



Equipping, Educating & Advocating...Since 1969



Our 57th Year

3050 Pioneer Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15226

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www.PCUC.org

E-Newsletter
Monthly Update for April 2025



FROM OUR PRESIDENT

By Greg Engelmeyer

Dear Friends,

I ran across this verse in one of my readings the other day.

"We have been called to heal wounds, to unite what has fallen apart, and to bring home those who have lost their way. Many who may seem to us to be children of the Devil, will still become Christ's disciples." - St. Francis of Assisi

I think I have read this verse maybe a dozen times by now. It's interesting how this verse can apply to us in many different ways. My first thought was, "Oh, that's what we do on the Sidewalk. We try to save young moms who are lost and desperate for a way out of their predicament. If we can turn them away from having abortion, maybe we can help them reclaim their life, and in turn find the Lord."

Then the thought occurred to me that within our own families, many of us have children who have turned away from the Church, and now worship gods of materialism, gods of self-first, gods of carnal pleasure, etc. Our own sons and daughters have left the path of their childhood teachings to pursue other beliefs prevalent in today's culture. Many struggle with the fear that our children may not join us in heaven because they do not believe that Jesus Christ is Lord. I do not have the answer to this problem, but know that we cannot give up on our children, and must continue to fervently

pray that they change their ways.

Then lastly, this part of the quote, *"to heal wounds, to unite what has fallen apart,"* struck me that maybe I need to look a little deeper within myself. Have I been struggling with a relationship with anyone? Maybe I need to reflect on what I need to do to heal a relationship. Does this apply to you too? Maybe you feel you've been wronged, or perhaps unjustly accused? If that is so, and you've been dwelling on this personal conflict, then maybe it's time you took an olive branch and extended it to your friend or relative.

It's interesting how one simple verse can be applied to scenarios within our own lives. In my case, I think all three situations apply. I need to get to work and take action in these areas now.

If you would like to support the work of PCUC, please consider making a one-time donation online at:

[Web Checkout | Clover](#) *(One-time donation)*

Recurring monthly donations can be made through PayPal (you do not need to have a PayPal account to donate):

[Donate](#) *(Click "make this a monthly donation")*

Or by mailing a check to:

PCUC, 3050 Pioneer Ave., Pittsburgh PA 15226

Thank you for your support!



FROM OUR DIRECTOR

By Nikki Bruni

Watching the Giant Fall

I am certainly no expert on national news, which is why I usually keep this newsletter to local pro-life happenings. However, I feel that I should comment on the **recent announcement by Planned Parenthood of the closure of their flagship abortion clinic in Manhattan.** It seems to be very providential, being the oldest free-standing abortion clinic in America (*and Planned Parenthood in Pittsburgh being the second!*). We have been praying for so long that PP in Pittsburgh would close. Although their abortion numbers continue to increase year after year, we haven't given up. We put our trust in God, and know that He is at work and is hearing our prayers. ***I wonder if the Manhattan PP closure is a fore-shadow of what will happen in Pittsburgh some day soon? Dare we hope?***

The landscape of abortion seems to be changing drastically since the Dobbs decision, with the majority of abortions being done by the abortion pill, instead of surgically. The consequences of medically induced abortions are horrific, with young women taking the pill without a doctor's supervision...*sometimes not even knowing how far along they are, or if it could potentially be an ectopic pregnancy.* The psychological impact of women seeing their own baby in the toilet, and having to flush their child into the sewer will certainly be horrible, and there is no doubt that many women will die from complications from these self-induced abortions at home...not to mention the spiritual hardness that is sure to happen to the souls of these women. **No longer will they be able to cast the blame on an abortionist for having taken the life of their child. No...they will have become the abortionist themselves.**

Still...as discouraging as this seems, I still think I see God's Hand in all of this. What I mean is this; **It used to be that abortion was hidden, covered over by a pretty veneer.** Planned Parenthood was an organization which helped underprivileged wom-

en to be able to take control of their reproductive rights. The woman would not see the results of her abortion, she might even be sedated. She would wake up and it would all be over. She could start anew. Her problem was gone.

It is different now. Soon, every woman who chooses to abort her child will see exactly what abortion is. *She will either harden herself to what she has done...or she will repent.* But she will no longer be able to deny what she has done. This seems to be more of God's "separating" the "goats" from the "sheep".

As we continue to watch the Giant of Planned Parenthood fall...*especially with the possibility of federal de-funding on the horizon...*we remain faithful to the "five stones" that Our Blessed Mother tells us will defeat this giant: 1.) Prayer (*especially the Rosary*) ; 2.) Scripture reading ; 3.) Fasting ; 4.) Confession ; 5.) Holy Communion.

One day, when Planned Parenthood in Pittsburgh announces it's closure, I hope everyone reading this will know that their prayers and sacrifices helped to make this day possible.

SIDEWALK PRAYERS (& Blessing Bags) HELP THREE WOMEN TO (hopefully) CHOOSE LIFE AT PP!



From Kathy on March 22nd: Early in my shift, a couple entered PP and the man took a Blessing Bag. He gave me eye contact as I said, "Come talk to us, Dad". Soon after, they came out smiling. He said, "We have your pamphlet!", as they hurried by.

Also a young woman took a blessing bag as she entered PP and came back out soon after. She didn't speak English so we gave her a Spanish brochure. Her boyfriend, who spoke some English, nodded that she is pregnant and nodded that they would go to Choices! They were both smiling. It was a hopeful encounter!

From Pete on March 13th: During the praying of the Sorrowful Mysteries, 2 women came out of PP and Patty approached and talked to them. **One said she had changed her mind!** Praise God!



Join us for Pittsburgh's Lenten Campaign's

CLOSING EVENT

WITH

Abby Johnson!



Abby Johnson's abrupt exit from Planned Parenthood and prolife conversion made national headlines in 2009. She created an exit strategy for abortion industry whistleblowers by establishing And Then There Were None in 2012 and launched a national support hotline for pregnant women and mothers with complex needs called LoveLine in 2019. Armed with truth, Abby continues to be a voice for the unborn while dismantling the abortion industry from the inside out through peaceful, prayerful outreach.



Sunday, April 13th (Palm Sunday)

Divine Mercy Parish, Epiphany Church

4:00 pm: FREE Talk by Abby Johnson

**5:00 pm: Eucharistic Procession to
Planned Parenthood, returning
to the church for Benediction**

(NOTE: There will NOT be Mass!)

We are excited that Abby Johnson will be joining us in Pittsburgh as we close our Lenten 40 Days for Life campaign with a **Eucharistic Procession to Planned Parenthood**, led by our beloved Bishop Waltersheid! Immediately before the procession, Abby will give a talk in the church.

This is a free event, however there will be an opportunity to support her ministry through a **free-will collection taken in the church. Please be as generous as you can!**

A DIAPER COLLECTION FOR LOCAL PREGNANCY CENTERS WILL TAKE PLACE DURING THIS EVENT. DROP OFF DIAPERS IN FRONT!

So that we will know approximately how many are attending,
RSVP to Nikki at
nbruni@40daysforlifepgh.com, or
call 412-926-9413



NEWS FROM THE SIDEWALK

By Andrew McCauley, Director of Sidewalk Advocates for Life Pittsburgh



Under what circumstances do YOU think abortion will end?

It can be a sobering prospect to consider how *patiently* God treats our world at this moment in history. *After tens of millions of abortions, we cannot afford to forget that our God is a God of justice as well as mercy.* After He has endured so much, I do not think it unreasonable to expect a severe reckoning for this evil. I do not mean to be discouraging but motivating! Every time

we go to Planned Parenthood or any other place of abortion to pray, counsel, or witness, *we counteract the grave sins of our times.* And we don't do this alone! The same long-suffering Lord eagerly assists all who answer the call to defend His yet unborn creation. But sadly, not many come. Despite the ever-present opportunity to stand up for life *alongside God* at the place of killing, most, even those of faith, do not. ***If we want to be God's people, we must confront evil.*** I urge you to come to 933 Liberty Ave and simply pray. You do not have to counsel. You do not have to hold a sign. Just come and pray. *Especially in this time when God patiently endures so much, your sacrifice will not go unremembered or unrewarded.*

SAVE THE DATE!

PCUC & PA FOUNDATION FOR LIFE'S 57TH ANNUAL Celebrate Life Luncheon Sunday, August 31st, 2025

Location TBD

Featuring TWO Dynamic Speakers!



Pearl Corbin is one of the founding members of The Life Team, NY, a collaborative pro-life work of Christians from both Evangelical and Catholic traditions. She is actively involved in sharing the message of life, particularly among fellow evangelical pastors and believers. Ms. Corbin believes that one of the greatest reasons death and destruction run rampant throughout our land is a direct result of our nation's practice of shedding innocent blood in the womb. Ms. Corbin, a native New Yorker, spent 16 years in Asia, conducting leadership and discipleship training among house churches in the Peoples Republic of China and throughout southeast Asia. Sister Pearl is sought after as a keynote speaker in conferences & training seminars across the US and internationally.

SCHEDULE:

12:00 Reception
12:30 Lunch
1:00 speakers
2:30 Closing remarks

His Excellency, **Bishop Joseph Strickland** is an outspoken defender of the sanctity of human life and Christian morality. He was ordained to the episcopacy in 2012 by His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI and served as the bishop of Tyler Texas until 2023. His humility and steadfastness to the truths of the Catholic faith are an example for us all to follow. We are blessed to have this true shepherd to come and encourage our pro-life flock here in Pittsburgh!

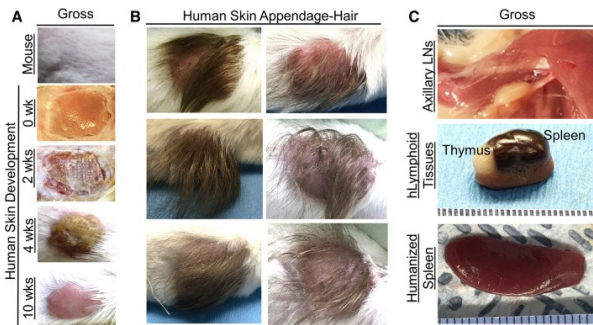




THE MAGEE PROJECT

Monthly update by Meredith

It's hard to stomach articles like this one: [University That Attached Aborted Babies' Scalps to Rats Must be Fully Investigated - LifeNews.com](#)



But the message must spur us to act.

The single most important thing we can do is to ask God for help in the battle for life. Join us for the Stations of the Cross Prayer Walk and the regular 4th Sunday prayer walks all year at Magee.

For more information: TheMageeProject@gmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Communications Committee met in March.

Do you get the Post Gazette or Trib? **We need your help** to know when there's an article or editorial deserving a pro-life response.

Let Meredith know if you see something: TheMageeProject@gmail.com

If you get the Post Gazette online, there's an opportunity to comment on articles online if you are a subscriber. Don't know what to say? Let us know and we'll help you respond.

Recently, Kathy received a lengthy response to a letter she wrote to abortion supporter, PA Rep Emily Kinkead. Kinkead's response fills us in on all of the pro-abortion talking points, full of inaccuracies and exaggerations. Let Kathy know if you'd like to read the letter from Kinkead. KathLaslow@yahoo.com.

Our next meeting will be virtual and you're **encouraged** to join us. TheMageeProject@gmail.com for more info.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS PRAYER WALK AT MAGEE HOSPITAL

Sunday, April 27th from 4:00—6:00 pm



Go to <https://signup.com/go/ZTwgzEU>
To sign up or sign up your group.



A PRO-LIFE HERO TURNS 80!

A belated Happy 80th Birthday to Judy Dick! Her birthday was on Valentine's Day.

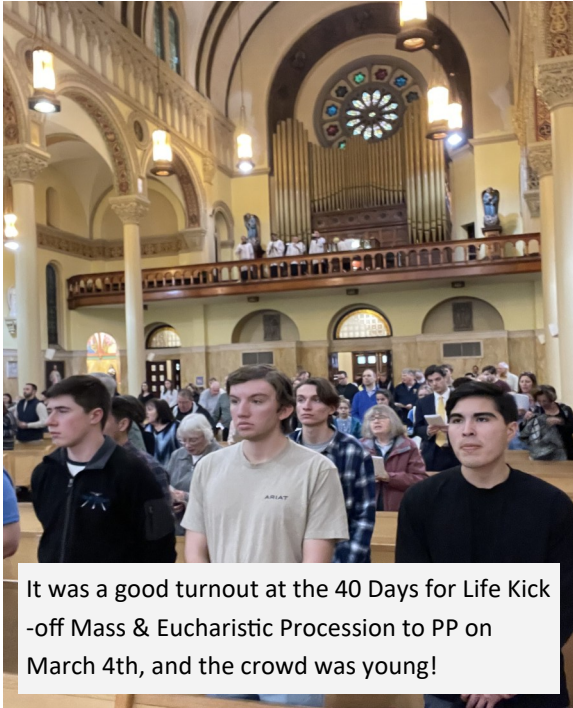
Judy has been witnessing for life for 40 years alongside her husband John. You will find them faithfully showing up at the abortion mill, Allegheny Reproductive. They faithfully show up, rain, snow or shine to try to help the women before they make one of the biggest mistakes of their lives. **God bless you Judy and thank you for your love of the Lord and LIFE!**

PCUC'S MONTHLY BILLBOARD PROJECT CONTINUES TO SAVE LIVES & CHANGE HEARTS!



This billboard ran throughout the month of March to remind commuters of the value of unborn life!
St. Patrick, pray for all unborn children!

40 DAYS FOR LIFE KICK-OFF EVENT DREW MANY YOUNG PEOPLE!



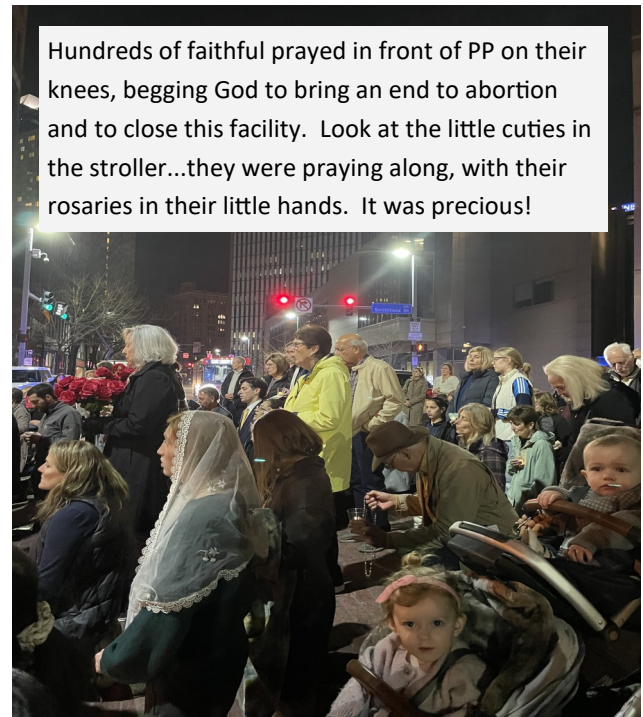
It was a good turnout at the 40 Days for Life Kick-off Mass & Eucharistic Procession to PP on March 4th, and the crowd was young!

God was with us on March 4th as we kicked off our Lenten 40 Days for Life with a Mass and Eucharistic Procession. *As if to reassure us that He is still running this show, He gave us the most beautiful evening of the year for this event!* **About 200 faithful pro-life Christians gathered at Divine Mercy Parish for holy Mass, offered by Fr. Christopher Donley, and concelebrated with many other priests.**



We are so grateful for all the wonderful priests who concelebrated Mass and joined the procession: Fr. Peter Gruber, Fr. Joe Freedy, Fr. Jack Brennan, Fr. Christopher Donley, Fr. Jason Charron, Fr. Nick Argentieri, Fr. Jim Kurtz and one other priest that I don't know his name (my apologies!)

I was struck by how many of those gathered were young adults! What a refreshing change from the "usual" pro-life crowd! Thank you God for using 40 Days for Life to renew the pro-life movement for the next generation!



Hundreds of faithful prayed in front of PP on their knees, begging God to bring an end to abortion and to close this facility. Look at the little cuties in the stroller...they were praying along, with their rosaries in their little hands. It was precious!

Although we are sad to be losing Fr. Chris, we congratulate him on the incredible honor of having been selected to go to Rome to serve on the Pontifical North American College Seminary. We know that God has mighty plans for Fr. Chris, as he helps to form a new generation of priests in the U.S. and Australia! We are forever grateful to him for his support of Pittsburgh's 40 Days for Life and our prayers go with him to Rome!



Fr. Joe Freedy holding the monstrance, doing battle with the devil. We know who wins in the end!

LEGISLATION UPDATE...*FROM ANITA...*



The battle to keep our tax dollars from funding abortion continues! HB 917 seeks to allow coverage for Abortion through the PA Health Insurance Exchange.

This bill was introduced by Rep. Melissa Shusterman and was referred to the Insurance Committee on Mar 17th.

Another troubling bill is The Preserving Fertility for Patients Act, introduced by State Rep. La'Tasha Mayes. This bill seeks to require Health Insurance Companies to cover fertility treatments such as sperm, egg and embryo "banking" for patients who are undergoing treatments from diseases such as cancer, sickle cell disease, lupus and some kidney conditions, which can do permanent damage their reproductive systems. However good intentioned this seems, the process of creating human life in a laboratory using artificial means is unethical from a Catholic perspective, and leads to many unintended consequences...many of which serve to de-humanize human life and cause more suffering than they eliminate.

Similarly, HB 836 Preserving Access to Reproductive Efforts – Non-Traditional Act – the PARENT Act, **introduce by State Rep. Jennifer O'Mara** seeks to make sure that all who are suffering from infertility have access to "fertility treatments".

WHAT IS MEANT BY "ART" (ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES)

IVF (in vitro fertilization): Eggs are retrieved from the woman, combined with sperm in a lab, and then transferred back to her body.

GIFT (gamete intrafallopian transfer): Similar to IVF, but the egg and sperm are transferred directly into the fallopian tube.

ZIFT (zygote intrafallopian transfer): Also similar to IVF, but the fertilized egg (zygote) is transferred into the fallopian tube.

These bills speak for themselves. They call for expansion of evils such as IVF, ZIFT, GIFT, Selective Reduction, Genetic Selection and Freezing of Unborn Children. Those poor unborn babies. What a way to start life if they make it.

Please act now to stop these horrendous procedures done to our unborn children. You can make a difference. Above all, please pray for this evil to stop.

Please contact your state representatives and your state senators so these bills do not pass.

And please contact at least the state reps that introduced these bills. Here's their contact information:

Rep. Jennifer O'Mara-26 East 4th Street Media, PA 19063 (610) 544-9878, jomara@pahouse.net

Rep. La'Tasha Mayes-2015-2017 Centre Avenue, Floor 1, Pittsburgh, PA 15219-6333 (412) 665-5502, lmayes@pahouse.net

Rep. Melissa Shusterman- 1536 East Lancaster Avenue, Suite 200, Paoli, PA 19301 (484) 200-8260, mshusterman@pahouse.net

This is scary stuff. It truly is a "Brave New World". Thank you for stepping out in faith. We serve a GOD that has a BOLD Spirit!!! Please call me if you cannot locate any state reps or senators. I will be glad to help. 412-728-3647.



HELP US GET THE PRO-LIFE MESSAGE TO THE NEXT GENERATION!

PCUC is seeking opportunities to give pro-life presentations to youth groups, schools, churches and any events that will have us! Contact Nikki at Nikki@pcuc.org if you would like us to come and speak at your event!

HONORS & MEMORIALS

In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Paul D'Antonio Sr.

From Paul D'Antonio

In Honor of Mary Catherine Scanlon

From Joanne Petraglia's Prayer Group

In Memory of deceased members of the Baker & Buck families, From Daniel Buck

In Memory of Dale Benedum

From Jim & Cathy Shantz

In Memory of Clara & Walter Bielecki

From Walter Wojciechowski

In Memory of Maria Derrico

From Wendy Bowes

In Memory of Victor Carbin

From Mary Carbin

In Memory of Frank Cindrich

From Joan Varacalli

In Memory of Joan Conroy

From Lawrence Conroy

In Memory of Charlotte A. Cozza

From Michael Cozza

In Memory of Adam & Bill Disabato

From Beverly DiSabato

In Memory of Paul Dulvitch

From Joe & Mary Lou McKenna

In Memory of Heather J. Ferguson

From Ray & Kimberly Ferguson

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. John M. Fox

From Judith Fox

In Memory of Ann Francis

From Paul Francis

In Memory of Emeric & Elijah Gruber

From Mimi Gruber

In Memory of Mary & Francis Hammond

From Theresa Hammond

In Memory of Thomas & Eleanor Hermanowicz

From Theresa Hammond

In Memory of Bernice Illig

From Norby Tester & Lois Hall

In Memory of Bernice Illig

From Katharine Harbison

In Memory of Bernice Illig

From Stephen Imfeld

In Memory of Bernice Illig, "Best Godmother ever"

From Jeanne Hall

In Memory of Bernice Illig

From Gillian Evans, Joan Barnes, Chris Luffy, Anna Meyer, Mary Pat Patterson, Kelly Nagel, Lori Konkoly, Karen Rizzo, Kami Bachman & Jenny Mauch

In Memory of Kelly Kemp

From Bob & Pat Eckenrod

In Memory of my parents, siblings & husband

From Kathie Kovacik

In Memory of John T. Martin

From his daughter, Mary Cook

In Memory of Debra Mirt

From her beloved son, Joe Mirt

In Memory of Ron Misiewicz

From Terry & Carolyn Means

In Memory of Mary Morgan,

From Mr. & Mrs. James Maimone

In Memory of my prayer warrior mother, Eileen Powell.,
From Sharon Coury

In Memory of Bernard Regan

From the Regan Family

In Memory of Kenneth Rhodes

From Cindy Rhodes

In Memory of Louis & Emma Rosner

From Joan Rosner

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.