



October is Respect Life Month - Why We Must Always Choose Life

By Father Al Masluk, Pastor Emeritus St. Martha Parish, Philadelphia

“I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Therefore, choose life that you and your descendants may live.” --Deuteronomy 30:19

As we celebrate Respect Life Month, the Presidential Election looms over us. Soon, we will have a brief respite from the political ads which can be very toxic and not always expressions of the truth. In these ads we have seen the way human beings can distort language and facts to their own advantage. This distortion is as old as the pro-life movement itself. Those who support unrestricted abortion access call themselves “pro-choice.” The gruesome reality of abortion itself is called a “medical procedure” and part of a “right to reproductive health.” The unborn baby is misnamed “the product of conception.” Such verbal razzle-dazzle may sway people who lack the intellectual rigor to call the abortion movement out, but they also expose a fundamental underlying current of deceit, and even godlessness, since all morality is rooted in God.

Of course, the word “choice” has become the mantra of the abortion proponents. The problem is, just because I choose something does not make it morally right. We were created with intellect and free will, and within a short time Adam and Eve used their “free choice” to disobey God’s commands---and their descendants have done so ever since!

Things are “right” or “wrong” because God says so! He takes the time to reveal basic morality to us through the Ten Commandments (yes, there are ten—“Thou shalt not kill” still counts), the Sermon on the Mount, the writings of the apostles and prophets, and through His Holy Spirit speaking through His Church. By calling something a “choice” we do not automatically make it a morally correct decision.

This year, the other phraseology we hear ad nauseam is “My body, my choice! No one can tell me what to do with my body!” In the first place, yes, God can tell you! In the second place, even if you have “autonomy” over yourself, you do not have the same power of life and death over another person. Society recognizes this fact in every instance except when applied to the unborn citizens in the womb, the most defenseless. By the very nature of law, each citizen cedes a bit of individual “freedom” for the common good. That’s why I cannot drive 90 m.p.h. on a city street, shoot a guy because he annoys me, or feed poison to a perceived enemy. Laws exist to protect the good of all citizens; in this country, sadly, the citizens in the womb are considered an appendage, or worse, a possession.

If you are reading this, the most important things you can do to melt the hearts of the abortion industry and its supporters are to pray for their conversion and live as a child of God who treats everyone with dignity and respect. By your own daily prayer and witness you can plant a seed which will germinate and help others to “choose life.”

City of Philadelphia Using Taxpayer Money to Help Kill Kids

Philadelphia City Council Minority Leader Kendra Brooks announced \$500,000 in taxpayer money will be given to Planned Parenthood to help them kill preborn children. An additional \$250,000 will be handed out for "abortion liberation funding."

This should outrage every taxpayer in the city and cries out for our Christian community - individuals, churches, social service organizations - to stand up to fight this demonic move.

The City has clearly positioned itself "beyond the pale." It has clearly taken sides in the most important civil rights issue of our time and has chosen the side of death.

Theresa Kuhar, who unsuccessfully sued the City the last time they tried to fund deaths by abortion observed, "City Council is blind to the harm done to women by abortion, and because of their blindness, they are harming women by this act. Our civic leaders speak of the need to protect our children, yet they are funding the very act that is most violent of all - taking the lives of innocent, preborn children, ripping them from their mother's wombs."

We should keep in mind that the atrocities committed in Europe during the last century had the government determining whose life was worth living and those regarded as disposable. The City of Philadelphia has now embraced this mindset. It does not bode well for our future when the civil authorities join in the business of killing.

The Prophetic Wisdom of Mother Teresa

"Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use violence to get what they want. That is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion." –

St. Teresa of Calcutta

If we look deep into these words of St. Teresa, we may begin to understand how our nation has come to the critical point it is at.

Mother Teresa Continued

Although America has never been a perfect country, we, in general, understood that most of us looked for the "common good." Then in 1973, the Supreme Court of the United States declared that the laws of the states that protected preborn children were void and declared a so-called "right" to destroy those human lives.

For almost 50 years, our nation has said that it is okay to destroy life if it is inconvenient to the mother, or if the father wants to run away from his responsibilities, or if giving life to a child gets in the way of career, or financial opportunities. We accepted the violence of abortion as a cost of economic gain and personal comfort. In the course of those years, we killed 63 million Americans.

As St. Teresa points out "abortion is not teaching people to love, but to use violence to get what they want." So now in America, YOU are the creator of your own morality. Want to surgically mangle your own body? Want to riot in the streets? Want to shoot up a school? Who is to say that you are "wrong" when your nation says violence can be justified by the individual?

Our schools have been stripped of prayer, the Bible, and reverence for religion. In its place, kids are educated to do "what makes you happy." Besides the fact that our kids are the most unhappy in our history, it has also entrenched the narcissistic idea that they are the center of the universe and can act out in any way that "makes them happy." And then they are told that having a child will ruin your happiness, why not just kill the kid, after all, it is your "choice."

In the realm of politics, killing by abortion is so embraced by one party that it has driven all its pro-life members out, and forced those elected to office who were pro-life to abandon their beliefs. Abortion has split our civil society and is a major factor in the bitter atmosphere that surrounds every election. Again, St. Teresa: "the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion."

You're Invited

Join the Pro-Life Union at our 42nd

STAND UP FOR LIFE DINNER

Our annual dinner brings together people from across the Delaware Valley, who are concerned about the right to life, for an evening of fellowship and inspiration. This year we are thrilled to have as our keynote speaker international pro-life leader

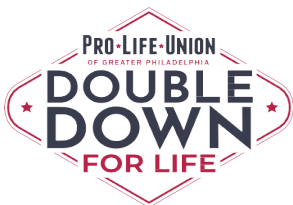
Isabel Vaughan

Sunday, November 24th
Philadelphia Sheraton Downtown
201 N. 17th Street
Beer & Wine Reception 4:30 - Dinner 5:30

Tickets - \$90.00 Table of 10 - \$825.00
Student ticket - \$65.00 Student Table of 10 - \$625
Purchase Tickets at prolifeunion.org or call 215-885-8150

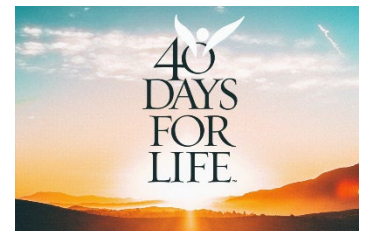
News & Notes

Congratulations to everyone at Catholic Social Services for the very successful **Philly's Biggest Baby Shower** held on Aug 24 in center city with support from the Pro-Life Union. The shower was attended by over 700 people and saw thousands of items of donated new clothing, diapers and other baby needs given to needy families.



Thank you to everyone who donated to the Pro-Life Union's **Double Down Campaign**. During July and August, donations to the Pro-Life Union were matched by Larry Meigs and his Visiting Angels company. Larry's generosity and the donations we received help carry forward the fight for the right to life in our area.

40 Days for Life, the important spiritual mission of praying in front of the facilities where the abortion of children takes place, kicks off on Sept. 25th and runs until Nov. 3rd. Over the years, this effort has saved many lives and has seen the closure of over 100 abortion chambers across the country. To learn more or to join this effort, visit 40daysforlife/philadelphia or call the Pro-Life Union office.



Fall is More Than Pumpkin Spice and Halloween

October is Respect Life Month and a great time to reflect on what the Catholic Bishops Conference has proposed and promoted to end the violence of death by abortion and to build a culture of life. Some of their important comments include:

“We ask priests and deacons to preach the truth about the dignity of all human life, born and unborn, and about the moral evil of the purposeful destruction of innocent human life, including abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, and infanticide.”

“We urge Catholics to advance pro-life positions within their family, church, and community, as well as within their professional organizations. We ask Catholic health care professionals and medical researchers to continue to be vigilant guardians of every human life.”

Their entire plan can be found at <https://www.usccb.org/prolife/pastoral-plan-pro-life-activities>



Showing Up for Life in Harrisburg

Despite the rainy weather on September 23rd, upwards of 5,000 people flocked to Harrisburg for the 4th Annual Pennsylvania March for Life. Speakers included pro-life activist Mark Houck, Michael Geer, Pres. of Pa. Family Institute and Philly’s own Archbishop Nelson Perez. As Michael Geer told a reporter, “There are two people there when they go into an abortion clinic. Only one comes out alive. We think health care and so-called reproductive freedom should be helping both of those human beings to live.”



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