



Pro-Life Waco 2016 Year in Review



Introduction & Preview

Another year of wide-ranging pro-life outreach in the public square. Pro-Life Waco continued what has succeeded in the past: monthly Life Chain, pro-life booth at the HOT Fair, Protest Bank of America, and I-35 overpass outreach.

We also embraced new initiatives for opportunities and challenges that came our way. These included a video seminar on the baby body parts scandal, protests of Target's open bathroom policy, protests at Planned Parenthood events in Dallas and Austin, and more. So many pro-lifers stepped into the public square to proclaim that abortion will never be accepted in Central Texas. We also proclaimed that sexual confusion, chaos, and immorality are the root causes for the shedding of innocent blood. Our generous donors provided PLW the running room to make big things happen. Thank you!

You are invited to join the Central Texas pro-life, pro-family movement in 2017. You will find participation to be personally and spiritually rewarding. We were not created for lives of calm comfort, but rather for battle for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This summary is written by Pro-Life Waco Director, John Pisciotta, often in the first person form.

Rally for Life in Austin

2016 began with Rally for Life in Austin on January 23. The weather was perfect for the march of 4,000 up Congress Avenue and the Rally program delivered from the steps of the impressive state capitol building. Waco was well represented in numbers and enthusiasm. The Rally for Life is a great energy boost for the battles that lie ahead in a new year. Pro-Life Waco had the largest banner in the march to the capitol. One of our huge overpass outreach banners worked just fine.



I-35 overpass outreach

Overpass outreach was new for Pro-Life Waco back in 2015. Our first outreach at the overpass near Baylor was on the Roe anniversary, January 22, 2015. Then on September 22, 2015 we went over the top with a Dawn to Dusk outreach in response to the horrific videos showing the harvesting and sale of baby body parts by Planned Parenthood.

Pro-Life Waco is a 501c3 non-profit.
Contributions are tax deductible.
Your financial support is vital for 2017
Donations go directly to pro-life outreach
with not a dime for salaries.
You can donate online at ProLifeWaco.com
Or send to:
PLW, 4200 Grim Ave., Waco, TX 76710

We settled in for 2016 with a powerful display of pro-life banners once each month. Each outreach impacted an estimated 14,000 vehicles from Mini-Coopers to 18-wheel trucks. Overpass outreach has been an enjoyable event and a terrific addition to the arsenal of PLW.



Protest Bank of America

Soon after the baby body organs scandal erupted in July of 2015, Bank of America was listed by *Daily Signal* as one of 38 major corporate donors to Planned Parenthood. Pro-Life Waco discovered that BOA support was in the form of including Planned Parenthood in their matching grants for employee donations (up to \$5,000 per employee).

The first weekly protest was delivered at the BOA branch on Valley Mills Dr. on September 1. We named this campaign ProtestBOA. What began as a brief wake-up call for BOA has continued throughout 2016 and now into 2017. The ProtestBOA demand for Bank of America is to drop Planned Parenthood from their national matching grant program, as is done by many other corporations.

September 8, 2016 marked one year since Pro-Life Waco launched this challenge to Bank of America. Two customers committed to closing out their BOA checking accounts at the anniversary protest. One did so in response to my portable sound system. As has become our tradition, we went to Uncle Dan's BBQ across the street from Bank of America for lunch and fellowship.

The initiative to compel a Bank of America/Merrill Lynch decision to sever ties with Planned Parenthood will continue through 2017, possibly with some new tactics. Please call Bank of America (800-218-9946) and urge them to change their policy. Regardless of the BOA decision, ProtestBOA continues as a strong outreach for the pro-life message. See more on ProtestBOA at <http://bit.ly/2hyk3Gv>

Spring Break Bank of America Protest in Charlotte

Waco is not the heart of Bank of America. However, Charlotte, NC is. My visit to Charlotte, NC became a reality thanks to the financial support of a single donor. I flew out to Charlotte for 3 full days of protest at their national headquarters: April 11, 12, & 13. What follows are selections of what I posted to Facebook during my "spring break" in Charlotte:

My host for the Great Adventure in Charlotte, Flip Benham of Operation Save America, arrived for protest at 1 p.m. on the first day. He stayed out all the way to 4:30 p.m. and helped me with planning.



Before I arrived on Day 1 at the corner of Trade Street and Tryon Street, four allies from Catholic Pro-Life Outreach in Charlotte were already on site. They did a great job for two hours holding signs, talking to pedestrians, and passing out literature. Mike Fitzgerald, my former student at Baylor, arranged their participation.

During the three days, I was alone for no more than a couple hours.

Flip Benham was out on the protest site each day and brought a handful of friends. Flip used his portable public address system for over an hour in the afternoon. Wow, Flip is a great preacher.

I received just two negative hand signs during the three days. Very welcoming.



I had the opportunity to counsel with a pregnant mom who was forced by her mother to abort her first baby.

The big surprise of Day 2 was a visit from Eric Orozco who lives in Charlotte. Parents Victor and Gloria (Temple Texas area) told Eric I would be somewhere around the BOA Tower.

The protest in Charlotte was demanding physically and emotionally. I believe we made Bank of America pay a price for their financial support of Planned Parenthood. And we had a great opportunity to witness for the Gospel and the little ones Jesus loves so dearly. We are always victorious when we stand against those who support killing babies in the womb.

Seminar: Baby Body Parts Scandal

Since the mainstream media is so biased, WE must be the media ourselves. To follow through on this proposition, PLW Director John Pisciotta delivered three seminars on the horrific abortion industry behavior revealed in the Center for Medical Progress undercover videos.



The House of Representatives Investigative Committee has referred PP of the Gulf Coast to the Justice Department for criminal investigation.

The video selections for the program did not show aborted babies or baby organs to make the event more palatable. Still, the events were by no means G-rated. Presentations on March 31 and July 11 happened at the Waco Public Library. On July 14, I presented to the Central Texas Fellowship of Catholic Men. I am available for a free presentation to your church or organization. The length of the program can be anywhere between 45 minutes to 1.5 hours.

A self-directed form of the seminar is available to you at: <http://bit.ly/2hxUVQv>

Second Sunday Gathering

PLW's action agenda is planned and promoted at Second Sunday Pro-Life Gathering. This is a luncheon/meeting at St. Mary's Parish Hall. We begin with a noon-hour meal prepared under the direction of Chef Giovanni.

Half of the meeting from 1 to 2 p.m. is frequently devoted to a speaker. Our speakers in 2016 were: Carol Everett of Heidi Group in Round Rock, Deborah McGregor of CareNet Pregnancy Center of Central Texas, Day Gardner of the National Black Pro-Life Coalition headquartered in Maryland, and Abby Johnson of And Then There Were None in Round Rock.

Abby and her growing family were with us for November Second Sunday, which turned out to be our biggest ever, with over 100 attending, dining and simply enjoying a great event. Abby briefly presented her conversion story, which rocked the pro-life/pro-abortion terrain in 2009. Then she opened up for a half-hour of Q&A.



First Sunday Life Chain

The first Sunday of each month is Life Chain Sunday at the intersection of Valley Mills Drive and Waco Drive. We hold "G-rated" signs to bring pro-life messages to the Waco community. For July and November (for election), Life Chain took on a patriotic look. In October, we joined International Life Chain Sunday along with over 1,500 communities worldwide.



Sidewalk counselling at Planned Parenthood

Planned Parenthood Waco operates an everything-but-abortion facility, which refers moms for abortions in Austin & Dallas. Sidewalk counselors spend 2-3 hours a week counseling women coming for appointments. Topics and flyer materials include sexual morality, realities of abortion, other clinics available for health care, Christian evangelization, and whatever develops in discussion. Pro-Life Waco would like to expand this ministry in 2017. With Planned Parenthood's growing Hispanic clientele, the need for bi-lingual counselors is great.

Billboards: 24/7 Outreach

Billboards are a great way to reach out to pro-lifers and to those who have not yet developed reverence for life in the womb. PLW has its largest billboard on Franklin Ave. at 16th Street. We have seven junior billboards in the Waco area, including one just a block from Planned Parenthood Waco. What's new for 2016 was the rental of six junior billboards with messages and locations rotating throughout the Waco area.

This billboard at Franklin Ave. attracted a lot of attention.



Booth @ HOT Fair: 40+ years

October brings the Heart of Texas Fair to Waco. PLW provides a pro-life booth each year. This public square outreach is now in its 4th decade. Smiling children received over 2,000 "Choose Life" balloons. Thousands of fairgoers enjoy the materials, photos, and models of life in the womb. Thanks to Doel Garcia and all his volunteers for delivering this powerful outreach.



With materials distributed, beautiful visuals of preborn life, and many conversations, the pro-life booth sows seeds of respect and support for the preborn and their moms.

"Honorable Mention" Events

On April 4, Waco pro-lifers helped send strong messages to **Planned Parenthood CEO Cecile Richards** who spoke at a Dallas gala luncheon benefitting Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas.

On July 1, PLW protested the **Texas State Teachers Association** in Austin, an affiliate of the National Education Association. NEA is a proponent of the Planned Parenthood agenda. Our protest was part of a national campaign.

Planned Parenthood in Austin held their annual fundraising banquet on Sept. 18. For the sixth year, Pro-Life Waco led a protest to "greet" pro-abortion attendees. Collaboration came from Round Rock, Georgetown, and Killeen.

Protest Target for its Open Bathroom Policy. PLW joined nationwide protests on August 21, November 19 and November 25 at the Target store on Bosque Blvd.

Billboard truck is "forever young" with new messages

For over a half decade, "Carolyn" the pro-life billboard truck has been deployed strategically at Life Chain, at Planned Parenthood during business hours, and more.



The truck has held up well since 2009 and is a familiar icon of Pro-Life Waco.

Worldwide FB Outreach

PLW Director John Pisciotta has created two large and vibrant Facebook groups: Hometown Pro-Life Action with over 8000 members and Pro-Life Politics with over 4200. More than 80 countries are represented and participating. Are you on Facebook? If yes, now is the time to join these groups that are having a worldwide impact for the Gospel of life.

PLW on the Airwaves

Media: Television

KWKT (Fox). Interview on the **Zika virus and abortion attitudes**. 28July2016.

KCEN (NBC) and KWTX (CBS) news stories on **PLW's protest of Target's open bathroom policy**. KCEN was the lead story of over two minutes. 21Aug2016

KCEN (NBC). **Abby Johnson speaks for Waco pro-life event**. Lead news story on Abby Johnson presentation to Pro-Life Waco Second Sunday Gathering. 13Nov2016

KXXV (ABC) News segment on **Texas regulation requiring the remains of aborted babies** to be buried or cremated—not dumped in landfills. 30Nov2016

Media: Radio

Lynn Woolley talk show. KTEM Temple and 8 other Texas stations. Topic was the **Rally for Life in Austin**. 20January2016.

Jim Sedlak's weekly Pro-Life Activism Today, Ave Maria Radio. Pisciotta interviewed on his **pro-life Facebook groups**. July 29

KATH, in DFW metroplex. On **PLW billboard campaigns**. 18August2016.

Letters to the editor Waco. Pro-life 22 – Pro-abortion 13

The battle of "letters to the editor" raged again in the **Waco Tribune-Herald** in 2016. Final score was 22 to 13. Of course our side won. Thanks to all who wrote, whether you got printed or not. We stand up for the defenseless on the streets of Waco and at our keyboards.

Thank you

to all who have
• prayed • worked • and financially supported
the Gospel of Life in Waco in 2016.

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