The Strength of Mothers

Recently a young woman contacted our pregnancy hotline with a text, asking how we help with abortion. She had seen a billboard while she was driving with her mom. She was four months along. We texted back that we were not a clinic but offered counseling, help, housing resources and material assistance. She called immediately. We talked through her situation and concerns. We listened to the fears and anxieties she was experiencing. When asked why she was considering abortion, she said "well, when I went to the doctor she asked 'are you having the baby or do you want an abortion?' I guess that made me start thinking." This young mother is in a long-term relationship, has good family relationships and is trained as a nursing assistant. She is young and can completely handle having a baby. No doctor, no person has a right to suggest abortion. We shared all of this with the young mom. By the end of the phone call, she was feeling stronger and more confident. We invited her to visit GSM so we could give her a layette bag and directed her to a pregnancy care center for support.

Women are strong and mothers will be given the grace to accept their pregnancies. Those who support abortion tell women they are weak and incompetent. It is the absolute opposite of feminism.

## Facebook

In a recent comment, actress Lena Dunham stated that "I still haven't had an abortion, but I wish I had.". No matter how Ms. Dunham intended her statement, it shows her callousness and ignorance regarding abortion. Therefore, we loved when one of our Facebook friends made the following comment and plea.

*"There are so many families desperate for a child and Lena Dunham saying she wishes she could have an abortion is incredibly ignorant, self-absorbed, and heartless. Even if you consider yourself pro-choice, an abortion is not a bullet point on a bucket list or an accomplishment in any way and should never be framed as such. Women who have abortions do so because they feel they have no other choice, not so they can brag about it. We should be helping these women recover from the physical and emotional side effects of abortion, not telling them that they are "lucky" for having one. Lena Dunham needs to learn about the struggles impoverished, single, and/or teen moms go through, realize why they feel pressured into choosing abortion, and use her undeserved wealth and fame to help women who choose life find the necessary resources for their families.*

*If you agree that Lena Dunham's comments were completely out of line, please consider donating to [Guiding Star Ministries](#), an organization which provides housing etc. to women and their families, or to the [Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia](#), which is committed to giving women the resources and information necessary to choose life for their unborn son or daughter."*

## Save the Date ♣

The Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia will once again have a contingent at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Philadelphia. We are so grateful for the opportunity to participate in the parade to celebrate the gift of Life. It is a great family event; children are welcome and always enjoy the day. We hope many of you can attend. This year's parade will be held on March 12<sup>th</sup> beginning at noon. Details will follow in our next update.

Support the Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia's mission through a secure, recurring online monthly gift. Monthly gifts are deeply appreciated. Please consider signing up as a Lifeline Donor.

### Double Your Donation!

Many donors make their gift go further with a corporate match from their employer. We receive matching gifts from employee programs at Chubb, Merck, and several others. United Way's Donor Choice Program. Our UW Donor designation is: 52947

Visit [www.prolifeunion.org](http://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!