

THE ERIE ECHO

"voice for life"

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Presenting Uju Ekeocha 2019 Breakfast Speaker

With all the challenges and difficulties of Africa, people complain and lament their problems openly. I have grown up in this environment and I have heard women (just as much as men) complain about all sorts of things. But I have NEVER heard a woman complain about her baby (born or unborn).

— Obianuju Ekeocha

People for Life will present its first international Special Guest Speaker at the 41st Annual Pro-Life Breakfast this January.

Obianuju Ekeocha was born in southeast Nigeria and has lived in the United Kingdom since 2006. Affectionately known around the world as "Uju," she is the founder and president of Culture of Life Africa, an initiative dedicated to the promotion and defense of the African values of the sanctity of life, beauty of marriage, blessings of motherhood, and the dignity of family life.

These values are under assault by the governments of many western, industrialized nations; powerful foundations; wealthy, western philanthropists; and United Nations agencies.

Culture of Life Africa is countering these attacks on African values using the actual words and voices of African women. The organization has organized major pro-life conferences and March for Life rallies in African countries.

In her book *Target Africa*, published earlier this year, Uju exposes the harm being done to African culture and African families by what she describes as an ideological colonialism practiced by the western nations. This 21st-century colonialism is driven by financial aid programs that require or pressure African countries to embrace abortion-on-demand and adopt population control programs. A documentary movie titled *Strings Attached* is Uju's next effort in her courageous battle against ideological colonialism. Scheduled to be released this fall, the movie has already been screened at the British Parliament.

Uju has advised many African Members of Parliament, African United Nations delegates, ambassadors, and other decision makers on human life issues. She has also worked closely with many African religious leaders to promote pro-life values in various countries. She has co-authored pro-life declarations with several African Catholic bishops conferences.

Uju has spoken at pro-life events in over 40 cities and 15 countries. She was a featured speaker at the 2016 West Coast Walk for Life in San Francisco. This October, she was the main speaker at an event organized by the student right to life organization of Georgetown University in Washington, DC. Uju has also been featured on numerous



Obianuju Ekeocha
Founder & President, Culture of Life Africa

broadcast networks, including BBC television and radio, EWTN television and radio, Ave Maria Radio, and Relevant Radio.

The 41st Annual Pro-Life Breakfast will be held at the Erie Bayfront Convention Center on Saturday, January 12, 2019, beginning at 9 a.m. Reservations can be purchased online, through the mail, or at our office, but they must be made in advance. The cost is \$17 for those over 12 and \$9 for ages 3-12. Children under 3 are welcome to attend at no cost. Child care will be available.

Life Run 5K, 10K, & Walk

Thanks to all of the great volunteers who helped make our fifth annual Life Run a big success and lots of fun! And congratulations to all of our intrepid runners and walkers. It was a cool, damp "Second Saturday in October," but the weather did not dampen spirits or keep many people away.

Life Run took place, as usual, at Burch Farms Country Market and Winery. We are very grateful to Mr. Tim Burch and Burch Farms for hosting our event every year and for their wonderful hospitality.

The top 10K winners were: Mike Williamson (26) of Erie with a time of 34:52; Alec Raynor (25) of Erie, 34:56; and Scott Brumbaugh (38) of Bellfonte, PA,



41:27. The top 5K winners were: Rosie Cooper (30) of Jamestown, NY with a time of 19:05; Peter Caulfield (17) of Waterford, 19:36; and Aiden Seeman (15) of Edinboro, 19:48. Peter, by the way, was also the first place winner in this year's pro-life oratory contest for high school students (11th-12th grade level).

Please look on our website for a complete list of this year's Life Run sponsors. We hope you will patronize as many of them as possible and tell them, "Thank you!" for their support.

Don't forget to congratulate our race director and board member, Kelly Cooney on another great event when you see her. If you received one of our beautiful Life Run t-shirts, you can also thank our board secretary (and t-shirt guru) Shauna Jackson.

Pennsylvania and Erie Area Election News

State Representatives

The only contested state House of Representatives seat in the Erie area is the 2nd district seat, formerly occupied by state Rep. Flo Fabrizio. Both candidates in this race, Tim Kuzma (R) and Bob Merski (D) are rated pro-life by the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation PAC.

People for Life sent a questionnaire to both candidates prior to the spring primary election. Kuzma returned his questionnaire with 100% pro-life answers. No questionnaire was received from Merski.

Merski did, however, return a questionnaire with mostly pro-life responses in 2017 when he was running for Mayor of Erie. He indicated at the time that he would support a law prohibiting abortion, but would require exceptions for rape and incest. He also indicated that he was undecided about government funding for research that involves killing human embryos.

In the 8th House district, incumbent Tedd Nesbit (R) is rated pro-life by the PPLF-PAC. The position of his challenger, Lisa Boeving-Learned (D), is reported as unknown.

In all other Erie-area state House races, the incumbents are running unopposed. The PPLF-PAC has rated these candidates as follows: 1st district Rep. Pat Harkins (D), mixed; 3rd district Rep. Ryan Bizzarro (D), pro-abortion; 4th district Rep. Curt Sonney (R), pro-life; 6th district Rep. Brad Roae (R), pro-life; 7th district Rep. Mark Longietti (D), pro-life; and 65th district Rep. Kathy Rapp (R), pro-life.

State Senate District 50

Pro-life incumbent state Sen. Michele Brooks (R) has a challenger for her 50th district seat in the state Senate this year. The challenger's name is Sue Mulvey (D).

Mulvey has been endorsed by Emily's List, a single-issue political action committee whose mission is to bankroll and promote pro-abortion women who are running for elective office. The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation (PPLF) PAC rates Mulvey as pro-abortion.

Sen. Brooks has a 100% pro-life voting record and is endorsed by the Pro-Life Federation. She was the primary sponsor of Senate Bill 3, a measure to prohibit elective abortions after the fifth month of pregnancy and to stop the horrendous dismemberment abortion procedure, also known as dilation and evacuation.

S.B. 3 received strong support in the Pennsylvania General Assembly. It was, unfortunately, vetoed by pro-abortion Gov. Tom Wolf on December 18, 2017.

Brooks is a frequent attendee at the annual Pro-Life Breakfast and the Erie

March for Life and has spoken at both events.

Congress District 16

Pro-life incumbent U.S. Rep. Mike Kelly (R) is being challenged in the new 16th congressional district by Ron Dinicola (D).

DiNicola is endorsed by the Planned Parenthood Pennsylvania Advocates, the political action arm of all three Planned Parenthood regional affiliates in Pennsylvania. Planned Parenthood is the largest provider of abortions in the United States. It opposes any and all restrictions on abortion at any time in pregnancy and supports full taxpayer funding of abortion.

DiNicola is rated pro-abortion by the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation PAC.

Mike Kelly has compiled a 100% pro-life voting record during his four-terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. He is endorsed by the PA Pro-Life Federation and National Right to Life political action committees.

Rep. Kelly never misses the annual Pro-Life Breakfast in Erie.

Governor

Planned Parenthood is responsible for one out of every three abortions done in the United States, and this abortion giant knows it has a friend in Pennsylvania: the current governor, Tom Wolf (D).

Gov. Wolf is such a good friend, in fact, that Planned Parenthood's political action committee has announced that it is spending \$2.5 million dollars to get him reelected. That is reportedly the largest amount of money that Planned Parenthood has ever spent in any state on a mid-term election race. It is no wonder.

Gov. Wolf volunteered as a Planned Parenthood escort (a.k.a. deathscort) back in the day, ferrying abortion bound women into the abortion facility and preventing them from interacting with any pro-life advocates who might be on hand with information and offers of help and support.

As governor, Tom Wolf has opposed efforts to stop taxpayer money from flowing to agencies that carry out abortions. He vetoed legislation that would change the late-term abortion limit from six months to five months and stop brutal dismemberment abortions in which the child dies as his or her arms and legs are torn away, piece by piece, even at advanced stages of development when the child experiences the pain just like a newborn would. Wolf has also vowed to veto a bill that would provide a measure of protection for babies with Down syndrome (and a measure of respect for other people with Down syndrome). The bill would disallow abortions where the child is targeted solely and expressly because he or she has

this relatively common genetic condition. A similar provision in Pennsylvania law already protects babies who are targeted because of their sex.

Wolf is also one of only five gubernatorial candidates endorsed by the National Abortion Rights Action League.

Challenger Scott Wagner (R) is endorsed by the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation and National Right to Life. He served in the state senate from 2014 to 2018 and earned a 100% pro-life voting record. Wagner is a cosponsor of the bill to protect preborn children with Down syndrome that Gov. Wolf has pledged to veto.

This past January, Wagner sponsored a bus to the Washington, DC March for Life and issued a strong pro-life statement that concluded with these words: "I promise that protecting life will always be one of my guiding principles. I hope that you will join me in defending the unborn."

Lieutenant Governor

John Fetterman (D), candidate for lieutenant governor, is running for office as a team with incumbent Gov. Tom Wolf. Fetterman shares Wolf's extreme pro-abortion position and has stated, "I am unabashedly pro-choice, and will always fight to protect the constitutional right to an abortion."

Candidate for lieutenant governor Jeff Bartos (R) is running for office as a team with candidate Scott Wagner, who is challenging pro-abortion Gov. Tom Wolf. Bartos shares Wagner's pro-life position and is endorsed by the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation PAC.

U.S. Senate

Incumbent Sen. Bob Casey, Jr. (D) has an 80% pro-abortion voting record for 2018, according to National Right to Life. The politically left-leaning magazine *Politico* recently summed up the Casey record this way: "He has voted along with Planned Parenthood 75% of the time since 2011. And he voted with NARAL Pro-Choice America 100% of the time in 2016 and 2017."

After working tirelessly for over 40 years to reshape the Supreme Court with a conservative majority that would reverse *Roe v. Wade*, pro-life Pennsylvanians witnessed Sen. Casey vote against two highly-qualified, conservative Supreme Court nominees, Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh. Casey came out forcefully against Kavanaugh, promising a "no" vote, even before the Senate hearings began.

Sen. Casey opposes the ongoing efforts to stop taxpayer money from flowing to Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers.

In contrast, Sen. Casey's opponent, Congressman Lou Barletta (R) has a 100%

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Elections | Barletta / Casey

pro-life voting record, compiled throughout his years of service in Congress. He supports defunding abortion providers and voted for a bill to defund Planned Parenthood specifically. Barletta supported both of President Trump's Supreme Court nominees.

Congressman Barletta also co-sponsored as well as voted for the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, legislation to protect unborn children by prohibiting abortion at 20 weeks. He has represented Pennsylvania's 11th congressional district since 2011.

Gosnell Movie

When People for Life learned that Erie was not among the cities where the movie *Gosnell | The Trial of America's Biggest Serial Killer* was scheduled to open on its national release date, we immediately turned to the Erie pro-life community. We posted alerts on our Facebook pages and issued an E-Mail Update, urging everyone to call and e-mail Tinseltown Erie and Cinemark headquarters with requests for the movie. We also sent messages to several hundred local churches.

Many of you sprung into action, so much so that the local theater managers were acknowledging that there had been a lot of

interest in the movie. All the effort paid off; *Gosnell* opened in Erie on October 13, the national release date, and was expected to play through the 24th, or longer!

One of the producers, Ann McElhinney, was the Special Guest Speaker at People for Life's 40th Annual Pro-Life Breakfast this past January. Ann also spoke this October at the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation's Celebrate Life Banquet in Harrisburg.

Two Little Words

During the Obama administration, the mission statement of the Department of Health and Human Services contained the line: "HHS accomplishes its mission through programs and initiatives that cover a wide spectrum of activities, serving and protecting Americans at every stage of life."

The Trump administration has added two little words to the end of that sentence: "from conception." Pro-abortion forces are reportedly very alarmed about this. It creates the impression that life begins at conception, and to them, that is a very dangerous notion.

Pro-life overtones are even more evident in another section of the document where it says, "A core component of the HHS mission is our dedication to serve all Americans from conception to natural death."

Abortion proponents do not want emphasis placed on conception as any sort of milestone. They much prefer to talk about "pregnancy" and not the conception or existence of a unique, living human being. It sounds better to terminate a pregnancy than a human being.

After changing the subject, they insist that the pregnancy does not begin until the embryo is implanted in the uterus, about 6-12 days after conception. How "unscientific" of the Trump administration to worry about conception, when the real issue, they imply, is pregnancy and the relevant milestone is implantation.

Interestingly, science now tells us that the hormone EPF or Early Pregnancy Factor is detectable in the mother's bloodstream "within hours of fertilization," long before implantation.

The complete updated mission statement appears in the "Introduction" section of the newly-released HHS *Strategic Action Plan for 2018-2022*.

Erie Gives Day

Thank you to everyone who pitched in to help us bring pro-life educational materials and opportunities to northwestern Pennsylvania by donating to the People for Life Education Fund on Erie Gives Day!

Memorials

Given by

Patty Morell
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Donations may also be made using the DONATE button on www.peopleforlife.life or by calling-in your credit card information.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- ___ Educational Booths
- ___ Phone Calling
- ___ Office Attendant
- ___ Newsletter Mailing
- ___ Literature Distribution
- ___ Public Demonstrations
- ___ Pro-Life Breakfast Worker
- ___ Life Run Worker
- ___ March For Life Bus Trip Worker
- ___ Mother's Day Carnation Project
- ___ Erie March for Life Worker
- ___ Call when you need an extra hand.

Please make your check payable to:
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P.O. Box 1126
Erie, PA 16512

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Call for evening and Saturday hours

March for Life Buses

The annual Washington, DC March for Life will take place on Friday, January 18, 2019. It will mark the 46th anniversary of the January 22, 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion on demand. This is sure to be the most hopeful and upbeat March for Life ever.

With the addition of Justice Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court, the end of Roe v. Wade is within grasp like never before.

People for Life has chartered three Anderson motor coaches for the trip to Washington. We will depart from Erie on



Thursday evening, January 17 at 11 p.m. There will also be a stop at Edinboro, if needed. Everyone who wants to be a part of the March for Life is encouraged to register for our Bus Trip. The price per bus seat is still only \$55, and if you register and pay by Monday, December 17, People for Life will contribute \$5, lowering your cost to \$50. Early reservations are extremely helpful. You will also need \$11 to ride the Metro (it's easy and fun). Please join us! Every voice matters. If you need help with the expenses, sponsorship help is available.

Enough extra resources to keep from getting hungry are also essential, of course! We will make an early breakfast

stop at a turnpike service plaza on the way to Washington and a stop for dinner, probably at a large food court, on the way home. Once in Washington, the congressional office building cafeterias offer good food at reasonable prices and you might even get to meet your favorite U.S. Senator or Representative. You are also welcome to bring along your own supply of food and beverages.

People for Life is happy to accommodate groups of any size, including student and church groups. We make sure that groups can stay together, all on the same bus. If you are thinking of organizing a group, or thinking of making the trip by yourself, we would be happy to help. Contact Tim Broderick at People for Life for answers to your questions and a more in-depth discussion of what we have to offer and how we can work together.

Sponsor a Marcher

This January, as usual, there will be students and families who would love to go to Washington for the March for Life but need some financial assistance. Our cost per bus seat is about \$55. If you would like to help by donating any amount towards the Bus Trip sponsorship fund, please call or e-mail People for Life for more information or simply indicate that your donation is for bus sponsorship. Thank you!

Erie March for Life

We will march again on Saturday, January 26, this time in downtown Erie. The Erie March for Life will begin at Perry Square at

January 2019

www.PeopleforLife.life/january2019
www.Facebook.com/PeopleforLife

Pro-Life Breakfast

Saturday, January 12, 2019, 9 a.m.
 Erie Bayfront Convention Center
 Special Guest Speaker: Obianuju Ekeocha
www.Facebook.com/ProLifeBreakfast

March for Life Bus Trip

Leave Erie January 17, 2019, 11 p.m.
 Return about 2 a.m., January 19
 \$55 per seat (\$50 until December 17)
www.Facebook.com/MarchforLifeBusTrip

Erie March for Life

Saturday, January 26, 2018, 11 a.m.
 Begins and Concludes at Perry Square

11 a.m. and conclude by 12:30 p.m. with a program at the Perry Square Pavilion. The Erie March historically took place before, instead of after, the March for Life Bus Trip. But with the Washington, DC March for Life now being scheduled for the Friday before the January 22 anniversary of Roe v. Wade instead of right on the 22nd, there is not enough time in early January to work in both the Pro-Life Breakfast and the Erie March.

Outreach Booth Season

We participated in 10 major community events and three church events this year. Our *I Love Life* balloons were a big attraction and 750 distributed at the Albion Fair alone. Great fun and positive messaging!

Unfortunately, Celebrate Erie was not in the mix. A remake of the event excluded many local non-profits. We were not alone. But our friend U.S. Rep. Mike Kelly was still so concerned that he wrote to the Mayor urging the City of Erie to reconsider our exclusion.

Communications

Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram and send a subscribe request for our E-Mail Updates. When something of pro-life importance happens or will happen in N.W. PA, you will be among the first to know.

2018 PRO-LIFE CALENDAR 2019

Nov. 6	Election Day: Midterm Elections
Dec. 10	International Human Rights Day
Dec. 18	Last day for March for Life Bus Trip special discount offer
Jan. 12	41st Pro-Life Breakfast - Bayfront Convention Center, 9 a.m.
Jan. 17	March for Life Buses depart from Erie, 11 p.m.
Jan. 18	46th Annual March for Life - Washington, DC
Jan. 19	March for Life Buses Return - approximately 2 a.m.
Jan. 26	Erie March for Life - Downtown Erie, 11 a.m.
March 4	Last day for statewide PPLF Student Essay contest entries
April 13	People for Life High School Oratory Contest
April 15	Last day to submit People for Life Student Essay Contest entries
April 15	Last day for statewide PPLF High School Oratory Contest entries
May 12	Mother's Day / Mother's Day Carnation Project