

People Concerned for the Unborn Child

Published six times a year by People Concerned for the Unborn Child

Since 1969 - Pennsylvania's oldest and largest grass roots pro-life Organization

3050 Pioneer Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15226

www.pcuc.org

Office: 412-531-9272

Editor: hcindrich@pcuc.org

NEWSLETTER

Fax 412-531-5885
January-February 2017

Vol. 46 No. 1

MARCH FOR LIFE – JANUARY 27



Southwestern PA sends one of the largest delegations to the nation's capitol to protest the worst decision ever made by the unelected members of the U.S. Supreme Court. After the March we will have time to lobby with members of the U.S Senate and House of Representatives from PA. See p. 2 for the List of Bus Captains and Departures.

PRAYER BREAKFAST JAN 21



Come and hear Pastor Jamie Kendrew at the Comfort Inn on Rodi Road in Penn Hills. Pray with the local pro-life family as we get ready to change history in Harrisburg and storm the city of Washington, DC, on

Friday, January 27. Reservation form is on p. 4.

VERY SPECIAL TRIBUTE

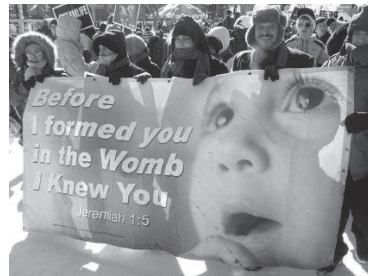


Phyllis Schlafly loved her family, her faith and her country. Fearlessly she worked to assure equal opportunities for babies in the womb and children in the American educational system. She led in the battle to stop ratification of the so-called "equal rights amendment." She died on September 5, 2016 at age 92. To thank Phyllis, this issue has a reprint of the tributes offered at her funeral.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Ash Wednesday, March 1 to Palm Sunday, April 9, we will pray at the doors of Planned Parenthood in downtown Pittsburgh. Start now to invite family and friends in faith. See www.40daysforlifepgh.com.

MARCH FOR LIFE EVENTS



Most of us will board buses between midnight and dawn, headed for our day in DC. Lifesitenews.com has the schedule of events in DC and VA from Thursday to Saturday evening. Conferences, exhibits, the Rose Dinner, prayer services, the Annual White House Memorial Die-in, the Youth Rally and gatherings sponsored by various faith groups are listed.

Whatever we are doing, we are part of the largest civil rights movement of the century. If you are not already involved, please know that we need you. Go to www.pcuc.org or call 412-531-9272.

NOT EVERYONE FAILED US



In our November issue we expressed disappointment that the bill to stop dismemberment abortions in PA did not land on the Governor's desk. We knew Gov. Wolfe would veto any limits on abortion. Wolfe is proud of his days as an abortion mill escort. Escorts do their best to make sure abortion customer\$ do not change their mind at the last minute.

We are grateful to the majority in the PA House of Representatives who did as they promised and passed HR1948, the Pain Capable/Dismemberment legislation. We thank Rep. Kathy Rapp for her leadership. We look forward to passage of this bill in the next session.

Thank you, too, to Gov. John Kasich who made Ohio the 16th state to ban abortion at 20 weeks post-fertilization. We know the year ahead will bring ugly onslaughts from the abortion industry and their allies. Our job is to know the truth, present the facts and offer help to women.

CELEBRATIONS AND MEMORIALS

In honor of David & Mary Lou Gartner,
Merry Christmas from Jim & Patricia Gartner
& Family

In honor of Valerie Uhrin on her Birthday
From her dear friend, Kitty Donohue

In honor of Anna Marie Black from
Deborah & David Busin

In honor of Agnes McClain from
Maria & Raymond Aul

In Thanksgiving for my wonderful husband,
Eugene, from Jacqueline K. Mazza

Memory of Erica Busin from
Deborah & David Busin

Memory of Dolores M. Thomson, mother of
Don Thomson, from Sue Firment

Memory of Dolores Thomson from
Frank & Helen Cindrich

Loving memory of Diane M. Slagle from
John P. Slagle

Memory of Mr. John Osika from Joann Sommer

Memory of Joanne Cook from Mary L. Cook

Memory of Infant Brian Alexander Wehrli from
Suzanne and Tom Wehrli

KAHLENBORN Q&A ON ASSISTED NUTRITION & HYDRATION



As a board-certified internist with 28 years of medical experience, Dr. Chris Kahlenborn answers some basic questions regarding. The issues involved in the decision of whether to provide assisted nutrition and hydration (ANH) to patients in need.

Dr. Chris is a member of the PCUC Advisory Board. He and his wife Johanna and their daughter Mary Ann live in Mechanicsburg. He is on the staff at Holy Spirit Hospital in Harrisburg. He is founder of the Polycarp Research Institute and author of BREAST CANCER: Its link to Abortion and the Birth Control Pill. Call PCUC to purchase a copy.

If you would like a copy of "Questions and Answers Regarding Assisted Nutrition and Hydration," call the PCUC office. You may also go to the on-line newsletter of the Pro-life Healthcare Alliance. The article is in the Nov. 22, 2016 issue.

MAGEE PROJECT

Your presence and your prayers are needed any day at the time you choose. Contact Meredith at TheMageeProject@comcast.net.

NEWMAN WRITES LOVE STORY

FACE THE TRUTH AMERICA

A Manual for Winning the Battle

To Save the Innocents

By Robert F. Newman

You can read it for his gritty, sarcastic humor or for his bold defiance of any authority figure who minimizes the worth of a child before birth, but you soon realize that Bob's book is a plea for your help in the battle to save babies from abortion.

Like many of us, Bob's "toe in the pool" of the pro-life movement was innocent curiosity when he and his beloved wife Joan went to a pro-life rally in downtown Pittsburgh. Their disbelief turned quickly to horror when they realized babies were deliberately being killed in Pittsburgh's beautiful Golden Triangle.

Face the Truth America is another battlefield in the war against abortion. It ties in neatly with the sit-ins, rescues, the March for Life and demonstrations at city, state and national capitals. Bob explains how he learned how to cooperate with local authorities while never relinquishing his First Amendment rights. He dealt with passers-by who either treated him as though he was invisible or who responded with anger, violence or, occasionally but rarely, gratitude.

While driving in southwest PA you have seen the billboards with the blue-eyed lady holding a positive pregnancy test. Her message is, "Your baby's heart is already beating," followed by "1-800-395-HELP." Bob raised the money to pay for those ads. He stored the hundreds of crosses you spotted on church lawns. In many cases, he also dug the holes and placed the markers. He built the signs (this manual has directions) and made them lightweight enough to be carried and held by just about anyone.

Bob did not have thousands of copies made of his book. If you want to know where Face the Truth is going these days, call Bob at 412-835-8127. To borrow FACE THE TRUTH AMERICA, you can call the office and we'll make it available.

SIDEWALK ADVOCATES



Women are taking a short walk away from Planned Parenthood and going to a place where they get good advice, social and medical assistance and a free ultrasound image of their baby. If you would like to attend one of the next SA training sessions, call Kathy Laslow 412-420-4657.

44th MARCH FOR LIFE

Friday, January 27, 2017 in Washington DC

LIST OF BUS CAPTAINS AND DEPARTURES

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Aspinwall/Glenshaw *St Scholastica* M Scanlon 781-6550 **Youth Rally**
BELLEVUE *K of C* Charles Helmstetter 716-2789
BETHEL PARK *St Thomas More* Carolyn Martin 257-0780
BETHEL PARK *St. Thomas More* C Martin 257-0780 **Youth Rally**
BRIDGEVILLE *Vineyard Church* Tim Cameron 221-1881/983-1846
CASTLE SHANNON *St. Anne* Kathy Raimondi 344-9690
FRANKLIN PARK *Sts. John & Paul* Donna Lopus 724-934-6446 (2)
Franklin P *Sts John & Paul* S.Lieb 724-935-2104 **Fairfax Rally 2 VANS**
GIBSONIA *St Richard* Taylor Foley 724-444-1971
GREENTREE/MONROEVILLE *AOH* Pat Clark 761-3897/596-5156
MONROEVILLE *St Bernadette* Sue Knechtel 370-0181
MONROEVILLE *NAM/St. Bernadette L. Gates* 373-0050x216 **Youth**
MT LEBANON *St Bernard* Phil Brown 343-0485 / 874-9955
Munhall, W.Oak, N.Versailles *St. Therese* Celeste Palcsey 672-6222
NORTH HILLS *St Sebastian* Dot Lydic 301-0420
NORTH HILLS *St Teresa* Dianne Machesney 366-7869
NORTH SIDE *St. Boniface* Jeff Reynolds 608-5024
PLEASANT Hills *St Elizabeth Carol DeFazio* 653-1794 **Youth Rally**
ROBINSON *Holy Trinity* Helen Stamatakis 480-2908
SCOTT TWP *Our Lady of Grace* Jeff Snyder 279-7070
SEWICKLEY *St James* John Bunce 741-1050
SEWICKLEY *Christ Church Grove Farm* Pastor Barry 741-4900x115
UPPER ST CLAIR *St Louise DeMarillac* Jim Kohler 512-3193 (2)
VERONA *St Joseph* Joyce Doyle 795-5114
WEXFORD *St. Alexis* Claudia Berthold 724-799-5904
WHITEHALL *St Gabriel* Sue O'Keefe 881-2787

ARMSTRONG COUNTY

KITTANNING *Cottage Hill Church* Matthew Clyde 724-859-8748

BEAVER COUNTY

CHIPPEWA *St. Monica* Janet Pavlinch 724-846-7540 (2)

BUTLER COUNTY

BUTLER *St. Paul & Butler City Parishes* Ed Hoyt 724-283-9070
CABOT *St. Joseph* Amy Buchwald 724-353-9114
CRANBERRY TWP *Sts Ferdinand/Kilian* Bill Slusser 724-772-7962
GLADE MILLS *Holy Sepulcher* Gretchen Cararie 724-898-2529
HERMAN *St. Mary* John Hinterlang 724-352-9384
MERIDIAN *St Fidelis* Ray Ferguson 724-282-4298
VALENCIA *Gospel Fellowship* Rev Protos 724-898-3322 **VAN**
ZELIENOPLE *St Gregory* John Healy 724-544-4118

FAYETTE COUNTY

CHAMPION/Donegal *Fam. & C.Ctr* Merl Skinner 724-455-2122 x340
BROWNSVILLE *St. Peter* Rev. Tim Krauthaupt 724-785-7781 **VAN**

GREENE COUNTY

CARMICHAELS *St Hugh* Rachel Pratt 724-9667270 **Youth Rally**
WAYNESBURG *St. Ann* Thomas Raymond 724-344-9815 **Youth Rally**

INDIANA COUNTY

INDIANA/Strongstown *Indiana Area Churches* W. Ager 724-465-4522

LAWRENCE COUNTY

NEW CASTLE *PCUC Chapter* Diane Marcella 724- 658-8662

MERCER COUNTY

GREENVILLE *St Michael* Martin Aubel 724-866-7432
GROVE CITY *Beloved Disciple* Victoria Wagner 724-748-6700

WASHINGTON COUNTY

CANONSBURG *St Patrick Nicole Guyton* 724-745-4130 **Youth Rally**
McMURRAY *St Benedict* V Vandewater 724-941-9749/724-760-2858
McMURRAY *Bible Chapel* Ryan Middleton 724-941-8990 (2)
MEADOWLAND *Miraculous Med* J Chehovin 724-344-1736/413-1457

WESTMORELAND COUNTY

EXPORT *Cornerstone Ministrie* Amy Nyiri 724-733-0070 (5)
Greensburg/Jeanete. *SPaull/Ascention* P Whalen 724-836-3096/531-7827
GREENSBURG *Diocese* Chris Smith 724-787-8596 **Fairfax Rally**
LATROBE *Holy Family* Shari Lewis 724-689-8967
MURRYSVILLE *Mother of Sorrows* Peg Miller 724-327-3903
New Kensington/Somerset *St Mary* G Pecoraro 724-335-8212/337-1030
NORTH HUNTINGDON *St. Agnes* Susan Cheplic 412-216-6812

COLLEGES and SCHOOLS

BADEN Quigley Catholic Hi School Rebekah Hayes 724-869-2188 (2)
BEAVER Christian School Beaver Co Robert Rostoni 724-843-3002
CONNELLSVILLE *Geibel Catholic* Scott Procko 724-628-5600
CORAOPOLIS *Lady Sacred Heart* Dan Montgomery 264-5140 (2)
GREENSBURG *Catholic* J McFarland 724-834-0310 **Fairfax Rally**
LATROBE *St Vincent College* Ben Watt 724-244-7696 (2)
LATROBE *SVincent Seminary* 724-532-6653
NORTH HILLS *VincentioAcademy* JApple 724-822-5431 **Youth Rally**
OAKLAND *Oakland Catholic C Walker* 266-0353 **Fairfax Rally**
SOUTH HILLS *Seton-LaSalle* Brian Klisavage 561-3583x213 (3)
WILDWOOD *Acquinas Academy* Leslie Mitros 724-444-0722 (2)

Youth Buses –are leaving to be in DC for the Youth Rally and Mass at Verizon Center or Armory or at the Life is Very Good Rally in Fairfax, Virginia prior to March.

The Aspinwall and Castle Shannon buses are wheelchair accessible.

For additional information: Mary Lou Gartner 412-793-0807

THE PENNSYLVANIA FOUNDATION FOR LIFE &
People Concerned for the Unborn Child

Invite you to our

PRAYER BREAKFAST FOR LIFE

Saturday, January 21, 2017

10:00 a.m.

Comfort Inn

699 Rodi Road, Penn Hills, PA 15235

We welcome as our Speaker



Rev. Jamie Kendrew

Family Life Pastor at Christ Church at Grove Farm, Sewickley

We invite our guests to bring donations of non-perishable food items, paper products and cleaning products. We will deliver them to a local food pantry. This year many more families are in need, and many of the pantries are struggling to serve their needy clients.

Directions to the Restaurant

From Pittsburgh: Follow 1-376 (Parkway East) towards Monroeville. Comfort Inn is located just off Exit 81 Penn Hills/Rodi Road. (Do not use Monroeville Business District). As you exit, the road to the Inn is your first right hand turn. Bear right up the hill.

From Turnpike: Exit at Monroeville/Pittsburgh interchange. Head west on Rt.376 toward Pittsburgh. Take Exit 81 Penn Hills/Rodi Road. As you exit take first right turn and bear right up the hill.

Make check payable to PA Foundation for Life. Mail to People Concerned for the Unborn Child, 3050 Pioneer Ave., Pittsburgh 15226

Name _____ Phone _____

Street _____ City, State, Zip _____

email _____

___ I have enclosed \$ _____ for ___ breakfasts @ \$20.00 each

___ I would like to reserve a table of ten (10) for \$200.00 deadline: January 16, 2017

___ I cannot come to the Breakfast, but I would like to make a donation. \$ _____

Are you coming with friends/family? Whose name will identify your table? _____

Who will sit at your table? _____



The Phyllis Schlafly Report

VOL. 50, NO. 2

P.O. BOX 618, ALTON, ILLINOIS 62002

SEPTEMBER 2016

Trump: ‘She Never Wavered’

On September 5, 2016, Phyllis Schlafly died peacefully at home, surrounded by members of her family.

In the midst of his campaign for President of the United States, Donald Trump made an unscheduled trip to St. Louis with his wife Melania, campaign chief executive Stephen Bannon, campaign manager Kellyanne Conway, and deputy campaign manager David Bossie. He met privately with the Schlafly family to express his condolences.

Before the funeral service began at 2 p.m. on September 10, Mr. Trump addressed the more than 1,000 mourners from across the United States who gathered at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis. He received sustained applause for his remarks.

Thank you very much. What a great honor. And what a great lady.

We are here today to honor the life and legacy of a truly great American patriot. I wish first and most importantly to extend my deepest heartfelt condolences to her six wonderful children who she loved so much — John, Bruce, Roger, Liza, Andy, and Anne. And also her sixteen grandchildren and her three great-grandchildren.

A movement has lost its hero. And believe me, Phyllis was there for me when it was not at all fashionable. Trust me. You have lost a mother. An amazing mother. And our country has lost a true patriot. Phyllis was a strong, proud, fierce, and tireless warrior; and that’s what she was — she was a warrior. And she was a warrior for the country, which she loved so much. Even at the age of 92, this beloved woman had more strength and fire and heart than 50 strong politicians all put together. Believe me, I witnessed it. To borrow a phrase from a great poet, Phyllis was “that strength which in all days moved heaven and earth.”

This incredible woman has been active in American politics for one-quarter of American history — think of that. One-quarter of American history. And at the top! She was the ultimate happy warrior — always smiling, but boy could she be tough. We all know that. And in all of her battles, she never strayed from the one guiding principle — she was for America. And it was always America first. People have forgotten that nowadays. With Phyllis it was America first.

She never wavered. Never apologized. And never backed down in taking on the kingmakers. She never stopped

fighting for the fundamental idea that the American people ought to have their needs come before anything or anyone else. She loved her country, she loved her family, and she loved her God.

Her legacy will live on every time some underdog — outmatched and outgunned — defies the odds and delivers a win for the people. America has always been about the underdog and always about defying the odds. The idea that so-called “little people” or the “little person,” that she loved so much,

could beat the system — often times the rigged system (we’ve been hearing a lot about it) — that the American grassroots is more powerful than all of the world’s special interests put together. And that’s the way Phyllis felt. She’s always felt that way.

That’s the romance of America; that’s the story of the mother and the patriot that we honor here today. Phyllis, who has rejoined with her late husband Fred, is looking down on us right now and I’m sure that she’s telling us to keep up the fight — no doubt. No doubt about it.

Phyllis we love you, we miss you, and we will never ever let you down. God bless you, Phyllis. God bless her family. And God bless everyone. Thank you very much, thank you.



Homily for the Funeral Mass of Phyllis Schlafly

by Rev. Brian Harrison — September 10, 2016

Dear Friends — Whenever Christian believers gather in God's house to mark the passing from this life of someone we have esteemed and loved, the occasion is inevitably marked by very mixed emotions: there is grief, heaviness of heart, a sharp sense of loss and separation, but also hope, reassurance, and thankfulness to God. There is peace, joy that springs from our faith in Jesus Christ's promise of eternal life, and even, I would dare to suggest, an awareness of beauty.

Beauty, you say? Can there be anything beautiful in death? According to Sacred Scripture, indeed there is: for we read in the Bible, and I quote, "Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones." Perhaps that well-loved affirmation from Psalm 116 can serve as a focus for our reflections this afternoon as we say farewell, with reverence and in God's presence, to Phyllis Schlafly. At this moment, in this Requiem Mass, we are not so much highlighting her prodigious accomplishments in public life — her brilliant academic career as a young woman here in St. Louis and at Harvard, her prolific authorship, her skill in oratory and in campaigning for what she believed in, in her zealous patriotic love for this great nation, and her tremendous impact on its public life, sometimes against great odds. Rather, we are recalling at this moment the fact that, underlying all of this, as the bedrock of Phyllis' soul, was her simple, constant, unshakeable faith — the faith of a Catholic Christian. Seen in the light of eternity, the most important thing about Phyllis is that she was indeed one of God's faithful ones, and so her death is something precious, something beautiful in the eyes of the Lord. Indeed, death, for such a one, comes as the final, finishing touch to a beautiful work of art — a work which in Phyllis' case took 92 years to complete.

Moreover, these very moments, right now, when we are gathered together in worship, surrounded by the magnificence of this great Cathedral Basilica, can also be seen as moments of beauty for all of us. For there is genuine spiritual beauty in a gathering at which all of our minds are quietly focused on the great and ultimate issues of life, death, and eternity. Why am I here? From whence did I come? Where am I going? Every funeral service brings to the fore these profound questions, because it inevitably reminds us of our own mortality — that we ourselves too will before long pass through that tremendous and mysterious portal. The passage from St. Luke's Gospel that we have just heard reminds us that our own meeting with Jesus in judgment may come at the hour when we least expect it. All of us attending a funeral can be challenged by this: those of us who are believers are challenged to renew our faith commitment and perhaps to set in order our priorities and goals in life; those who are not believers can be challenged

to consider again the possibility of a major 'reset' of their core values and beliefs in the light of eternity and the message of salvation proclaimed by Christ's Church.

When I was asked to preach the homily in this Holy Mass where we are honoring Phyllis' memory and praying for the repose of her soul, my first reaction was a feeling of inadequacy. That's because, while I have long been a great admirer of Phyllis Schlafly — and had heard her speak and had read a number of her books — it is only quite recently that I have had the joy and the privilege of getting to know Phyllis and some of her family members personally. Many of you here today have known her much longer and much better than I have. However, as I reflected about the significance of today's service in the light of the issues I have mentioned — the challenge and the hope of eternal life, the fundamental importance of faith in Phyllis' own life, and the precious beauty of a peaceful death when it comes to a faithful child of God such as she was — it struck me that the short period of time that I have known Phyllis and her family is not really such a disadvantage in this context after all. And that is precisely because in God's sight, the end our life is the most important part of our life. For it is how we die — our relationship with Jesus the Savior as we draw our last breath — that determines whether we will spend eternity in Heaven or in Hell.

More specifically, just a little over two weeks ago, as the end was drawing near, I had the joy of an extended visit with Phyllis and her dear long-time friend Kathleen Sullivan at Phyllis' home in Ladue. During this visit I was able to hear what was to be her last confession to a priest, and to give her the sacraments of Holy Communion and Anointing of the Sick. Now, that was on August 25th, which in the Catholic Church's calendar happens to be the annual Feast of St. Louis, King of France, the patron saint of this great city and of the splendid Cathedral in which we are now worshipping. We can truly say that this part of town is Phyllis' spiritual home; for she was baptized and went to elementary school in this Cathedral parish, and in 1949 married her late husband Fred right here in this Cathedral Basilica. These providential links between Phyllis Schlafly and the great and holy medieval warrior King who now from Heaven watches over this city, its churches and its people, prompted some further reflections. For Saint Louis, unlike most canonized saints, was not a member of the clergy or a religious order. He was a layman who was at the same time, paradoxically, both a bestower of peace and justice in his own realm, and a crusading warrior, who died of fever during an expedition to reconquer the Holy Land from the Muslim Saracens.

So King Louis IX of France was a man whose path toward holiness and heaven, in God's plan, was not to be

in the cloister or in the quiet of a monastery. No, Louis became a saint precisely in the theater of public life, of determined perseverance in the rough-and-tumble, the rude and harsh conflicts, of a patriotic life dedicated to love of God and love of country! Now, doesn't that sound quite a lot like Phyllis Schlafly?!

I said at the beginning of these reflections that in saying farewell to Phyllis during this funeral Mass it would be appropriate for us to focus on her faith, on the deep spiritual underpinnings of her life, rather than on the specifics of her legacy in politics and the public affairs of the United States. But of course, these two realms — the spiritual and the temporal — cannot be neatly separated into two totally distinct compartments. That's not Catholic doctrine! And Phyllis herself certainly didn't separate them! After the success of what was probably her best-known political campaign in the '70s and '80s, she revealed that throughout those years of struggle, she and some close associates had all along been fighting with a secret weapon. And what was that weapon? The daily praying of the Holy Rosary, imploring the intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary, to whom Phyllis had a deep devotion.

Indeed, during the very same historical period in which Phyllis made her main contributions to American public life — that is, in the half century since Vatican Council II — the Catholic Church has emphasized more than ever before not only that God calls all Christians to become saints, but that he wants lay men and women to fulfill this vocation to sanctity precisely in their secular, everyday calling in the world. Article 13 of the Council's Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity sums up God's specific calling to lay people by affirming that they should "endeavor to infuse the Christian spirit into the mentality and behavior, the laws and structures of the community in which [they] live." My friends, I cannot think of a better one-line summary of Phyllis Schlafly's mission in life than these words of the Second Vatican Council. She endeavored — with considerable success and often against seemingly insuperable odds — to infuse the Christian spirit into the mentality and behavior, laws and structures, of the great American nation in which she lived.

I will close these reflections by paying tribute very briefly to just two specific aspects of Phyllis' public legacy which are particularly central to the Catholic Church's social doctrine. One of these doctrinal issues that were very close to Phyllis' heart, and a core element of her public activity, was the integrity of the natural family. She fought tirelessly to uphold and strengthen in our society the family as our Creator has planned it; that is, the family springing from the fruitful lifelong union in marriage of one man and one woman, including the distinct but complementary characteristics and roles that God has inscribed in our natures as man and woman respectively.

The second of these great issues is just as important, and indeed, even more fundamental to a Christian and

Catholic worldview. We all know that the social and political initiatives which Phyllis spearheaded and organized touched the lives of countless Americans. But I believe we can truly say that one of these initiatives in particular also saved the lives of countless Americans! I am talking about then-unborn Americans who are now alive and well, thanks to Phyllis' ceaseless combat against the scourge of abortion in the years after *Roe v. Wade*. Just last Sunday, Pope Francis, in canonizing Mother Teresa of Kolkata, said: "She was committed to defending life, ceaselessly proclaiming that 'the unborn are the weakest, the smallest, the most vulnerable.' . . . (Mother Teresa was a pro-life warrior who spoke truth to power about the injustice of abortion and used her influence to spread the pro-life message.)" Those words of Pope Francis about Saint Teresa's pro-life mission could be applied equally to that of Phyllis Schlafly.

In recalling Mother Teresa, I find it providential that Phyllis died on the anniversary of this saintly nun's death, September 5th, and the very day after her canonization. Now, please don't get me wrong here! In drawing links between Phyllis and St. Teresa of Kolkata and St. Louis of France, I am not suggesting that we somehow "canonize" Phyllis during this Mass. She had her faults and failings, as we all do, and as a humble Catholic she would be the very first to plead that we pray for her, and not to her!

That, after all, is the specific intention of this and all Requiem Masses: the prayers of today's liturgy reflect our Catholic belief in the harrowing reality of Purgatory — that mysterious purification in and after death which St. Paul alludes to in I Cor. 3 and which most of those who die in Christ will probably need to undergo before reaching the glory of Heaven.

No, in noticing these providential links between Phyllis and these two canonized saints, I am not suggesting that she necessarily shares their heroic sanctity — that's something which in any case only God can judge. But I am suggesting that the Lord is thereby hinting to us that there is indeed a quality which all three have in common; and I think the best word for that quality is simply . . . greatness.

Dear friends, and especially members of Phyllis' family, I believe we are today praying for the eternal repose of a truly great woman — one of the greatest in the recent history of this country. Phyllis Schlafly was a great patriot, a great American, and above all, a great Christian and Catholic leader who strove to bring her beloved country back to those spiritual and moral roots that sprang — and will spring again — from the revelation given to our forefathers in the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures. With hope in the Lord's mercy and his promise of eternal life, we can surely be confident that Phyllis, after her long and immensely fruitful life, will hear from Jesus those wonderful words that we read in the Gospel: "Well done, good and faithful servant! Come, enter into the joy of thy Lord!"

‘Her Lamp Would Not Go Out’

Remarks by John Schlafly at the funeral of his mother, Phyllis Schlafly, at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis on September 10, 2016:

When my father, Fred Schlafly, reached the age of 75, and realized he could no longer compete in the sports he had enjoyed throughout his life, he turned to my mother one day and said: “Phyllis, you probably have about 10 good years left.”

That conversation took place more than 30 years ago. And those 30 extra years were good years: good for us, of course, her family and friends who received her wise counsel; and also good for our country, as her political activism continued to influence the 2016 election.

They were good years for Phyllis, too, despite the increasing burdens of her old age. She was able to watch her family grow to 25 descendants, with more on the way. In her final days, she had the great joy of seeing the infants and toddlers that my father never knew.

My parents were partners in their life together, and Phyllis depended on Fred for everyday reinforcement. He supported her career, screened what she wrote, and coached her on what to say. She called him “the censor.”

Fred Schlafly’s influence is apparent in Phyllis’ most widely read article, “What’s Wrong With ‘Equal Rights’ for Women?” First published in the February 1972 issue of *The Phyllis Schlafly Report*, that article has since been reprinted in dozens of college textbooks and is considered the classic expression of Phyllis’ opposition to feminism.

The 1972 article set forth the proposition that our public laws and policies, as embedded in the fundamental law of our nation, should reinforce the family as the basic unit of any society. Phyllis expressed the idea in a way that attracted tens of thousands of people, mostly of other faiths, to what she called the “pro-family” movement. Many of those she touched and inspired have honored our family by coming here today.

We now take Phyllis to rest beside her husband, my father, in the place she selected many years ago. Like every place she ever lived, she decided the burial plot needed another tree — a maple tree that turns bright gold in the fall.

She selected a tree, planted it and drove there frequently with buckets of water, to make sure the tree survived. Since we buried my father there, 23 years ago, the little tree that Phyllis planted has become a powerful, majestic, stately canopy, and next month its color will be gorgeous.

Reflecting on my mother’s long life, the singular quality that explains her effectiveness is that she was always prepared. Whether her task was to give a speech, conduct a meeting, or meet a deadline, her careful preparation made the job seem effortless and gave her time to deal with unexpected events.

Phyllis was never at a loss for the appropriate words. She faced crisis and conflict with grace, and she infuriated opponents with her unflappable good humor.

In the parable of the bridegroom, Jesus tells the story of 10 women who were called to light the way for a wedding party. Five of the women brought no extra oil, and their lamps went out before the wedding party arrived. The other five women came prepared with extra oil in case the wedding party was running late. The sensible five were admitted to the wedding feast from which the foolish five were excluded.

Phyllis would have been one of the five wise enough — or sensible enough — to bring an extra flask of oil. Even in her final year, she was planning for the future, including America’s future as well as her own.

Phyllis Schlafly was a wise woman, a sensible woman, a faithful woman. Her lamp would not go out, and I believe she was prepared for today.



**Have a
blessed New Year,
See you at the
March for Life!**