



FALL/WINTER 2023

PENNSYLVANIANS FOR HUMAN LIFE EDUCATION SERVICES NEWSLETTER



Teresa Tomeo

To Headline Celebrate Life Banquet

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, February 25, when Teresa Tomeo will be our special guest speaker at this year's *Celebrate Life Banquet*. It is an opportunity to support pro-life education and to leave enriched and encouraged with information and vigor in defense of human life. Teresa Tomeo is a bestselling author, syndicated Catholic talk show host, and speaker with more than thirty years of experience in print and broadcast media. Her weekday radio program, *Catholic Connection*, a coproduction of Ave Maria Radio and EWTN, is heard daily on three hundred stations nationwide and also SiriusXM Satellite Radio. Her TV show, *The Catholic View for Women*, is seen twice weekly on EWTN.

Tomeo is a columnist and special correspondent for *Our Sunday Visitor*. She has been featured on *The O'Reilly Factor*, *Fox News*, *Fox and Friends*, MSNBC, and the *Dr. Laura Show*. She was named a Vatican conference speaker and conference delegate and spoke at the 2013 conference the "Rights of the Family and the Challenges of the Contemporary World" sponsored by the Pontifical Council for the Family. Tomeo participated in the Vatican Women's Congress. She speaks throughout North America and also leads retreats and pilgrimages annually. Tomeo is a teacher for St. Benedict Press Catholic Courses. Her books include *Extreme Makeover*, *God's Bucket List*, and *Walk Softly and Carry a Great Bag*. She and her husband, Dominick Pastore, live in St. Clair Shores, Michigan.



2024 National Summit

Young people from across the Archdiocese of Philadelphia will be joining together again this January 2024 for the March for Life and National Summit in Washington, DC. Pennsylvanians for Human Life is excited to support the trip to the 2024 March for Life and National Summit again this year. We anticipate that a group of 100 students and adult chaperones from the Philadelphia area will attend the 2024 March for Life and National Summit. They will learn and gain skills for action as pro-life leaders in parishes and schools throughout the 5-county region.

One young person who attended last year's National Summit, commented, "Thank you so much for sponsoring this trip for us to go to the National Summit in DC. The Summit was extremely impactful to the way I view the pro-life movement. The speakers were very passionate and inspired me to live out what they are saying. My understanding of the pro-life movement has grown because of this weekend's talks and passion that went into it. I want to be involved more than I was before to help grow the cause for pro-life."

Please consider donating \$50 or \$100 to PHL this month to help provide scholarships for the young people attending this year's March for Life and National Summit in Washington DC. We are grateful for your generosity!

Euthanasia

A Catholic hospital in Ontario appointed a euthanasia provider, Dr. Danielle Kain, to oversee all palliative care. Providence Hospital in Kingston is one of twenty-two healthcare institutions in Ontario under the sponsorship of Catholic Healthcare Providers of Ontario. Since the appointment, Dr. Kain has asserted and argued that all publicly funded institutions, including Catholic hospitals, should include and offer assisted suicide. The Catholic Health Alliance of Canada states in its "Health Ethics Guide," that "treatment decisions for the person receiving care are never to include actions or omissions that intentionally cause death by euthanasia." (reported in National Catholic Register – Anna Farrow, September 2023)

Abortion and Pennsylvania Constitution

Planned Parenthood is among a consortium of abortion clinics and providers suing Pennsylvania, challenging the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to force taxpayers to fund abortion and to declare a right to abortion is understood in the Pennsylvania Constitution. The filed case, *Allegheny Reproductive Health Center v. Pennsylvania Department of Human Services*, argues that a right to abortion and taxpayer-funded abortion need to be understood and confirmed through the PA Constitution. The Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court ruled against this abortion announcement and expansion in 2021, but since has been appealed at the PA Supreme Court level. Following the overturn of *Roe v. Wade*, Pennsylvania law, with Abortion Control Act measures, including parental consent, 24-hour waiting period and health safety measurements with regulations would be found unconstitutional if a right to abortion, by way of the PA State Constitution, is upheld.

PHL School Update

The sole mission at PHL remains pro-life education. The need to be educated on life issues applies to all ages, but it is especially vital to school-age children as they are overwhelmed with confusing messages. One part of our educational outreach that is standard with our speaker and program content is the medically accurate fetal models used in reaching thousands this year. These life-sized models show the development of human life before birth. Most significantly, students relate the time of fertilization through 16 weeks to the notion of abortion statistics scientifically.

The 10-week model fits in the palm of your hand and shows the fully formed preborn; they garner much attention. These fetal models remain the cornerstone of our pro-life message as the right to life, scientifically accurate depiction of human life still in need of protection.

Because of your generous support, we continue to go wherever we are invited. In 2023, a team of 15 PHL speakers have given 137 presentations to 12,000 students in 22 high schools in the Philadelphia area. Many speakers have attested to the undeniable proof of life beginning at conception while others have had an event or personal experience that showed life in a new way. All are united in respect for life born and unborn and are privileged to know each other and stand together. Thank you to all who support this pro-life work.

Expansion of Safe-Haven Laws

Since 2016, Safe-Haven Baby Boxes have saved babies. Most states now have safe-haven laws. Such laws encourage parents to give their newborn to those who will care for their little one, not abort or abandon their newborns after birth. The Safe-Haven Baby Box organization provides safe boxes in which newborn babies can be legally left as these boxes are monitored, have cooling and heat, and are built into exterior wall areas with access to personnel of police stations, hospitals and fire departments. When left by parents, newborn babies are rescued through these access paths and cared for going forward. Monica Kelsey founded the Safe-Haven Baby Box organization.

Aid in Dying

New Jersey is one of ten states in America that permits a patient with a terminal illness to be given a lethal dose of drugs with the purpose of ending the patient's life; however, the New Jersey law prohibits doctors from prescribing medication to a patient who is not a resident of New Jersey. As a result, patients in Pennsylvania and Delaware are working to change the current New Jersey Residency Law. The filed Petition alleges that the New Jersey residency requirement violates a patient's right to equal protection under the U.S. Constitution because it compels doctors to treat patients differently if they live outside the state of medical care being received. Pennsylvania and Delaware residents alike are contesting the current New Jersey residency requirement. Both Vermont and Oregon had laws with similar safeguard measures which were changed in legislatures with amendments passed permitting out-of-state resident access to Aid in Dying. Once passed, these laws have not been modified, limited or overturned.



TAX-SMART WAYS TO DONATE

Bunch Your Charitable Donations: While donations to Qualified Charitable (IRC) Section 501(c)3 organizations may be claimed on your income tax return, a component of itemized deductions, you may find that your standard deduction (which, for 2023, is \$13,850 for single filers; \$27,700 for joint filers; and \$20,800 for those filing as head of household) exceeds your allowable itemized deductions. Where the standard deduction is taken, you effectively receive no benefit for your charitable contributions. By adapting a “bunching” strategy; that is, timing your donations to shift more into a single tax year, you may be able to obtain some tax breaks for your charitable giving, itemize your deductions in the “bunched” years, while taking the standard deduction in the other years.

Donate Appreciated Assets: With this strategy, you may take advantage of two tax breaks. First, by making the donation, you avoid any long-term capital gains tax on the assets. You may also claim a charitable deduction, assuming you can itemize in the year in which you donate. Note: there is an annual deduction limit on donating an appreciated asset, which currently is 30 percent of adjusted gross income.

Donate a Portion of Your IRA Withdrawals: For those who qualify, one of the biggest tax breaks is the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), which provides tax benefits to older Americans who give to charity through withdrawals from their traditional IRAs. To qualify for a QCD, you must be at least 70.5 years old. You can give as much as \$100,000 annually, but the money must go directly from the IRA to the charity. You may donate more or less than your RMD. Note, you can't do this with a 401(k) RMD; you would first need to roll over your plan to an IRA.

Please note that these are general tax-planning ideas. We are not providing tax advice. Always consult with a tax professional before implementing any of the above-mentioned donation concepts. The tax laws are complicated and must be followed carefully. Everyone's tax situation is different.

Merry Christmas

FOR STUDENTS!



Thank you for defending my life!

1st place: \$200
2nd place: \$150
3rd place: \$100

PENNSYLVANIA PRO-LIFE FEDERATION

Pro-Life Essay Contest

Write a pro-life essay on abortion, infanticide, assisted suicide, euthanasia, or stem cell research.

Prizes awarded in both age groups.

Essays must include a completed cover page available at www.paprolife.org.

WORD LIMIT
Grades 7-9:
500 words
Grades 10-12:
750 words

Email essays to lifelines@paprolife.org

or mail to
PA Pro-Life Federation
4800 Jonestown Rd. Ste. 102
Harrisburg, PA 17109-1741

Submit entries by March 1, 2024

This year's Essay and Speech Contests with the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation are underway. This is an excellent opportunity to encourage young people in your communities to share their pro-life convictions. Please promote this contest with students and teachers in your local community. This could be the impetus for students to engage in deeper involvement in the pro-life movement. Details can be found at www.paprolife.org.

Please visit our website at PAforhumanlife.org.



Scan our QR code here to make a donation to PHL today. Thank you for supporting the work PHL is doing in educating our young people!



590 Snyder Avenue
West Chester, PA 19382-5511

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
WEST CHESTER
PERMIT NO. 123

RETURN
SERVICE
REQUESTED

