

Happy Easter from...



Birthright of Pittsburgh, Inc.

160 N. Craig St., Suite 200, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

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“It is the right of every mother to give birth and the right of every child to be born.”

*-Louise Summerhill, founder of Birthright International
(1968)*

Celebrating new life, rising from that which was lifeless is the essence of the Easter tradition. Welcoming new life is also the essence of the Birthright of Pittsburgh tradition! For 48 years, since 1971, Birthright has offered true friendship and accompaniment to expectant parents by providing emotional support, practical resources and encouragement throughout pregnancy and beyond! More than ever, the dignity and worth of human life needs to be upheld and proclaimed! Birthright thanks you for continuing to join us in our effort to offer hope to those experiencing the uncertainty of an unplanned pregnancy. Where there is life, there is hope!



Birthright Pittsburgh has been greatly blessed to have had the benefit of Paula Smith's outstanding leadership as Executive Director for over two decades! Although she will be missed, she is passing a torch that burns brightly, and continues to light the way in these dark times. God bless you in this new and exciting time in your life's journey Paula!



***Red Rose day Collections
August 2018 to February 2019***

All Saints Church
Saint Angela Merici
Saint Catherine of Sweden

Saint Raphael
Saint Scholastica
Saint Thomas Moore

Transfiguration Church

Donations (August 2018 to February 2019)

A. James & Jennifer Hite
Andrea S. Seewald
Andrew & Katherine Lesnefsky
Angela & James Maher
Ann Louise Dailey & Michael Dailey
Ann Scanlon
Antoinette Jester
Bernadette & Lawrence Seibert
Bernard Stecik
Blanche G. McGuire
Brian Hegerty
Bryan & Rita McConnell
C. Sue Vecce
Carmella Kesicki
Carol D. Loiselle
Cecily A. Routman
Chartiers Council K.O.C #875
Chas & Patricia Miller
Christopher R. Povirk
Danielle Seals
Dave & Mary Lou Gartner
David & Katrina Karr
Delores & Paul Despetorich
Deloris Binkowski

Donna Marie Lewis
Dorothy Kane
Dr. & Mrs. William Feczko
Emily Ackerman
Evelyn Murrin
Evelyn Troyan
George & Jeanne Worgul
George & MaryAnn Haslett
Grace Mlecko- Baby items
Gregory & Theresa Hass
Harry & Barbara Cunningham
Helen K. Shantz
Jerry & Lorena Brandl
John Soboslay
Jos & Dianne Mc Nally
Judith Griffiths
Kathleen & Jerome Sullivan
Kathleen Cleaver
Knights of Columbus #1400
Ladies of Charity- St Paul Cathedral
Linn & Michael Swanson
Lynn M. Nigro
Margaret Buehler
Marie R. Hall

Mary Anne Mansell- Baby items
Mary E. Macerelli
Mary Lindsay Quigley
Maureen Schneider Elbel & Fred Elbel
Mr. Harry Mazzocco
Our Lady of Joy Church
Pam Yoezle
Pat Colonna
Paul & Judy Manfredo
PCUC
Peter & Catherine Jean Pleska
Rhonda Schmidt
Richard MacMurchy
Robert & Mary Harill
Ronald & Angela Cross
Saint Elizabeth of Hungary
Sharon Coll -Two cookbooks
St. Paul Cathedral
St. Richard Church-Baby items
Usher Family Charitable Foundation
Trust
Virginia Elmendorf
W. Scott & Kathleen Hardy
Winifred Witter

Meet our New Director:

My name is Regina Ranelli, and I am blessed beyond measure to be joining The Birthright family as Executive Director! I never thought I would have the opportunity to serve in this capacity with an organization that fully embraces, promotes and completely carries the prolife values I hold in my heart! Since "the essence of Birthright is love", I have every belief that we WILL be successful in continuing to touch and change hearts, souls and lives as we journey forward together in these challenging times. Thank you for your continued support of the dignity and value of every human life, born and unborn, as it has never been more necessary! To me, there is no work more important than this. Whether expressed as a loving parent caring for a child, a selfless volunteer, or a generous member of our Birthright family, each role is vital to supporting our core belief that "Every woman has the right to give birth, and every child has the right to be born!"



For your consideration:

The number of pregnant and homeless women in Pittsburgh has risen dramatically in recent years. Birthright receives calls every week from pregnant women with nowhere to call home for themselves and the babies they carry. Unfortunately, the women in need of safe housing in our area greatly outnumber the resources available for referral. This is a large, complex problem requiring the united efforts, ideas, assistance and resources of the entire pro-life community and beyond. Please consider praying for concrete solutions for the pregnant homeless and their children.



Birthright's beloved foundress, Louise Summerhill, said: "The most important aspect in our work is the preservation of the dignity and the beauty of woman as mother". Clearly, Louise had the foresight in to recognize that the value and worth of woman as mother was being undermined in North America and beyond. Thankfully, the pendulum is swinging back as more Millennial parents are prioritizing the fleeting time they have with their children while they are young. The beauty and essence of femininity as expressed through motherhood is still under attack and in need of ongoing protection and proclamation. In honor of next month's celebration of Mother's Day, please enjoy selected excerpts from St. Pope John Paul's Apostolic Letter, *On the Dignity and Vocation of Woman (1998)* :

"Motherhood involves a special communion with the mystery of life, as it develops in the woman's womb. The mother is filled with wonder at this mystery of life, and "understands" with unique intuition what is happening inside her. In the light of the 'beginning', the mother accepts and loves as a person the child she is carrying in her womb. This unique contact with the new human being developing within her gives rise to an attitude towards human beings - not only towards her own child, but every human being - which profoundly marks the woman's

personality... In any event, the mother's contribution is decisive in laying the foundation for a new human personality."

"A woman is strong because of her awareness of this entrusting, strong because of the fact that God 'entrusts the human being to her', always and in every way, even in the situations of social discrimination in which she may find herself. This awareness and this fundamental vocation speak to women of the dignity which they receive from God himself, and this makes them 'strong' and strengthens their vocation."

"The Church gives thanks *for all the manifestations of the feminine 'genius'* which have appeared in the course of history, in the midst of all peoples and nations; she gives thanks for all the charisms which the Holy Spirit distributes to women in the history of the People of God, for all the victories which she owes to their faith, hope and charity: she gives thanks for all *the fruits of feminine holiness.*"

"The Church asks at the same time that these invaluable 'manifestations of the Spirit' (cf. *1 Cor 12:4ff.*), which with great generosity are poured forth upon the "daughters" of the eternal Jerusalem, may be attentively recognized and appreciated so that they may return for the common good of the Church and of humanity, especially in our times. Meditating on the biblical mystery of the "woman", the Church prays that in this mystery all women may discover themselves and their 'supreme vocation'."

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Birthright needs your prayers, involvement and financial support. We are interdenominational, nonprofit and nonpolitical. Free services. Dedicated volunteers confidentially provide alternatives to abortion.

Regina Ranelli, Executive Director

Newsletter Editor