

THE ERIE ECHO

"voice for life"

Vol. XLVII No. 1

Circulation 5,501

January 2019

Breakfast Headliner Obianuju Ekeocha

She was a featured speaker in January 2016 at the West Coast Walk for Life in San Francisco. She was the keynote speaker at the 2016 Canadian National March for Life. She is the author of *Target Africa: Ideological Neocolonialism in the Twenty-First Century*, published by Ignatius Press, and the producer of a soon to be released feature-length documentary titled, *Strings Attached*. In 2018 alone, she took her pro-life message to: the United Nations, the White House, the U.S. State Department, Capitol Hill, the British Parliament, the Canadian Parliament, the Hofburg Imperial Palace in Vienna, Harvard Law School, and Vatican City (where she personally presented a copy of *Target Africa* to Pope Francis). And now this January, Obianuju Ekeocha, known the world over as simply, òUju,ö is flying in from the United Kingdom to be the Special Guest Speaker at People for Life's 41st Annual Pro-Life Breakfast.

Uju is the Founder and President of Culture of Life Africa, an organization dedicated to the promotion and defense of the African values of the sanctity of life, the beauty of marriage, the blessings of motherhood and the dignity of family life, values which are being attacked by many western governments, wealthy philanthropic foundations, and international abortion agencies. The title of Uju's new documentary, *Strings Attached*, refers to the practice of using foreign aid as a lever to force abortion and population control on developing countries.

Uju is fighting tirelessly to expose the harm done to African values and African societies by the western nations, but her witness can also help us comprehend how much harm those of us in the United States and other so-called advanced, industrialized nations have already done to ourselves.

Responding at a United Nations sanctioned event to a European official who



Obianuju (Uju) Ekeocha

would like to see African nations abandon their pro-life cultural values and pro-life government policies to make way for the radical individualism and abortion-on-demand policies of the nations of Europe and North America, Uju had this to say:

öI am from a tribe called the Igbo tribe in Nigeria. If I tried to translate in my native tongue what it means for a woman to choose what to do with her body,öI couldn't! Most of the African native languages don't even have a way of phrasing abortion to mean anything good....

öPeople from the western world come to Africa and try to give us these kinds of [ideas] that we could never translate into our native tongue.... Culturally most of the African communities actually believe by tradition ö by their cultural standards ö that abortion is a direct attack on human life.... So for anybody to be able to convince any woman in Africa that abortion is actually a good for them, can be a good thing, you first of all have to tell her that what her

parents and her grandparents, and her ancestors taught her is actually wrong. You're going to have to tell her that they have always been wrong in their thinking... and that, madam, is colonization!ö

Hearing about African pro-life values should make us realize how far we in the western world have fallen. So many in the wealthy nations have lost sight of what is most important in life, even what it means to be human. Yet in many of the more underprivileged countries and in various tribal cultures across the globe, it is still normal practice to welcome every child with open arms, to value family ties above material things, and hold the elderly in high esteem. No nation or culture is perfect. Where humans are involved, there will be shortcomings. Yet in terms of discerning basic priorities and living in-synch with pro-life and family values ö in terms of being truly human ö it is the öthird worldö that needs to teach and we who need to learn.

Abraham Lincoln spoke of the United States as öa house divided.ö The same might be said today of the entire world. öI do not expect the house to fall,ö declared Lincoln, öbut I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other.ö

Then will it be a Culture of Life, or a culture of death? As American citizens and voters, we have more than just a little to say about this. Let us hope that pro-life Americans will be inspired and energized by Uju's example of unwavering dedication to the pro-life cause and her remarkable ability to share her African vision of what it means to be pro-life. May we öhighly resolve,ö as Lincoln might say, that this nation will from this day forward be only a force for Life in the world and a respecter of the pro-life cultures of other nations and never again an exporter of death or the öright to chooseö delusion.

Erie March for Life: Choose Hope!

We need your help to make the 2019 Erie March for Life a worthy expression of solidarity with children in the womb and their mothers and fathers. The March will take place on January 26, just four days after the 46th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, so the tragedy of legalized abortion will be uppermost in our minds. But the pro-life cause also stands in solidarity with other human beings whose lives are increasingly regarded as expendable instead of equally valuable. These are the elderly, the terminally ill, the chronically ill, and the physically and mentally challenged. We March for them as well.

This year's theme is "Choose Hope!" Even in the darkest times love will find a way, for us as individuals, for our community, and for our nation. Sometimes we must choose to be creators of hope, by offering the love and good will that lights the way for another person and for our nation. And sometimes, we must "choose hope" by trusting others and accepting the love and support that others are so often anxious to give.

The Erie March will begin at 11 a.m., so plan to be at the West Perry Square Pavilion in downtown Erie by 10:45. The March will proceed west on W. 6th St. from Perry Square to Sassafras, north on Sassafras, east on W. 10th St., north on State, and back to the Perry Square. This is a 1.1 mile loop. Everyone will be back to the Pavilion by 11:30 a.m. or so.

The closing program will feature a lineup of speakers you won't want to miss. Pennsylvania state Senator Michele Brooks, newly reelected after warding off a pro-abortion, Emily's List-endorsed challenger, will be back to speak for her third time. Senator Brooks represents the 50th state senate district in the Pennsylvania General Assembly and serves Erie, Crawford, Mercer, and Warren Counties. Mark Bradley Morrow will speak about his own involvement in four abortions as he attests to the grief, guilt, and shame that is often part of the father's abortion experience as well as the mother's. He will also talk about the gift of forgiveness and renewal that is available to those who seek it. Mark has written a

book about his experiences, *The Greatest Pretender*, available in book stores soon. Watch for announcements about additional speakers at www.peopleforlife.life, on our Facebook profile, and in our E-Mail Updates.

Michelle Elizabeth Flaherty, we are also pleased to report, will be back again this year to support the March with her DJ Service.

Let's not be deterred by a little rain or snow. No matter the weather, we will make the best of it. Just dress accordingly, with warm layers and waterproof, non-slip footwear. If you do have any questions about the weather (e.g., should we bring the dog sled or the convertible?), feel free to call (814) 882-1333, or check for any last minute, breaking news on Facebook.

Signs will be available for those who would like to carry one. Homemade signs with positive pro-life messages are welcome. People for Life does, however, reserve the right to exclude messages that do not reflect the purpose and spirit of the March. If you need some ideas for your own sign, keep the theme of this year's March in mind: Choose hope!

FROM PAGE 4 46th Annual Bus Trip

Building, just south of the U.S. Capitol on Independence Avenue.

Consider visiting the March for Life Expo at the Renaissance Washington, DC Downtown Hotel, 999 Ninth St. N.W. It will be open from 8 a.m. until 10:30 and will reopen at 4 p.m. after the March.

Uju Ekeocha, our 2019 Pro-Life Breakfast Special Guest Speaker, will be there. Her organization, Culture of Life Africa, will be one of the scores of pro-life exhibitors and vendors.

There will be ample time to tour the Capitol Building or the White House, visit Smithsonian Museums, or check out the new Museum of the Bible, which just opened last year. A tour of the Holocaust Museum is a sure way to renew and deepen one's commitment to the pro-life cause. The March will begin just outside the Museum of Natural History and near the new Black History Museum and the Washington Monument.

A very popular place to visit is the beautiful National Shrine of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. The largest Catholic Church in North America and one of the 10 largest in the world, it is something to see for Catholics and non-Catholics alike. It is a moving experience to be at the Basilica with thousands of fellow marchers on the morning of the March for Life. They have a nice cafeteria too!

Thanks to the kindness of some local contributors, we are once again able to offer sponsorship assistance to students and others

on tight budgets. Inquiries are strongly encouraged. We don't want anyone to miss the March due to financial constraints.

If the March for Life Bus Trip sounds interesting, you can learn more or, better yet, register at www.peopleforlife/january2019. Follow the Bus Trip at www.Facebook.com/MarchforLifeBusTrip for the latest news.

Payments can also be mailed to People for Life; P.O. Box 1126; Erie, PA 16512 or hand-delivered to People for Life, 1625 W. 26th St., Erie.

Sponsor a Marcher

Every January there are grateful Erie-area residents who manage to get to the March for Life only because of the kind consideration of our generous Bus Sponsors.

If you would like to help make sure no one is left behind due to financial constraints, please send your sponsorship donation to People for Life; P.O. Box 1126; Erie, PA 16512 and indicate that it is a "March for Life sponsorship." The full cost of one seat (our break-even cost, basically) is \$55. A donation of any amount will help, however. Sometimes \$25 or \$30 makes all the difference for someone.

Sponsorship donations do not merely pay for empty seats which might or might not be used. They are applied to specific individuals on a case-by-case basis. Situations vary, but most sponsorship recipients pay something toward the cost of their seats, which shows they are really serious about making the trip. Sometimes a family group that is already paying for a certain number of seats will find

it feasible to bring along an extra family member when they learn that a sponsorship is available.

We do reserve a few more bus seats than we are absolutely certain we can fill. But we are able to do this mainly because we have the confidence that if there are some empty seats at the last minute, we can usually get them filled thanks to our sponsors.

Sponsorship donations can also be made using our online March for Life Bus Trip Registration form at www.conta.cc/2QEPLoS. Just scroll down to the "Be a March for Life Sponsor" section. Thank you!

Student Contests

People for Life invites Erie-area students to compete for cash prizes in our annual pro-life essay and oratory contests. Students may choose to enter either contest or both.

Speeches and essays may range in tone from polemical (argumentative) to purely informational, from inspirational to mildly provocative. Topics can be chosen from a wide range of human life issues related to: abortion, euthanasia (including assisted suicide), denial of life-saving medical treatment, exploitation of human embryos, or human cloning.

Contestants are free to address sad or unpleasant realities that go along with the "culture of death," but there are also many upbeat topics to be considered. These include: adoption, motherhood, pregnancy and fetal development, personal experiences with pro-life activities (e.g., the March for Life, volunteering), and the blessings of

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FROM PAGE 2
Student Contests

knowing people with mental or physical challenges (e.g., Down Syndrome).
The High School Oratory Contest will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2019 at the Blasco Memorial Library. All high school students from grades 9-12, are encouraged to enter. Contestants will research their chosen topic, write an original 5-7 minute speech, and then present it at the Oratory Contest. Grades 9-10 and grades 11-12 compete separately. A panel of judges will score each speech, note the strong points and weak points, and offer helpful suggestions to each speaker. Cash prizes will be awarded: \$100 for first place, \$50 for second, and \$25 for third.

Speeches will be judged on originality, depth of research, accuracy, and careful reasoning, as well as delivery style.

Students must register in advance by e-mailing their name, age, grade, school, and phone number to office@peopleforlife.org.

The submission deadline for People for Life's annual Student Essay Contest is April 15, 2019. Word limits are 500 for grades 7-9 and 750 for grades 10-12. Grades 7-9 and 10-12 will be judged separately. Cash prizes will be awarded: \$50 for first place, \$25 for second, and \$15 for third.

Essays will be judged primarily on originality, evidence of careful research, and lucidity, but grammar and spelling also count.

Entries can be e-mailed to office@peopleforlife.org, in Microsoft Word or PDF format, or placed in the body of the e-mail. Entries may also be mailed to People for Life; P.O. Box 1126; Erie, PA 16512, but these must be postmarked no later than April 15. All entries must include the student's name, address, phone number, grade, and school.

STATEWIDE CONTESTS

The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation is also sponsoring essay and oratory contests, for the entire state. The deadline for the statewide essay contest is March 4, 2019. The word limits are the same and the topic guidelines are similar. Instead of appearing in person to deliver a speech, students can enter the statewide oratory contest simply by recording a video of their speech and submitting a copy. The deadline for video submissions is April 15, 2019. Complete information for both contests is available at www.paprolife.org.

Men's Conference

People for Life has been invited to set up a table with pro-life information and promotional items at the annual Catholic Men's Conference on March 2, 2019. The event will be held at Our Lady of Peace Church, 2401 W. 38th St, Erie. Two of the featured speakers have devoted substantial portions of their professional and personal lives to the pro-life cause.

Tom Peterson is an award-winning corporate advertising executive who hosts a popular television series on EWTN. He also

Four ways to make reservations
BREAKFAST OR BUS TRIP

- 1. MAIL YOUR CHECK**
People for Life; P.O. Box 1126; Erie, PA 16512
- 2. VISIT OUR OFFICE**
1625 W. 26th St., Erie Call for hours.
- 3. GO ONLINE**
Visit www.peopleforlife.life/january2019. Use the BREAKFAST and BUSTRIP REGISTER+BUTTONS.
- 4. CALL 814.459.1333**

operates a company that creates and airs commercials crafted to help promote a culture that values and protects every human life.

Sean O'Hare is Chairman of the Board of Students for Life of America and a popular public speaker on human life topics as well as on Christian apologetics, business and philanthropy.

For more information or to register for the Men's Conference, visit www.2232men.com.

Breakfast Sponsors

If you are a business owner or professional person and would like to be a Pro-Life Breakfast sponsor/advertiser with a listing in the 2019 Breakfast program, please use the online form at www.conta.cc/2RPs0VU or call (814) 882-1333. Sponsor levels are: \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500, and \$1000.

Adoption affirms the inherent value of human life and signals that every child . born or unborn . is wanted and loved+ . President Donald Trump (November 2018)

Memorials

<i>Given by</i> David & Kathy Wayman	<i>In Memory of</i> Susan Kuznicki	<i>Given by</i> Saint Vincent Hospital	<i>In Honor of</i> Dr. John Flamini, 35 years service
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JOIN PEOPLE FOR LIFE OR DONATE

NAME _____ DATE _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 E-MAIL _____ PHONE _____ MOBILE _____ Do not text
 AFFILIATED WITH _____ PROFESSION _____

1. MEMBERSHIP DONATION New Renewal DUES: Individual \$10 Family \$20 Senior Citizen \$5
 Student \$5 Group \$25 Patron \$50 Benefactor \$100

2. MEMORIAL DONATION AMOUNT _____ In Memory of or In Honor of _____

3. ADDITIONAL DONATION AMOUNT _____ Please earmark for _____ 4. TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Donations may also be made using the DONATE button on www.peopleforlife.life or by calling-in your credit card information.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

<input type="checkbox"/> Educational Booths	<input type="checkbox"/> Liaison to Another Organization	<input type="checkbox"/> March For Life Bus Trip Worker
<input type="checkbox"/> Phone Calling	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Demonstrations	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother's Day Carnation Project
<input type="checkbox"/> Office Attendant	<input type="checkbox"/> Pro-Life Breakfast Worker	<input type="checkbox"/> Erie March for Life Worker
<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Mailing	<input type="checkbox"/> Life Run Worker	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Call when you need an extra hand.</i>

Please make your check payable to:
PEOPLE FOR LIFE, INC.
 P.O. Box 1126
 Erie, PA 16512

Contributions or gifts to People for Life, Inc. are not tax deductible.
 The official registration and financial information of People for Life, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999.
 Registration does not imply endorsement.

PEOPLE FOR LIFE
www.PeopleforLife.life

phone (814) 882-1333
 phone / fax (814) 459-1333
 office@peopleforlife.org
www.facebook.com/PeopleforLife

Mailing Address
 P.O. Box 1126
 Erie, PA 16512

— Office Location —
 1625 W. 26th St.; Erie, PA
 Open 10:00 to 5:00 weekdays
 Call for evening and Saturday hours

41st Annual Pro-Life Breakfast

The 41st Annual Pro-Life Breakfast is just days away, so make your reservations today. Don't miss our Special Guest Speaker, Obianuju (Uju) Ekeocha and this opportunity to be a part of northwestern Pennsylvania's biggest pro-life event of the year.

The Breakfast will take place on Saturday, January 12 at the Erie Bayfront Convention Center. Doors will open and pro-life literature and merchandise will be ready to peruse by 8 a.m. The program will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude by 12:30. Uju will be available after the program to meet our guests and autograph copies of her recently published book, *Target Africa*.

Tickets are \$17 for ages over 12 and \$9 for ages 3-12. Please purchase by January 7. There are no ticket sales on the day of the event. Children under three are welcome to attend at no cost. See page three to choose the most convenient option for purchasing your tickets.

Plans are still evolving as this newsletter goes to the printer, but we are pleased to

report that U.S. Representative Mike Kelly and Catholic Bishop Lawrence Persico are expected to attend. Father Steve Schreiber, Chaplain at Mercyhurst Preparatory School and former U.S. Coast Guard Line Officer, will offer the opening prayer. Sister Catherine Murphy of The Spiritual Family, The Work will offer the Blessing before the Meal. People for Life's popular First Vice President Marielle Lafaro will be the MC. And everyone will be treated to gentle melodies by Erie's own Angelo Phillips.

If you are going to have a party of eight or more, please make sure we are aware when you get your tickets so we can place a reserved sign on your table and make sure that everyone in your group will be seated together.

Ushers will be available at the doors to direct people to their group tables as well as to seat smaller groups and individuals. Tables accommodate a maximum of 10 people.

Free child care with fun activities for all ages will be available while the adults are

January 2019
www.PeopleforLife.life/january2019
www.Facebook.com/PeopleforLife
Pro-Life Breakfast
Saturday, January 12, 2019, 9 a.m.
Erie Bayfront Convention Center
Special Guest Speaker: Obianuju Ekeocha
www.Facebook.com/ProLifeBreakfast
March for Life Bus Trip
Leave Erie January 17, 2019, 11 p.m.
Return about 2 a.m., January 19
\$55 per seat
www.Facebook.com/MarchforLifeBusTrip
Erie March for Life
Saturday, January 26, 2019, 11 a.m.
Begins and Concludes at Perry Square

listening to the speakers.

For more information and to get updates about the Pro-Life Breakfast, visit www.peopleforlife.org/january2019 and follow www.facebook.com/ProLifeBreakfast.

46th Annual Bus Trip to the March for Life

The 2019 Washington, DC March for Life will take place on Friday, January 18, and for the 46th year in a row, People for Life has arranged safe, convenient, and economical transportation to and from this event.

If you would like to be a part of the biggest annual pro-life event in the world this January, please join us. Come by yourself and team up with some of our marchers or round up a group to bring with you. We welcome church, college, and high school groups, extended families, and groups of all types and sizes.

Sadly, a pro-abortion march is scheduled to take place in Washington on the very next day after the March for Life. Don't find yourself watching the anti-life march on the Saturday

evening TV news and wishing you had been in DC the day before to stand for life, compassion, and true justice for all.

Our Anderson motor coaches will set out from Erie at 11 p.m. on Thursday, January 17 and return about 2 a.m. on Saturday, January

19. There will be a stop for passengers at the Edinboro Exit of I-79. We will be in Washington from approximately 7 a.m. until 5 p.m.

The cost for each seat is \$55. A few extra dollars are needed for Metro fare and meals.

The March for Life program does not officially begin until noon, so there will be time in the morning to explore our nation's capital. There are countless choices of interesting places to go and memorable things to see.

A sure bet for breakfast is the Longworth Food Court in the Longworth House Office

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2019 PRO-LIFE CALENDAR 2019

Jan. 12	41st Pro-Life Breakfast - Bayfront Convention Center, 9 a.m.
Jan. 17	March for Life buses depart from Erie, 11 p.m.
Jan. 18	46th Annual March for Life - Washington, DC
Jan. 19	March for Life buses return - approximately 2 a.m.
Jan. 26	Erie March for Life - from Perry Square, Downtown Erie, 11 a.m.
March 4	Last day for statewide PPLF Student Essay contest entries
April 13	People for Life High School Oratory Contest
April 15	General Meeting, 6:30 p.m. - 1625 W. 26th St., Erie
April 15	Last day to submit People for Life Student Essay Contest entries
April 15	Last day for statewide PPLF High School Oratory Contest entries
April 16	Last day to register to vote in the May 15 primary election
May 8	Last do to apply for an absentee ballot
May 11	Last day absentee ballots will be accepted at the Court House
May 12	Mother's Day / Mother's Day Carnation Project
May 15	General Primary Election
May 20	Annual Election of Officers Mtg., 6:30 p.m. - 1625 W. 26th St., Erie
July 5-6	National Right to Life Convention - Charleston, South Carolina