



STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH *All of God's Creation*

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, June 9, 2024

Every Human Life Is Sacred

Every human life is sacred, from its beginning to its natural end. Here are some resources for support of mothers and children. (*Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia Weekly Roundup*, 5/22/24),

Guiding Star Ministries (GSM) is a program of the Pro-Life Union of Greater Philadelphia and has been serving women and children since 1992. “GSM is a home for single pregnant women and their children. Through counseling, group meetings, and a nurturing faith-based environment, we try to help our residents work toward total independence. During their stay, mothers must pursue employment or education.... We house six to seven mothers and their children at a time, which allows us to build solid relationships with the families who enter our home. The residents may stay up to 18 months and work towards educational or vocational goals.... We offer practical and material assistance as well as spiritual and emotional support to empower mothers and their children, enabling them to cultivate meaningful relationships, develop life skills and achieve their goals.”

“Join the Pro-Life Union on June 22, 2024, for the **Philadelphia March for Life and a collection for Philly's Biggest Baby Shower**, a day dedicated to building a culture of life and supporting moms and babies in our city. As we walk peacefully through the heart of Philadelphia, we'll unite in our commitment to cherish and protect the inherent dignity of every human life.” (9:00 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral, 10:30 a.m. March to Independence Mall, 11:30 a.m. Rally at Independence Mall)

Genesis Women's Clinic is Pro-Life Union's newest member, located in Pottstown and Phoenixville. “The program provides support for women facing an unplanned pregnancy.... and a path forward toward a life-affirming decision. Their home for single mothers provides a safe, loving environment for mothers who may have been facing homelessness.” Resources include counseling services and material assistance.

Generation Life is “a dynamic movement of young people committed to building a culture of life by educating other young people on the pro-life and chastity messages. They believe that by spreading the message of chastity, we can end abortion at its root cause. For over two decades Generation Life has spread their messages based on the positive principles of LOVE, HOPE, JOY, and most of all – FREEDOM.... The message of Generation Life is that chastity is for anyone at any time. Chastity is not about feeling shame for one's past actions; it is about choosing the happiest, healthiest future!”

In 2019, the **Cradle of Hope Pregnancy Resource Center** (CPRC) was opened in Glenside. The CPRC offers counseling, support, and referrals to women facing an unplanned pregnancy. They also provide baby equipment, clothing, and supplies. In 2023, the CPRC received 570 calls from women in crisis and provided services to 390 women.

“Cradle of Hope offers housing and support to single mothers (18+) and their children (0-24 months). It can support up to six (6) mothers and children for up to 18 months.... The goal is to enable mothers to get full-time employment and permanent housing.... The women plan and cook their own meals, do chores, and pay rent. They also attend workshops, Bible study and counseling.... Eighty percent of graduates are employed and live in permanent housing.

Comments on this column may be directed to the Social Justice Committee at socialjustice@holycrossphl.org.