

# **Pro Life Youth Congress**

**Building the Leaders of Tomorrow**





## Questions? We Got Answers!

**Q** Who can join the PLYC?

**A** The PLYC is designed for all students in 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade but 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders who are ready to be leaders and stand up for the unborn in his or her community are invited to attend events as well.



**Q** Why Should I Get Involved?

**A** Pro Life Youth Congress is designed to train the future leaders of our nation not only on the importance of the sanctity of life but also how to be a leader in their community. The PLYC provides the student with resources to step up as a leader. It does all this while maintaining a fun and energetic environment for all youth.

**Q** How do I start a PLYC group in my area?

**A** Simply go to [ProLifeYouthCongress.com](http://ProLifeYouthCongress.com) and click Join at the top. Then click Start a District. Fill out the application and submit it. In no time you'll have all the help you need to start your group.





## VISION

There is a crisis of leadership in our time. However, God is raising up young men and women to fill the void. He is moving in their hearts, and they are responding to His call to step forward and be counted, to stand in the gap as a voice for the voiceless. Now is the time for these young people to rise up as the strong and courageous leaders of the next generation.

For nearly a century Americans wrestled with the question of whether or not black men and women were entitled to basic human rights. Slavery was finally abolished in 1865 with the passing of the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Now our country stands once again with Supreme Court rulings and laws that are terribly unjust. These laws state that unborn Americans have no rights, that they are the property of their mothers. This, too, is an outrage. For thirty-seven years, many courageous Americans have been striving to right this wrong, to protect innocent human life beginning at conception. It is the mission of the Pro Life Youth Congress is to gather and equip American youth to join in the battle to rebuild a culture of life, so that the United States of America can stand once again as a great nation with liberty and justice, not just for some, but for all.

Students themselves began the Pro Life Youth Congress by stepping up to leadership. It began in 2004 with Alissa Gotta and Lauren Walter, juniors at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School. They started as summer interns at the Right to Life of Summit County office in Akron, Ohio, but they wanted to do more to end abortion and save lives. Under the guidance of Right to Life Executive Director, Greg Frank, they launched leadership training and good citizenship initiatives which would soon come to be known as the Pro Life Youth Congress. Joshua Bullock came forward as a high school sophomore to serve as the first webmaster. Hannah Guarendi, daughter of Dr. Ray Guarendi, served as the first President and led our young students in the battle to protect our innocent unborn children.

Over 1,000 students have joined the Congress since its inception. If you feel called to leadership, if you feel called to stand as a voice for the little babies in the womb, if you feel called to help eliminate the 25% mortality rate of America's little ones being brutally killed by abortion, then the Pro Life Youth Congress may be for you. It's not for everyone. It can be tough going to stand up for truth and justice in a society that kills its own children. But we will be with you. And God will be with you.

Join today. Be a leader. Make a difference!

*The Lord answered me, "Say not, 'I am too young.'  
To whomever I send you, you shall go; whatever I command you, you shall speak.  
Have no fear before them, because I am with you."  
(New American Bible, Jeremiah 1:7-8)*



## **THE PRO LIFE YOUTH CONGRESS: WHAT IS IT?**

The Pro Life Youth Congress is a high-impact group of youth dedicated to building the Culture of Life.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the National PLYC shall be to support initiatives for student run, student led organizations in high schools, youth groups, and Youth organizations. The PLYC seeks to assist high schools in developing their leadership abilities and the cultivation of virtuous citizenship and equip them to effectively educate, advocate, and motivate their communities towards a positive, healthy, life-affirming culture where every human being is accepted, respected, and protected. Members of the PLYC will be empowered and educated to represent the Pro Life community in their area. PLYC district shall be encouraged and assisted to establish and maintain supportive and mutually beneficial relationships with the adult-run Pro Life organizations in their communities. Adults will serve as advisors and supporters for the Pro-Life Youth groups

The PLYC especially provides resources, guidance and educational material to develop:

- Virtuous Leadership
- Excellent Citizenship to fight for the innocent Unborn Americans who are sentenced to death by abortion.

Both **Virtuous Leadership** and **Excellent Citizenship** require a special awareness and skill set to make a difference. We work with students throughout the year to especially develop the following virtues:

- Justice
- Temperance/Purity
- Fortitude/Strength
- Prudence/Good Decision Making





## **VIRTUES OF LEADERSHIP**

Throughout the year, the Pro Life Youth Congress hosts four events which emphasize the four key virtues of leadership. In the winter and summer, the National Pro Life Youth Congress hosts the March for Life in Washington D.C. and the Summer Leadership Retreat in Ohio. The leadership events for the spring and fall will be held each year by the state branch of the Pro Life Youth Congress.

### **JUSTICE – MARCH FOR LIFE**

The moral virtue that consists in the constant and firm will to give their due to God and neighbor. Justice toward God is called the "virtue of religion." Justice toward men disposes one to respect the rights of each and to establish in human relationships the harmony that promotes equity with regard to persons and to the common good. The just man, often mentioned in the Sacred Scriptures, is distinguished by habitual right thinking and the uprightness of his conduct toward his neighbor. "You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor." "Masters, treat your slaves justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven."

### **TEMPERANCE**

The moral virtue that moderates the attraction of pleasures and provides balance in the use of created goods. It ensures the will's mastery over instincts and keeps desires within the limits of what is honorable. The temperate person directs the sensitive appetites toward what is good and maintains a healthy discretion: "Do not follow your inclination and strength, walking according to the desires of your heart." Temperance is often praised in the Old Testament: "Do not follow your base desires, but restrain your appetites." In the New Testament it is called "moderation" or "sobriety." We ought "to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world."

To live well is nothing other than to love God with all one's heart, with all one's soul and with all one's efforts; from this it comes about that love is kept whole and uncorrupted (through temperance). No misfortune can disturb it (and this is fortitude). It obeys only [God] (and this is justice), and is careful in discerning things, so as not to be surprised by deceit or trickery (and this is prudence).



## **FORTITUDE – SUMMER LEADERSHIP RETREAT**

The moral virtue that ensures firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of the good. It strengthens the resolve to resist temptations and to overcome obstacles in the moral life. The virtue of fortitude enables one to conquer fear, even fear of death, and to face trials and persecutions. It disposes one even to renounce and sacrifice his life in defense of a just cause. "The Lord is my strength and my song." "In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

The virtue of temperance disposes us to avoid every kind of excess: the abuse of food, alcohol, tobacco, or medicine. Those incur grave guilt by drunkenness, or by a love of speed, endanger their own and others' safety on the road, at sea, or in the air.

## **PRUDENCE**

The virtue that disposes practical reason to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it; "the prudent man looks where he is going." "Keep sane and sober for your prayers." Prudence is "right reason in action," writes St. Thomas Aquinas, following Aristotle. It is not to be confused with timidity or fear, nor with duplicity or dissimulation. It is called *auriga virtutum* (the charioteer of the virtues); it guides the other virtues by setting rule and measure. It is prudence that immediately guides the judgment of conscience. The prudent man determines and directs his conduct in accordance with this judgment. With the help of this virtue we apply moral principles to particular cases without error and overcome doubts about the good to achieve and the evil to avoid.



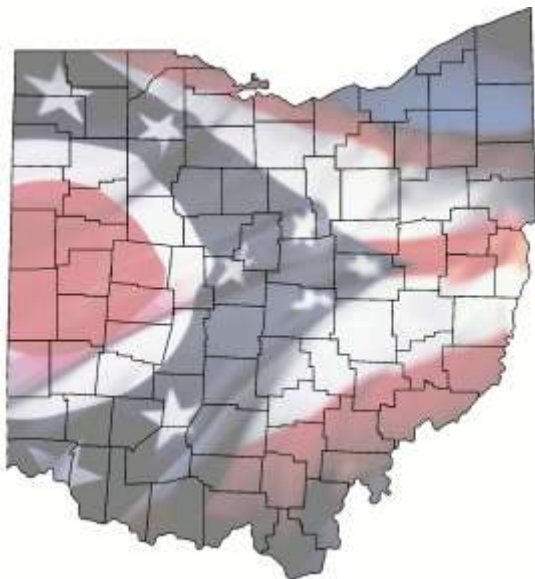
## **JOB DESCRIPTIONS NATIONAL PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, TREASURER**

The national officers articulate the vision of the Pro Life Youth Congress. Under the guidance of the executive director and the board of directors, the national officers will plan and coordinate the national leadership events for the winter and summer—the March for Life, National Convention, and Summer Leadership Retreat.

It is also the duty of the national officers to collaborate with national adult leaders in the pro life movement and coordinate the efforts of the Pro Life Youth Congress and national right to life organizations and events.



## **STATE GOVERNOR**

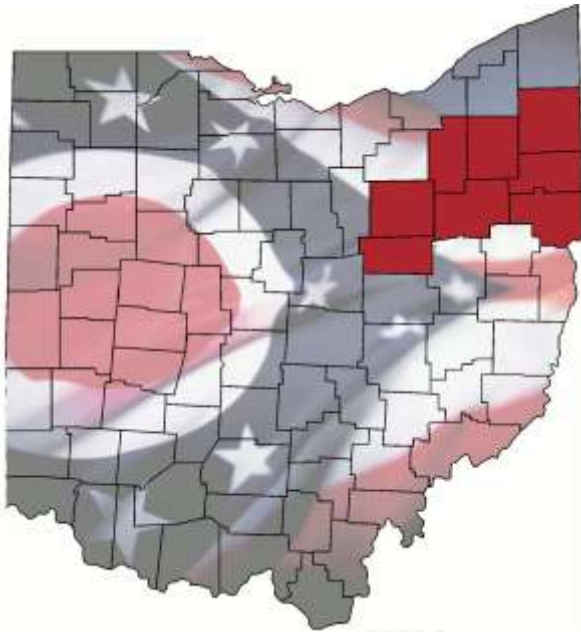


The main duty of the State Governor is to represent the state to the National Committee. It is also the responsibility of the State Governor to relay information and updates on events and other happenings from the national officers to his state's regional officers.

It is the duty of the State Governor to collaborate with his state's right to life organization. In doing so, the Pro Life Youth Congress of his state will work side-by-side with the state right to life organization to further the efforts of the pro life movement. The State Governor will also be responsible to coordinating Pro Life Youth Congress attendance at a minimum of two state right to life events.



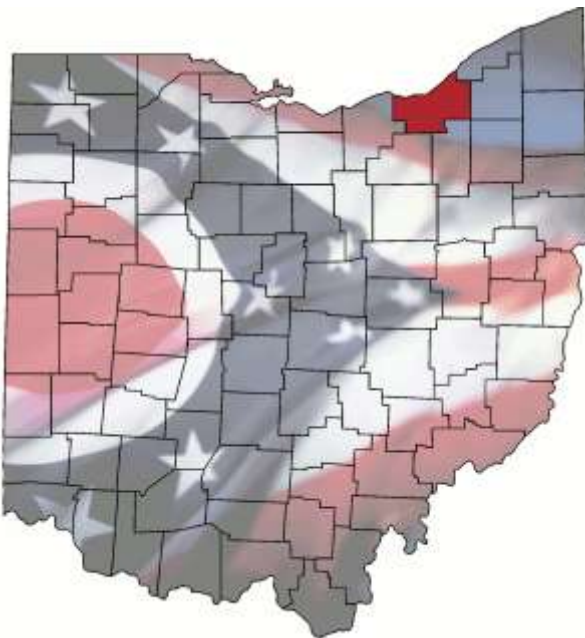
## **REGIONAL PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT**



The main duty of the Regional President and Vice President is to represent the region to the State Governor. The Regional President and Vice President will work with all County Officers to accomplish the goals of the Pro Life Youth Congress. The Regional President and Vice President will convey information and updates on events from the State Governors to the County Commissioners in their region.

It is the duty of the Regional President and Vice President to collaborate with their region's right to life organization. In doing so, the Pro Life Youth Congress of his region will work side-by-side with the region's right to life organization to further the efforts of the pro life movement. The Regional President and Vice President will also be responsible to coordinating Pro Life Youth Congress attendance at a minimum of two regional right to life events. Further, the Regional President and Vice President will plan and coordinate two congressional sessions for their region.

## **COUNTY COMMISSIONER**



The main duty of the County Commissioner is to represent the county to the Regional President and Vice President. The County Commissioner will work with all Chapter Presidents to accomplish the goals of the Pro Life Youth Congress. The County Commissioner will convey information and updates on events from the Regional President and Vice President to the Chapter Presidents in their county.

It is the duty of the County Commissioner to collaborate with their county's right to life organization. In doing so, the Pro Life Youth Congress of his county will work side-by-side with the county's right to life organization to further the efforts of the pro life movement. The County Commissioner will also be responsible to coordinating Pro Life Youth Congress attendance at a minimum of two county right to life events. Further, the County Commissioner will coordinate the attendance of the chapters in his county with the Regional President and Vice President at the two congressional sessions for his region.