

Delaware Walk For Life A Success



Banners flying, about 100 attendees make their way along the Green in Dover at the DRTL June 5 Walk for Life

Almost 100 people showed up on a hot, sunny day to walk in remembrance of the thousands of babies aborted each year in the First State. From the Liberty Bell on Dover's Green to the steps of Legislative Hall, they ambled in the heat, some carrying signs, some shade umbrellas, but all unflagging in their support of life. At the end of the Walk at the East Steps, they were met with the stirring sight of hundreds of pairs of baby shoes displayed on the steps showing just a fraction of the impact of abortion in Delaware.

After an inspiring introductory prayer by Pastor Riley, the group made their way along the Green, where they paused to look at posters depicting some historically significant events from Delaware Right to Life's history. Rounding the final bend they were met with the display of 800 baby shoes collected from throughout the state and placed on the steps leading to the east entrance of Legislative Hall. Some admitted becoming emotional at the sight, thinking how those

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Baby Mattie reminds us all of how precious LIFE is.

Little Baby Shoes Make Big Impact

The display of over 800 pairs of empty baby shoes, it turns out, is a staggering sight that moved some of the people at the Walk for Life to tears. "I just think about all the babies who never got the chance to wear those shoes," said one of the attendees, who summed up the feelings of many who were there. The reminder that they represent only a fraction of the abortions occurring in Delaware in a year was sobering as well, especially since more recent statistics have put the number of abortions in Delaware at 4,260 for 2024, according to the Guttmacher Institute.

The shoes came from collection boxes all over Delaware and some faithful individuals donated dozens of pairs. Many church and pro-life groups, as well as Angel Crossing bookstore, participated in the effort.

The shoes were not just for show, however. At the end of the month they will be distributed to the pregnancy care centers and or-

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Delaware Pro-Life Hero: Joe Hannas

By Grace LoPorto

Joe Hannas, who will be 93 in August, has been involved in the pro-life movement for over 30 years. He always knew abortion was “a terrible thing, that it kills a living person. It’s not just a clump of cells.” And that person, from the instant of their conception, has a guardian angel. Killing that person is “pure murder,” he says.

After retirement in 1992, Joe and his wife, Joanie, and others would go to Mass, then to pray in front of an abortion clinic in Trolley Square in Wilmington on Saturdays. After his wife’s sickness and death, a period of several months, Joe returned to Trolley Square to find the clinic had moved to Baynard Boulevard, the Atlantic Women’s Medical Services building, where Kermit Gosnell, practiced. Gosnell, now in prison for murder of one woman and three babies, would refer people to his office in Philadelphia to do abortions, but he would prep the women in Wilmington. It was there Joe met Irene Mattie, and the two of them prayed three days a week, saying forty decades of the Rosary, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and Pope Leo’s St. Michael prayer. After praying at the clinic, they would go to McDonald’s for a cup of coffee and maybe something to eat. Eventually, they got to



Joe Hannas, defending life for over 30 years! Here he stands in front of the Wilmington PP clinic.

know each other, and they married in 2006, on the anniversary of Joanie’s passing. Joe says, “I felt like she was looking down,” and had something to do with it. He also feels like their prayers outside that clinic helped shut it down in 2011.

Joe and Irene also prayed in front of the Wilmington Planned Parenthood at 7th & Shipley Streets, until Irene’s death in 2009 from a brain tumor. Joe still prays outside of this clinic when he isn’t doing charitable

work through his involvement with multiple Catholic organizations. “That’s a hard place to close down,” says Joe, who has seen several other abortion clinics close their doors in the Wilmington area.

From his long experience, Joe remembers some interesting stories. One day while praying outside one of the clinics, a truck pulled up with a young girl and a man. The girl’s mother pulled up in a separate car. “When they got out, the girl was crying so hard,” Joe remembers. She didn’t want the abortion. “Well, the mother got mad,” says Joe, and she left. As she was leaving she came close to running over her daughter. The man got in the truck with the girl and left, but they had to stop at a red light. Joe says, “I was able to give her a pamphlet about

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Joe Hannas with his second wife, Irene, whom he met praying outside the AWMS clinic on Baynard Blvd. in Wilmington.

Joe Hannas, Pro-Life Hero

Cont. from p. 2 where she could get help before the light turned green...I often wondered what happened to her.”

Another time, they were praying at an abortion clinic after attending an evening Mass. “We marched over to the abortion clinic, it was dark, and we started saying the Rosary.” After a while a motorcycle came down the street, and a guy got off the motorcycle. Joe says he was a “kinda rough-looking guy, [I] thought he was going to give us trouble.” Instead, “he walked up to us, reached in his pocket,

pulled out a rosary and started praying.”

One final story: “Irene and I were walking up and down praying one day.” A lady pulled up in a car and got out carrying a baby. She said she had been going to get an abortion, had seen them praying, and because they were praying had decided not to go in. Joe says, “and now she was coming with a baby she decided not to abort.” He says that the woman was “so happy now she had the baby.” He and Irene were really happy and grateful, too.



If you like what we’re doing, please become a DONOR to DRTL. Scan the QR code!

State Fair Time – Please Volunteer!

DRTL has been exhibiting at the State Fair for over 40 years! It’s our longest-running community exhibit and it helps us reach thousands of young people with whom we often engage and help to educate. We offer special DRTL “merch,”

including the newer rubber bracelets as well as the classic Precious Feet pins. Our banners help make the exhibit stand out but we can’t do it without our almost 50 volunteers – the largest number of volunteers needed for a single event.

We have some remaining spots to fill and need your help, especially Kent and Sussex County folks! Slots are available for the 11-3 shift on Saturday, July 26.

Also needed are volunteers for the 3-7 shift on Friday, July 18, Saturday, July 19, Tuesday, July 22, and Thursday, July 24. The evening shift from 7-11 is our hardest to fill; please consider one of these dates: Friday, July 18, Saturday, July 19, Sunday, July 20, and Friday, July 25. Please email Sarah Potter at



40 Years at the Delaware State Fair

sarahpotter1819@gmail.com

Walkers for Life Harken to Message: Never Give Up

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shoes never got the chance to be filled. Organizer, Lynn Mey, in her opening remarks, broke down in tears at the huge impact abortion has on our little state. “This represents only four months of abortions in a year,” she said.

Many of the speakers touched on the tragedy that the shoe display represented, but all of them repeated the theme that we must never give up in defending the innocent unborn and all those in Delaware threatened by unjust laws. Sen. Bryant Richardson and Sen. Dave Lawson, who have consistently supported life in the General Assembly against a tidal wave of opposition, repeated their pledge to work to change the culture of death that reigns there. Nandi Randolph, policy analyst for the Delaware Family Policy Council, outlined a bundle of bills attempt-

ing to dismantle the last shreds of morality that protect the innocent. Julia Sadik, Philadelphia Regional Director for Students for Life, also reported on the work being done by students and young people to combat the mindset of abortion on college campuses and beyond. Representatives from Delaware’s pregnancy centers, Lilybeth Otero, director of Her Care Clinic in Seaford, and Tinisha Quail, our keynote speaker from Birthright of Delaware, gave terrific talks on the important and heroic work being done by these organizations

The diocesan newspaper, The Dialog, featured a front-page spread on the Walk with a gallery of pictures, but no local secular news outlets covered the event. The message was clear, nonetheless, and we are grateful for the faithful warriors who showed up in defense of innocent human life – from conception until natural death.

Baby Shoes Will Be Filled

Cont. from p. 1

ganizations which support pregnant mothers in Delaware where we know they will do the most good. Any leftover shoes will be donated to charitable organizations.

THANK YOU for making this an inspiring and effective project, a way to show the impact of abortion and its overwhelming loss of life and the effects those lost lives have on all of us. As Lynn Mey, event organizer stated, “those shoes weren’t collected in vain; they will soon be filled by living babies.”



A touching sight at Walk’s end.



Pastor Riley leading the Walk off in prayer.



Tinisha Quail, director of Birthright of Delaware, gave the main address.



Walkers hold signs showing they value life.