

Pro Life Youth Congress

Building the Leaders of Tomorrow



VISION STATEMENT

There is a crisis of Leadership in our time. God is raising up young men & women who are called to leadership. Now is the time to be strong & courageous. We live in a time when God is calling upon the hearts of young men & women to step up and be counted. To stand in the gap and become a voice for the voiceless.

This great nation of ours once held that the African American had no rights; that they were the property of the slave-owner. For four score and seven years, Americans fought over the issue of whether a Black man & woman had rights in our country. The Supreme Court and laws of this land determined that they did not. This was an outrage. It took a great civil war to right that wrong.

Now our nation stands again with a Supreme Court & laws in our land that are terribly unjust. These laws determined that the Unborn American has no rights; that they are the property of the mother. For thirty seven years, many good American have attempted to right this wrong. To protect Innocent Human life beginning at conception. It is our goal to rebuild a culture of life in our country and to stand once again as a nation with liberty & justice not just for some, but for all.

Students began the Pro Life Youth Congress by stepping up to leadership. It began in 2004 with Alissa Gotta and Lauren Walter –from the Junior Class at St. Vincent –St. Mary High school. They served as summer interns at the Right to Life office in Akron Ohio. They wanted to do more to end abortion and save lives.

Under the guidance of Executive Director Greg Frank, they launched leadership training & good citizenship initiatives which would soon come to be known as the Pro Life Youth Congress. Joshua Bullock stepped up as a sophomore in high school to serve as the first web-master. He is still with us today! 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 help 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 what is Good & Right & Proper in a society that kills its own children. But we will be with you. And God will be with you. Join today. Make a difference, and be a Leader!

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 establish and maintain student run, student led organizations in every high school and where desirable in the local churches and other youth oriented community 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. Every 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.

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



Prayers and Pledges

PLYC Members Pledge

As a member of the Pro Life Youth Congress, I do solemnly pledge to preserve, protect, and defend innocent human life in all its stages, from conception to natural death. I pledge to educate, advocate, and motivate within my school, church and community. So help me God.

Together Educate, Advocate, Motivate



Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.
Born and Unborn.



Prayer to End Abortion

Lord God, I thank you today for the gift of my life, and for the lives of all my brothers and sisters. I know there is nothing that destroys more life than abortion, yet I rejoice that you have conquered death by the Resurrection of Your Son. I am ready to do my part in ending abortion. Today I commit myself never to be silent, never to be passive, never to be forgetful of the unborn. I commit myself to be active in the pro-life movement, and never to stop defending life until all my brothers and sisters are protected, and our nation once again becomes a nation with liberty and justice not just for some, but for all. Through Christ our Lord. Amen!



Pro Life Scripture

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.
“Ah Lord,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am only a child. But the Lord God said to me, “Do not say, “I am only a child” you must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. — *Jeremiah 1:5-7*



The Pro Life Youth Congress Seasons

Annual Outline of Events

Winter

- Congressional Session: **Justice for ALL, Born and Unborn**
- PLYC National convention: Jan. 22
- D.C. March for Life: Jan 22
- Regional Oratory Contest

Spring

- Congressional Session: **Temperance / Chastity / Purity**
- Swearing In Ceremony for Congress at Annual Dinner
- National Pro Life T-Shirt Day

Summer

- Congressional Session: **Fortitude / Strength**
- Summer Leadership Conference & Walk for Life
- Car Washes for Life
- Cedar Point Amusement Park/ The Matheson Seminars

Fall

- Congressional Session: **Prudence / Making Good Decisions**
- 40 Days for Life Prayer to End Abortion
- Life Chain Vigil
- Rock for Life/Signature Ad Campaign

*To remain silent when one should protest makes cowards out of men.
- Abraham Lincoln*

Virtues of Leadership

"Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

A virtue is a habitual and firm disposition to do the good. It allows the person not only to perform good acts, but to give the best of themselves. The virtuous person tends toward the good with all his sensory and spiritual powers; he pursues the good and chooses it in concrete actions.

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.

Justice

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."

Fortitude

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.

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).

Dress Code

For Congressional Meetings, members are expected to dress respectfully and professionally. At off-site gatherings, members will dress appropriately and in accordance to the situation. Appearance should always be clean and neat. For some events, professional attire will be specifically requested.

Professional attire for young ladies includes: nice tops and skirts (no denim), dresses, or suits. Relaxed professional attire includes: dresses, nice tops and skirts or trousers (no denim).

We ask that skirts not be above the knee, and shorts must be at least fingertip length. No bared midriff, skin tight clothing (tops, spandex, tight jeans, etc.) halter tops, spaghetti-strap tanks, or otherwise revealing clothing. No visible undergarments at any time. Young ladies are asked not to bring any low-cut shirts/tops, or tank tops with straps less than one inch. No casual flip-flops or athletic shoes.

- Professional attire for gentlemen: a sport coat, a dress shirt, slacks (no jeans), and a tie, or suits.
- Relaxed professional attire: khakis or dress slacks with a belt, and button down shirts or polos.

Enforcement of the dress code will be at the discretion of the officers, and will be enforced.

Code of Conduct/Behavior

General Guidelines

While Congress is in Session, members are expected to act respectfully and professionally. Members are to participate in discussions and activities during congressional meetings. At off-site gatherings, members will act appropriately to the situation.

Members of the Congress will speak respectfully of themselves and others, refraining from crude or abusive language. Members should not judge others who believe differently from them, realizing that they have freedom in matters of conscience. All conflicts with other members should be resolved directly and peaceably. Also, members will respect others' personal property.

- No obscene or explicit material should be brought to any Congressional event.
- No illegal use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs will be tolerated.
- Members should remember to obey and respect all figures of authority. This Code of Conduct will be enforced, and all members should be familiar with it.

Listening

When keynote speakers are giving their speech, members are required to listen carefully to the speech, and to not engage in any other activity at the time. During PLYC events communication is imperative so it is important that all members are attentive to the proceedings of the meetings.

Public Display of Affection

It is inappropriate for a member or Officer to engage in public displays of affection. The PLYC will ask all to refrain from such. If any person has to be asked twice, their parents will be asked to come to the event to pick them up in order to take them home.

*Being pro-life doesn't save babies, acting pro-life does.
- Dennis Green*

Membership Rankings and Officer Qualifications

The Pro Life Youth Congress has six membership levels: Patriot, Ambassador, Senator, House of Representatives, Full Member, and Associate Member. The requirements for each level are as follows:

- Level 1 **Associate Member** – Sign up for the Pro Life Youth Congress and recite the Pro Life Pledge.
- Level 2 **Full Member** – Sign up for the Pro Life Youth Congress and pay annual membership dues through June 30th.
- Level 3 **House of Representatives** – In addition to the requirements of a full member, to be in the House of Representatives, you must attend at least 2 PLYC events and score 80% or above on a test based on the recommended reading *On Message* by Mark Crutcher.
- Level 4 **Senator** – In addition to the requirements of the House of Representatives, to be in the Senate, you must attend at least 4 PLYC events, score 80% or above on a test based on the recommended reading *Ending Abortion: Not Just Fighting It* by Fr. Frank Pavone, and bring at least 1 new member into the PLYC watch the movie *Horton Hears a Who*.
- Level 5 **Champion** – In addition to the requirements of the Senate, to be an Ambassador, you must attend at least 6 PLYC events, score 80% or above on a test based on the recommended reading *How to Win Friends and Influence People* by Dale Carnegie, recruit at least 3 new members to the PLYC, participate in a Pro-Life Oratory or Essay contest, and conduct at least (1) pro-life meeting Watch the movie *Come What May*.
- Level 6 **Patriot** – In addition to the requirements of an Ambassador, to be a Patriot, you must attend at least 8 PLYC events, attend either the March for Life or Summer Leadership Retreat, recruit 5 new members, read the book *The Conscience of a Nation* by Ronald Regan. and participate in either the *Community Dialogue to End abortion* or the *Great Debate*. Watch the movie *Blood Money: The Business of Abortion*.

Officer Eligibility:

National Officer – In order to serve as a national officer, you must be a Patriot in the PLYC.

Regional Officer – In order to serve as a regional officer, you must be a Champion in the PLYC.

County Officer – In order to serve as a county officer, you must be a Senator in the PLYC.

District Officer – In order to serve as a district officer, you must be a Representative in the House of Representatives in the PLYC.

Voting – In order to be a voting member, you must be a Full Member in the PLYC.

Job Descriptions

National President and Vice President

The National President articulates the vision of the Pro Life Youth Congress. National President calls the four national officers together to meet as the executive committee. With the guidance of the executive director and the board of directors, the President will set the national agenda of events for the school year. They encourage all officers in the Pro Life Youth Congress to schedule their events a year in advance at their respective levels.

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The main duty of the National Vice President is to reach out to the 50 states in order to enlist State Governors. The secondary duty of the National Vice President is to advise the President on the major events and programs for the Pro Life Youth Congress. The third duty is to stand in for the President upon his/her absence during Quarterly Congressional Sessions and all other meetings. The Vice President assists the President with his or her duties.

The shared duties of the National President and Vice President are as follows:

- **Charge the governors to recruit regional presidents and vice presidents for their states**
- **Supervise and encourage the governors to ensure that their Regional VPs are conducting their duties in recruiting and filling the county seats.**
- **Serve as the connection between the National Committee and the Governors**
- **Rallies the governors to come to the Summer Leadership Retreat in Ohio and the March for Life in Washington DC in January.**
- **Work with all State Governors to accomplish the goals of the Pro Life Youth Congress**

State Governor

The main duty of the State Governor is to represent the state to the National Committee. The State Governor carries out the vision at the state level by recruiting and training Regional Presidents and Vice Presidents to carry out the mission at the regional level. The State Governor will work with all regional officers to accomplish the goals of the Pro Life Youth Congress.

The duties of the State Governor are as follows:

- **Recruit and train regional officers.**
- **State Governors will reach out to every region in his or her state and attempt to find Regional Presidents and Vice Presidents who will in turn recruit new PLYC members.**
- **Serve as the connection between the National Committee and Regional Officers.**
- **Relays state updates to the National Committee**
- **Coordinates meetings with Regional Officers**
- **Spearheads fundraising events for the state level.**
- **Work with all Regional Officers to accomplish the goals of the Pro Life Youth Congress**

Regional President and Vice President

The main duty of the Regional President is to represent the region to the State Governor. The Regional President carries out the vision at the regional level by recruiting and training County Commissioners to carry out the mission at the county level. The Regional President will work with all County Officers to accomplish the goals of the Pro Life Youth Congress.

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The main duty of the Regional Vice President is to advise the President on the county events and programs for the Pro Life Youth Congress. The secondary duty is to stand in for the President upon his/her absence during regional and state meetings. The Vice President assists the President with his or her duties.

The shared duties of the Regional President and Vice President are as follows:

- **To reach out to all counties within their region to recruit Commissioners**
- **They will then charge the Commissioners to recruit District Directors for their county.**
- **Supervise and encourage the Commissioners to ensure they are conducting their duties in recruiting and filling their counties.**
- **Serve as the connection between the County and the State Officers**
- **Relays regional updates to the State Governor**
- **Coordinates meetings with County Commissioner**
- **Work with all County Commissioner to accomplish the goals of the Pro Life Youth Congress**
- **Spearheads regional fundraisers**

County Commissioner

The main duty of the County Commissioner is to represent the county to the Regional Officers. The County Commissioner carries out the vision at the county level by recruiting and training District Directors to carry out the mission at the district level. The County Commissioner will work with all District Directors to accomplish the goals of the Pro Life Youth Congress. The main duty of the County Commissioner is to advise the District Directors on managing their district.

The duties of the County Commissioner are as follows:

- **To reach out to all districts within their county to recruit District Directors**
- **They will then charge the District Directors to recruit members for their district.**
- **Supervise and encourage the District Directors to ensure they are conducting their duties in recruiting and filling their districts.**
- **Serve as the connection between the District and Regional Officers**
- **Relays county updates to the Regional Officers**
- **Coordinates meetings with District Directors**
- **Work with all District Directors to accomplish the goals of the Pro Life Youth Congress**
- **Spearheads county fundraisers**

District Director

The main duty a District Director is to represent the district to the county. The District Director carries out the vision at the district level by recruiting and training PLYC members to carry out the mission at the district level. The District Director will work with all members in their district to accomplish the goals of the Pro Life Youth Congress.

The duties of the County Commissioner are as follows:

- **To reach out to their district to recruit members**
- **A district director must print fliers from the PLYC website for upcoming events and attempt to sign up district members to attend them.**
- **They will then charge their district members to recruit for their district.**
- **Serve as the connection between the district members to County Commissioner**
- **Relays district updates to the County Commissioner**
- **Coordinates meetings with members of the district**
- **Work with all members to accomplish the goals of the Pro Life Youth Congress**
- **Spearheads district fundraisers**

If you would like to apply for a position please submit your name, address and phone number to Membership Director Andrew Bullock at pvtanderson8989@gmail.com. We will be in contact with you shortly, and we will send you the full district startup kit.

Upcoming Events

January 15 – First Quarter Congressional Session

Join fellow PLYC members for the First Quarter Congressional Session of 2010

January 20-22 – March for Life Bus Trip

Join us in Washington D.C. to march in peaceful protest of abortion.

January 22 – St. Hilary Pro-Life rally and Memorial Service in Akron

Not coming to DC? Join fellow pro-lifers at the St. Hilary Pro-Life Rally and Memorial Service

January 22 – Solemn Mass for Life in Cleveland

Not going to DC and live closer to Cleveland? Attend the Solemn Mass for Life celebrated by Bishop Lennon.

February to March – Pro-Life Oratory Contests

Participate in the 2010 Pro-Life Oratory contest with fellow students.

February 17 – 40 Days for Life Begins

Join us in 40 days of prayer and fasting to end abortion starting February 17

March 27 – 40 Days for Life Ends

June 23 – Alive Christian Music Festival

Come to Alive10 at their new location in Mineral City at Atwood Lake Park June 23-26.

July 9 – Pro-Life Boot Camp

Join fellow pro-life students at the Pro-Life Boot Camp.

Always Check www.prolifeyouthcongress.com For Updates and Details!