

Equipping, Educating & Advocating...Since 1969



3050 Pioneer Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15226 412-531-9272 www.PCUC.org E-Newsletter Monthly Update for July 2024

#### FROM OUR PRESIDENT



I had the pleasure of attending the Vision for Life banquet this past Thursday evening, June 27. The guest speaker was Seth Dillon, owner and CEO of the Babylon Bee, a conservative Christian news website that co-

vers religion, politics, current events, and public figures all with a satirical twist. Their motto is – "Fake News You Can Trust!"

Mr. Dillon spoke directly about how abortion is wrong because taking a human life is wrong, plain and simple. See the link below of an interview clip he had with joe Rogan that was played at the banquet. It's only 2:54 minutes long and is worth watching. For a while at least, Mr. Dillon had Joe Rogan considering why abortion is wrong. Imagine that!

#### https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=3296203607328655

But one important nugget that I took from the talk by Mr. Dillon, had to do with "not being afraid to speak out." He referenced a study performed by a psychologist in the 1950's that involved a group of people sitting around a table and being presented a question with three possible answers, but one was an obvious correct answer. 7 people were at the table, and 6 were "in on the experiment" and were told to intentionally say the wrong answer. The seventh person at the table was the test subject. Would he answer the obvious correct answer, or would he go along with the crowd of wrong answers? In the actual test, conducted multiple times with multiple test subjects, the subject went along with the other 6 wrong answers, at least once, over 75% of the time.

BUT .... When one other person at the table answered the question correctly before him, then the test person answered correctly over 95 % of the time, declining to go along with the others.

What message should we take from this? I think it's obvious – we need to speak our beliefs, because speaking our beliefs may change someone's mind, which could save a life!

Postscript to the banquet story – I was on the Sidewalk in front of Planned Parenthood working my usual Friday morning Sidewalk Advocate shift, and a young woman named Shaniah, stopped to speak with me and accepted our Sidewalk Advocate help brochure for women. She also took the black & yellow card we use that says "Pregnant? Need Help?" on it. She said she was Pro-Life, and was a mother of three. But what really impressed me, was what she said when she looked at the card. She said, "I'm going to take this and put it on my social media!" Wow! Talk about a revelation moment for me! I had just heard numerous speakers the night before, exhorting me to not be afraid to say what I believe, but here was this young mother putting into action of her own accord, what I was not doing myself. That is "going public" on Facebook and declaring in big, bold letters, "ABORTION IS WRONG. IT IS THE TAKING OF A HUMAN LIFE! " Find me on Facebook soon. I pledge to all of you that despite many family and friends I have, who do not support Life, I am taking the stand beyond the Sidewalk, and to my social media.

God bless you all. Let's change some minds and hearts. Remember, it only takes one!

Greg Engelmeyer, PCUC President



### SIDEWALK ADVOCATES SAVE LIVES YEAR-ROUND IN FRONT OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD!

#### From Andrew McCauley, Director of Sidewalk Advocates for Life, Pittsburgh



In the month of June, Sidewalk Advocates for Life was blessed to witness at least three women turn from the evil doors of Planned Parenthood and choose life for their unborn children! Others we have spoken to may still be on the

fence, and we pray that they are led to the truth. The impact of such decisions has a ripple effect we will never fully understand in this life. One choice allows creation to know another human being, their uniqueness and irreplaceability apparent to all. Another strips the world of their presence to such a degree that it's hard to even comprehend the loss humanity lives with on a daily basis. The difference that a single decision for life has on the world is of incalculable value, and we need more Sidewalk Advocates to help women make this choice. Planned Parenthood in downtown Pittsburgh aborts more babies in a single week than our total number of regularly scheduled Advocates. Please seriously consider becoming a Sidewalk Advocate and helping to save these babies. The work is difficult, but it is the Christian's obligation to defend the innocent. When the Lord wishes us to cooperate in His triumph over evil, He gives us the strength to do it.



## PRAYING IN FRONT OF ABORTION CLINICS A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

#### by Nikki Bruni



When you have been doing something for a long time, it is easy to forget how hard it was when you first began. You wonder why more people aren't doing it, when the cause is so grave. Yes, I am speaking of praying and witnessing in front of Planned Parenthood.

Over 3,000 babies are aborted at PP in Pittsburgh each year, and 4,000 die at Allegheny Reproductive in East Liberty, yet it is a small percentage of "prolifers" who go to the sidewalk. When I think back about how scared I was when I first began doing this, I can easily understand why it is such a struggle to fill the weekly schedule. So, I thought it would be good to get the perspective of a newly trained advocate, who has recently joined our weekly schedule. Cheryl is "getting her feet wet" by being a prayer "back-up" for two regularly scheduled advocates. She does not have the pressure of having to reach out to abortion-bound couples...she just simply prays. It is a huge help to have a third person, and I am sure her prayers have helped our advocacy efforts! Here is what she wrote when I asked her to share about her first experience on the sidewalk:

My first time was kind of confusing! I wasn't really scared, but worried that I might say the wrong thing. I am not brave enough to say too much, but every week it gets easier. I love reading the e-mails that Andrew sends about those who have changed their decisions. I pray that God will use me to change someone's heart someday. The Holy Spirit is alive within our hearts. I am not scared because I know Jesus is always with us. I know that God called me to this. Cheryl

I am grateful to Cheryl for reminding me of the courage and selfless love that is required to step out for the first time, and I believe that Cheryl will get her wish someday. I believe that there will be a child born someday because of her "yes".



Saturday, July 27 8:30AM-3:30PM

Location: TBA



Pittsburgh, PA Downtown

Is God calling you to stand up for innocent life? Each week, dozens of babies are killed through abortion in downtown Pittsburgh. Become a Sidewalk Advocate and help end this grave injustice in our city!

#### Learn how to:

- Counsel an abortion-minded woman
- Address "hard cases"
- Provide life-affirming options to those in difficult circumstances



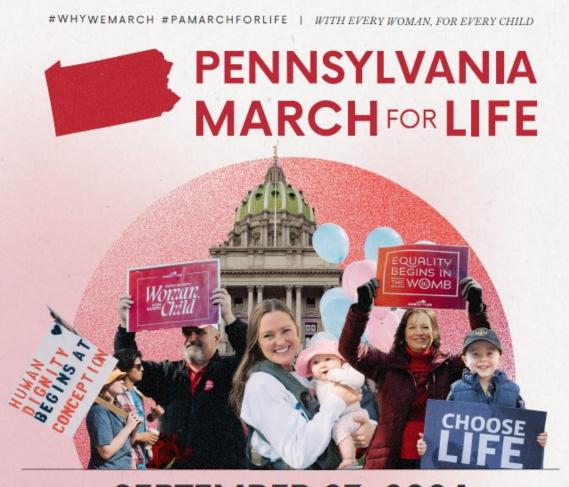
## Contact Andrew at <u>andrewSAFLPGH@protonmail.com</u> to register.

\$20 registration fee. Workbook, continental breakfast, and lunch provided.

WE STAND IN FRONT OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD ON LIBERTY AVE. IN PITTSBURGH 5 DAYS A WEEK, BUT SADLY, WE DO NOT HAVE ALL THE ABORTION HOURS COVERED. WE NEED YOUR HELP! ONCE TRAINED, COMMITMENT IS NOT OBLIGATORY. COME AS YOU ARE ABLE.

Can't counsel? Contact us to become a trained advocate's prayer partner!

# Join thousands of Pennsylvanians as we MARCH FOR LIFE on September 23rd! Contact Anita at 412-728-3647 for bus info.



## **SEPTEMBER 23, 2024**

11:00 AM - RALLY 12:00 PM - MARCH FOR LIFE

Pennsylvania State Capitol 501 N 3rd St, Harrisburg, PA 17120 FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:

PA.MARCHFORLIFE.ORG

OR SCAN THE CODE BELOW



HOSTED BY:





## BEAUTIFUL PRO-LIFE SISTER, ANN FRANCIS, GOES HOME TO THE LORD, June 6th

Pittsburgh's pro-life family has received yet another blow...the loss of

pro-life warrior, Ann Francis. Ann was an inspiration to many, including me. She was a fire-ball of enthusiasm and filled with passion and zeal for Christ and for his precious unborn babies. I will always remember her calling me...outraged at the news of the University of Pittsburgh using aborted fetuses for horrific experiments, such as "humanizing mice" by grafting onto mice the scalps of aborted babies. She asked me to write a cover letter, alerting our priests about this atrocity. Ann took this letter and mailed it to every priest in our diocese, alerting them to this evil. This is just one example of her passion and energy to stand up for innocent lives. She always made sure that her son, Fr. Sean Francis, was present for our Kick-off Masses and Eucharistic Processions to PP, when he could make it. She was one whose bubbling enthusiasm could not easily be ignored, and I am sure especially from her son! Ann, we will miss you! We pray for you and ask you to pray for us! To read her obituary, go to: Ann Francis Obituary - Pittsburgh, PA (dignitymemorial.com)

Her family has asked that in lieu of flowers, donations should be made to Genesis of Pittsburgh or to PCUC.

#### PCUC LOSES ANOTHER FRIEND

*Christopher Dixon*, age 80, passed away on June 16th (Father's Day). Chris and his wife Theresa founded a multi-county chapter of PCUC. Chris was also involved in the Rescue movement in the 1980's and 90's which landed him in jail once. It was a suffering that he gladly endured for his love of the Lord and precious unborn lives. Chris spent his life storing up treasure in Heaven, and no doubt will be reaping the benefit of his labors soon. His family is also requesting donations *(in lieu of flowers)* to be made to PCUC or to Clelian Heights School. See more information on his obituary at:

Christopher L. Dixon Obituary - The Beaver County Times (timesonline.com)

### LOCAL PRO-LIFE VOLUNTEER SPEAR-HEADS "RESPECT-LIFE WEEKENDS"



On June 23rd, Most Precious Blood of Jesus Parish had the honor of being the first of many parishes to hold a Respect -Life Weekend "Coffee and Donuts" Social Event. This initiative by local pro-lifer, Mike D'Onofrio, seeks to provide local pa-

rishioners with information about various pro-life organizations in Pittsburgh, in order to equip them

to get involved. With large, attractive posters and professionally designed and printed trifold brochures. which he makes available at no cost, he is willing to travel to any parish to assist in a time of social gathering after Mass to short give а presentation about



MPBOJ Respect Life leader, Fabiola, along with Karen from The SBA List helped to hand out brochures featuring pro-life opportunities

the various pro-life opportunities in our area.



Mike explaining the importance of pro-life volunteerism over Coffee & Donuts If you are interested in holding a Respect Life weekend at your parish, please contact Mike D'Onofrio at 412-559-7306

## LEGISLATION UPDATE ... FROM ANITA ...

#### THEY'RE AT IT AGAIN!



After the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in 2022, the Biden administration's Health Department and Human Services (HHS) issued guidance stating that hospitals that receive Medicare funding must provide emer-

gency abortions as necessary stabilizing treatment under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act. Moyle v US (Idaho v US) is the latest abortion case to reach the Supreme Court. It was determined that hospital emergency rooms operating under abortion bans will be permitted to terminate pregnancies when necessary to stabilize their patients.

So, that brings us to the State of PA. They are at it again. Melissa Shusterman and Arvind Venkat (Allegheny County) are trying to CODIFY abortions for emergency care. The problem is that *"emergency care"* can be misconstrued as urgent/emergent as anything from emotional duress to an actual emergency. I can tell you that as a RN.

#### HB 2465, proposes to codify "Emergency Abortion Care Protection for Pennsylvanians". Here is an excerpt:

"Care of women with emergency conditions, by necessity, must include abortion for diagnoses as wide ranging as pre-eclampsia, pregnancy-related cardiomyopathy, previable premature rupture of membranes, ectopic pregnancies, and many more. As a result of this refusal of the US Supreme Court to make a decision, in nearly half the country, women's health, fertility, and lives continue to be at risk and healthcare chaos reigns."

It is easy to see how deceitful the language in this bill is. Doctors have admitted that there is never a medical necessity to intentionally kill an unborn baby by abortion. Of course there are instances, as listed above, where it may be necessary to terminate a pregnancy by delivering the child early in order to save the life of the mother. In that case the child may not survive if he or she is not far enough developed gestationally. However, the intention is not to kill the child but to save the mother, and therefore it is not an abortion. Regarding ectopic pregnancy, I challenge Ms. Shusterman to find a single doctor who would categorize the removal of an ectopic pregnancy as an abortion. That is simply misinformation.

In addition to this bill, on the same day (June 27th), Shustermann, along with Rep. Kristine Howard and Tarik Khan, proposed HB 2463. This bill seeks to remove the waiting period and counseling requirements for abortion. Here is an excerpt:

"The waiting period requirement forces women seeking care to make multiple trips to a clinic or health care provider. Patients find this requirement to be financially burdensome, as it requires them to take additional time off work, arrange childcare, and/or incur the expenses involved with travelling a long distance. Abortion is a safe, legal, and sometimes life-saving medical procedure, and it must be accessible for all who need it. Our legislation would remove the medically unnecessary 24-hour waiting period and counseling requirement from current Pennsvlvania law. Abortion is health care. This bill is one step towards removing burdens that pregnant individuals face when accessing abortion care. By removing limitations like the 24-hour waiting period and mandatory counseling, we can continue to make abortion more accessible to all."

These are the same representatives that introduces HB 2304, that horrible bill that would wipe out all we have worked for. Please pray that all these bills will just sit there and not go anywhere. Let them know all know that we, as Pennsylvanians, do want this evil in our state and that we are praying for each of them:

Hon. Melissa L. Shusterman ~ 42 East Lancaster Ave., Suite A, Paoli, PA 19301, 484-200-8260

Hon. Arvind Venkat ~ 9800B McKnight Rd., Ste 130 Pittsburgh, PA 15237, 412-348-8028

Hon. Kristine Howard, 40 Lloyd Ave., Greentree Office Bldg., Suite 309, Malvern, PA 19355, 610-251-1070

Hon. Tarik Khan, 4001 Main St., Suite 101, Philadelphia, PA 19127-2141, 215-482-8726

Sources: Pa.gov, Catholicvote.org

## **HONORS & MEMORIALS**

In Honor of Helen Cindrich From Rosemary Corsetti

In Honor of Sister Norma Rodriguez's 25th anniversary as a Sister of the Holy Spirit

From Sister Jolenta Sredinski

In Honor of Fr. Larry Smith From Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Hammond

In Memory of Ken & Eileen Baldauff From Sue Birringer

In Memory of David W. Croxton From his wife, Judy

In Memory of Christopher Dixon From Helen Cindrich

In Memory of Rev. James Dolan From Chris Delsignore

In Memory of Ann Francis From Kathy Burchill

In Memory of Ann Francis From Patty Cartwright & Family

In Memory of Ann (Stouffer) Francis From Dr. Linda M. King

In Memory of Ann Francis From Marie Pfau In Memory of Fred Gumina From Lorraine Gumina

In Memory of Kathy Nath From Patricia Bennett

In Memory of Fr. Francis King O'Toole From Joe & Marylou McKenna

## If you would like to support the work of PCUC, please consider making a donation at:

<u>Donate – People Concerned for the Unborn Child</u> (pcuc.org)

Either online through PayPal at:

Donate (paypal.com)

Or by mailing a check to:

PCUC 3050 Pioneer Ave. Pittsburgh PA 15226

#### Honor your loved one by sending a donation of any amount to:

PCUC, 3050 Pioneer Ave., Pittsburgh PA 15226

Be sure to include the name of the person to honor or memorialize, who it is from and to whom the acknowledgment is to be sent.

