

## Merry Christmas from Birthright of Pittsburgh!



PHOTO BY NORBERT KELSCH

Very Rev. Fr. Donald Breier commemorated Birthright of Pittsburgh's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with prayers and readings in a dedication ceremony at St. Paul Cathedral rose garden on June 3, 2012. Fr. Steven Palsa, Rita and Jim Cunningham's grandsons, and their father plant a red rose bush in Rita's honor. Rita founded Birthright in 1971.

The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary was a special day to cherish like many days throughout the past year that we fondly recall at Birthright. We thank Father Breier for leading us in prayers and meditation at the rose garden ceremony. Jim, Rita's husband (seated in photo), attended with generations of Cunninghams from near and far. Daughter, Anne, provided a touching remembrance of her mother with thoughtful words. Following the ceremony, we enjoyed a reception and art exhibit with the organization's first pro-life art show. Congratulations to Vanda Raszewski for winning first place for her painting.

Although Rita founded Birthright 40 years ago, unborn babies are still vulnerable to the threat of abortion today. This year, we experienced increased office visits, pregnancy tests, clients, referrals and provided layettes, diapers and baby items to new parents. Thank you for taking time to knit, crochet, sew or quilt baby sweaters, hats, booties and blankets for the babies.

Parishes bless us with Red Rose Day donations that are greatly appreciated and needed.

New volunteers and board: Sherry Finnerty, Vivian Herman, Holly Krivacs, Stephanie Lang, Pamela Otis and Prudence Shank. Long-term volunteers: Teri Abbett, Maria Harper, Paul Hoffmann, Bob Kesicki, Julia Lynn, Mary Robson and Nancy Sullivan. Special thanks to Sister of Charity, Joan Murray, who enthusiastically and capably serves as board president.

Most of all, we are grateful to you, dear friend of Birthright, for your prayers, involvement and financial support.



PHOTO BY LINDA SCHEURING

Dr. Alveda King, niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., clergyman and African-American Civil Rights leader, provided a presentation at New Castle PCUC luncheon on October 26, 2012. Birthright members attended the event.

Excitement was high as Diane Marcella, Director of New Castle PCUC, introduced guest speaker, Dr. Alveda King, at a luncheon held at the New Englander Banquet Center in New Castle. Over 200 people attended including numerous pastors from various denominations. Dr. King thrilled the audience with her forthright approach to protecting life in the womb and shared slides of family photos that included her famous uncle who was also pro-life. Dr. King is a solid right to life advocate for the unborn who has fully devoted herself to the pro-life cause. Following the luncheon, she greeted guests and signed copies of her book, "How Can the Dream Survive If We Kill the Children?" The book contains a forward by Father Frank Pavone.

*Looking for ways to help Birthright during the holidays? Here's some ideas:*

- **Contribute to Birthright's Annual Christmas Appeal Letter & throughout the year**
- **Designate Birthright of Pittsburgh at your workplace with United Way: #224**
- **Organize a baby shower, baby bottles or loose change collection**
- **Donations of diapers; receiving blankets; boys clothing (preemie-12 mo.)**
- **Gift of a small screen television to be used for volunteer training sessions**

**Abundant Blessings to you in the New Year!**