



Activating the Church to End Abortion
www.priestsforlife.org

2017 REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND PLANS

1. Structure and Finances

Introduction

Priests for Life, the largest Catholic-inspired apostolate focused on ending abortion, is actually a family of interrelated apostolates and programs, including three corporations (*Priests for Life, Inc.*, *Gospel of Life Ministries*, and *Rachel's Vineyard*), and various related programs and outreaches, including *Deacons for Life*, *Seminarians for Life*, *Missionaries of the Gospel of Life*, *the Silent No More Awareness Campaign*, *Civil Rights for the Unborn (our African-American Outreach)*, *Hispanic Outreach*, *Stand True Youth Outreach*, *Political Responsibility*, *Prayer Campaign*, *Life on the Line Media Outreach*, and *the Parliamentary Network for Critical Issues*.

Our Pastoral Team includes Janet Morana (co-founder of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign), Evangelist Alveda King (niece of Martin Luther King, Jr.), Marie Smith (wife of Congressman Chris Smith), Dr. Theresa and Kevin Burke (co-founders of Rachel's Vineyard), Bryan Kemper (founder of Stand True), and others who work with the ministries that comprise the Priests for Life Family.

The priests who serve full time are Fr. Frank Pavone, Fr. Denis Wilde, OSA (Associate Director), Fr. Stephen Imbarrato, and Fr. Walter Quinn, OSA.

The following report is a **partial** summary of some of our activities. More detailed reports of some of the other branches of our ministry for 2017 are being prepared and will be linked here shortly.

Independent Financial Audit

Because of Hurricane Irma, Priests for Life, now headquartered in Florida, received a special extension for the completion of its annual its independent financial audit for 2016, and it is nearing completion as this report was put together.

Our audits have been unanimously positive for the past two decades. Our audit committee includes Wall Street executives with significant financial expertise, which has given us renewed confidence in our operations. You may always view the latest audit at www.priestsforlife.org/audit.

Regarding our finances, along with our independent audits, Priests for Life has the added benefit of having had an Apostolic Visitation which was completed in 2013. The final report issued by the Vatican's *Congregation for Clergy* after the Visitation stated,

"It is the opinion of the Apostolic Visitor that the Association has been relatively well administered financially... There has been an annual Audit of the Association every year... [T]he work and finances of PFL are in order... [T]he administrative costs of PFL are in keeping with other groups receiving similar funding in the United States."

Update of Organizational Bylaws and Mission Statement

Priests for Life is **not** a canonical entity. Though it was recognized as an association of the faithful in 1991, it has freely expanded its work and structure in such a way that the original statutes no longer apply. **Most well known Catholic apostolates, of course, are not associations either -- such as EWTN and the Knights of Columbus.** Like them, Priests for Life is an apostolate that spreads Catholic teaching and seeks to apply it to our culture.

The bylaws and corporate structure of Priests for Life have undergone a thorough review by our General Counsel who continues to be satisfied that they conform to proper corporate practices and all relevant laws.

Overview of Activities: Our Family of Ministries

Priests for Life (direct ministry to priests)

Our priests offer clergy seminars in dioceses, training materials for preaching and counseling, and individual consultation for clergy on the pro-life dimensions of their ministry.

Deacons for Life

Deacons are also members of the clergy, and often have opportunities not available to priests to promote the Gospel of Life. We train, encourage, and mobilize them, too.

Seminarians for Life

Those who are training for the ministry need to know, from the beginning, the ways in which they can prepare to be effective advocates for life. We therefore reach out to seminarians and provide them the tools and the example by which they can proclaim, celebrate, and serve the Gospel of Life. This involves presentations in seminaries, online resources, and more.

Missionaries of the Gospel of Life (pro-life spirituality for clergy and laity)

Being pro-life, and doing pro-life activities, is not a hobby or simply rooted in an ideology or political platform. It is a *spirituality*, and is rooted in our discipleship. We therefore teach both clergy and laity the spirituality of being a Missionary of the Gospel of Life, and how that spirituality shapes pro-life strategy and tactics.

Rachel's Vineyard

Under the Priests for Life umbrella is the world's largest ministry for healing after abortion. Rachel's Vineyard holds hundreds of retreats each year for men and women who have lost children to abortion.

Silent No More Awareness Campaign

A project of Priests for Life and Anglicans for Life, the Silent No More Awareness Campaign is the world's largest mobilization of men and women who have lost a child to abortion, have experienced healing, and now want to share their testimony. The Campaign promotes healing and a greater awareness of the wounds abortion causes.

Civil Rights for the Unborn

Dr. Alveda King, niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is the director of Civil Rights for the Unborn, which is the outreach program of Priests for Life to the African-American community. Alveda declares that the civil rights movement of today is the pro-life movement!

Hispanic Outreach

Both in the US and around the world, we are assisting communities of Hispanic heritage to build the Culture of Life.

Gospel of Life Ministries

Gospel of Life Ministries brings to an interdenominational audience the wide variety of pro-life work that Priests for Life does.

Youth Outreach

Bryan Kemper, is the founder and president of Stand True Ministries, a Christ-centered pro-life group determined to awaken the youth of this country and share the message of life and the Gospel of Christ. He has spent years reaching out to youth and encouraging this generation to get involved, and now he continues that outreach with Stand True Ministries, which is an affiliate organization of Priests for Life and Gospel of Life Ministries.

Parliamentary Network for Critical Issues (PNCI)

Marie Smith is the Director of the Parliamentary Network for Critical Issues (PNCI), which falls under the umbrella of Gospel of Life Ministries. PNCI equips and encourages individuals to engage in the political process and works to ensure that elected and appointed officials not only uphold their obligations to protect life but are assisted in such efforts.

Life on the Line

Life on the Line is our broadcast ministry (radio, television, and internet), consisting of live and pre-recorded programs as well as short spots provided to media outlets around the world, including EWTN, Bott Radio Network, Radio Maria, Relevant Radio, Vatican Radio, and much more.

Prayer Campaign

All we do is rooted in prayer, which both undergirds and fosters productive action. We foster prayer campaigns throughout the year, corresponding to various liturgical and secular seasons and holidays.

Political Responsibility

As both citizens of heaven and citizens of this world, we are called to exercise political responsibility to elect leaders who will defend life, and to sustain those leaders on the right path. We therefore teach and mobilize voters to make a difference in the voting booth.

Networking Leaders

Priests for Life occupies a strategic place of unity in the pro-life movement. We foster relations between leaders, groups, and ministries. We facilitate strategic planning sessions on every level, as well as leadership retreats and seminars. Priests for Life coordinates the quarterly meetings of national pro-life leaders in the United States.

2. Updates on Specific Projects and Activities

Travels at the Service of Dioceses and the Wider Movement

Hundreds of trips across the United States and the world were made in 2017 by the priests and pastoral associates of the Priests for Life team, at the invitation of dioceses, parishes, schools, various apostolates, pro-life groups of all denominations, media outlets and government officials. These speaking engagements take the form of preaching at masses, presentations at conferences, educational lectures and seminars, media interviews of various types, pro-life banquets, prayer vigils at abortion clinics, marches and rallies, school presentations, strategy meetings with pro-life leaders, and more.

As a small sampling of how we have served dioceses, the Archdiocese of New York welcomed our Youth Outreach director Bryan Kemper to give a presentation at a YouthFest at one of its Catholic high schools; our Pastoral Associate Kevin Burke was a guest speaker at the Archdiocese of Newark's Men's Conference to address more than 1,600 men about the impact of abortion; our Executive Director Janet Morana was the keynote speaker at the bishop's pro-life dinner for the Diocese of Colorado Springs; Alveda King addressed the statewide respect life conference of the dioceses of Florida, and Dr. Theresa Burke gave a clergy seminar in the Diocese of Phoenix and another training at the request of the Archdiocese of St Paul-Minneapolis.

Fr. Frank Pavone was also given a role on the faculty of the Pontifical Athanaeum Regina Apostolorum in Rome to present a course on pro-life bioethics early in 2017. This helped to train leaders internationally on how to apply the Church's pro-life teachings to the concrete efforts in various nations to protect the unborn and promote healing of the wounds of abortion.

Move to Florida and Creation of Headquarters for National Pro-life Training

In 2017, Priests for Life opened an expanded world headquarters in a building the corporation purchased in Titusville, FL. This new and larger facility replaces the one out of which Priests for Life operated in New York for the past 17 years. This move allows Priests for Life to grow with much less overhead for facilities costs and salaries, given the difference between Titusville and New York City.

Moreover, the new headquarters, fully equipped with a modern television and radio studio and training center, will serve the wider pro-life movement, consistent with the role of Priests for Life in offering strategic consultation, unity meetings and retreats and seminars.

Exposing Late-Term Abortion Project

Priests for Life has initiated an effort to awaken the conscience of the American public that abortions are being carried out legally *throughout the full duration of pregnancy, on healthy babies carried by healthy mothers.*

With the assistance of [Abortion Free New Mexico](#) we have commissioned over a dozen different [undercover phone calls](#) (with more to come) to clinics across the country. Our caller posed as a healthy pregnant woman in the latter stages of a healthy pregnancy. She called to schedule an abortion at 24, 26, 30 and 32 weeks of pregnancy! In every

instance, and without hesitation, she was given the green light to schedule an abortion, even though she made it clear that both she and her baby were healthy.

We are compiling the evidence that late term abortions in these circumstances are legal and happening regularly. This educational project is meant to break through the ignorance and denial that is so prevalent among our fellow citizens. When you tell people that a mother can legally abort her baby at, for instance, 24 weeks or even 30 weeks of pregnancy and beyond – as our calls demonstrate – they will look at you in disbelief. Some will say we are making it up. Others will say it happens only if the mother is going to die or the baby is deformed. But it's time for those myths to stop.

In conjunction with this project, we have also created a survey which measures people's opinions on late term abortion. It is posted at AbortionSurvey.org We are particularly interested in people who consider themselves "pro-choice" filling out the survey, so that we can show the large numbers of prochoice people who nevertheless oppose late term abortion, and begin to mobilize them to help us stop it.

Catholic and Pro-life Presence at National Conferences

Priests for Life continues to provide a strong Catholic presence at various national pro-life conferences as well as a pro-life presence at other conferences. Once again in 2017 this activity continued, as Priests for Life National Director Fr. Frank Pavone made major presentations at the National Right to Life Conference, the annual conference of Heartbeat International (network of pregnancy centers) and many other national and local conferences. Fr. Frank led the pro-life events at the Catholic Marketing Network annual national trade show, gave a major presentation at the Blackstone Fellowship (training law students from around the country), and was a key pro-life and Catholic presence along with Executive Director Janet Morana at the three meetings of the Council for National Policy throughout the year. Priests for Life also organizes and administers the quarterly meetings of national pro-life leaders of the United States.

Fostering Pro-life Activism

Priests for Life participated in a strategic roundtable of pro-life activist leaders, exploring the shape of pro-life "direct action" in our day (protests, prayer vigils at abortion facilities, etc.). Priests for Life likewise has been a strong supporter, and has assisted in organizing local events around the nation, in conjunction with the national "Protest Planned Parenthood" initiative, through which people gather to pray and protest at Planned Parenthood facilities simultaneously from coast to coast on various days.

Norma McCorvey, the Jane Roe of Roe vs. Wade

Fr. Frank Pavone, who in 1998 received Norma McCorvey, the "Jane Roe" of Roe vs. Wade, into the Catholic Church, conducted her funeral service in February of this year. With pro-life leaders from across the nation gathered together to say farewell to this woman who was a beacon of hope that anyone could convert from pro-abortion to pro-life, her passing was a pivotal moment for the United States pro-life movement. The movement recommitted itself not only to educating others about Norma's remarkable journey, but to reaching out with renewed vigor to those who are still on the wrong side of this issue.

Prolife.Church

In 2017, Priests for Life launched ProLife.Church, a special website on which resources will be offered and special projects coordinated to help make Churches more effective in their pro-life activities.

The first such project was launched this year in partnership with Heartbeat International and Good Counsel Homes. The project simply urges pastors, in all denominations, to place on their parish bulletins and websites the simple phone number and website at which people can find alternatives to abortion and healing after abortion. This directly assists those who need such help, equips parishioners with the tool to offer such help to those within their reach, and shows the true face of the pro-life movement, which is one of compassion, not condemnation.

Followup to the Elections of 2016

Priests for Life helped to inform and activate voters to achieve many pro-life victories in the elections of 2016, from the President to Congress to many state offices. Priests for Life has taken a leading role in explaining the pro-life electoral gains throughout 2017 in various media commentaries.

During the election, during the transition, and now in the Presidential Administration, the Priests for Life team gave advice on pro-life and Catholic matters to Mr. Trump and his advisors and to many government agencies.

Supreme Court and other Judicial Nominations

Priests for Life worked to achieve the nomination and confirmation of Neil Gorsuch to the US Supreme Court. This included behind the scenes advice as well as raising public

awareness about the process and about the need to lobby the US Senate for a swift and fair confirmation process.

Moreover, Priests for Life continues to play a leading educational and lobbying role to fill the approximately 150 vacancies on the federal courts with solid pro-life judges who are aware of the limits of their own role to apply rather than re-write the Constitution.

Ending the Johnson Amendment

Fr. Frank Pavone's book *Abolishing Abortion*, published by Thomas Nelson/HarperCollins in the summer of 2015, examines at length the misinterpretations of the political activity prohibition for Churches in the tax code, and concludes that Churches should stop censoring themselves out of fear of losing their tax-exempt status. It is an irony that, on the one hand, Churches fight against mandates from the government that restrict their freedom to live out the faith, but then impose their own mandates internally that restrict their freedom to live out the same faith in the political realm.

Throughout 2017, we continued to raise awareness about the freedom that the church has -- and must preserve -- to preach, teach, and "*pass moral judgment even in matters relating to politics*" (Second Vatican Council, *Gaudium et Spes*, n.76).

Developments in public policy vindicated our approach, as the Trump administration instructed federal agencies not to enforce the Johnson Amendment in ways that infringe on the freedom of Churches to speak their minds freely, even in political matters.

This does not mean the Church becomes partisan or violates the law, but rather simply that she applies her pro-life teachings to the political arena, according to the teaching of the US Bishops' document *Living the Gospel of Life (1998)*. We assist Churches and pro-life organizations to initiate non-partisan voter registration drives, voter education and get-out-the-vote activities.

Priests for Life Case Against HHS Mandate: Victory!

Priests for Life was the fourth group to launch a federal lawsuit against the "HHS Mandate," which is an attack on religious liberty whereby the Obama Administration tried to force religious groups -- and virtually all employers -- to be complicit in the expansion of abortion and contraception.

Our case (*14-1453 PRIESTS FOR LIFE, ET AL. V. DEPT. OF H&HS, ET AL.*), was heard by the US Supreme Court, along with six other cases challenging the mandate.

The high court sent the case back to the lower courts with the instructions that the government and the petitioners were to attempt to work out a solution.

Priests for Life participated in those discussions, leading in 2017 to changes in the mandate and a settlement with the government that satisfied all our objections and brought lasting protection to our religious freedom. We signed the settlement publicly and continued to conduct public education about the mandate and about this victory for religious freedom.

Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act

Priests for Life continues to provide strong educational and lobbying support for the Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which in 2017 was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives, and continued to advance on the state level.

This measure, which protects unborn children who can feel pain (from 20 weeks of development forward), has the support of the President and now needs to be passed by the U.S. Senate.

Does the focus on fetal pain obscure our message that abortion is wrong whether the child feels pain or not? No, not any more than that message that "abortion hurts women" obscures our message that abortion is wrong whether the woman is hurt or not.

The fact is that in a society in which so many have lost their grasp of fundamental morality, the experiential dimension of the impact of abortion (whether from the vantage point of the experience of the mother or of the child) can help them to begin to re-evaluate the position of abortion on demand and begin moving in the direction of reasonable restrictions on the procedure, with many lives saved as a result.

Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Abortion Act

Priests for Life also continues to provide strong educational and lobbying support for the Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Abortion Act, which also advanced on the state level in 2017 and will eventually be voted on in the U.S. Congress. This measure protects unborn children from any and all procedures involving dismemberment.

Prayer campaigns

We will continue our campaign to mobilize believers to pray each day for an end to abortion. We do this by means of a daily prayer to end abortion, and at special times, by means of seasonal prayers and novenas. The prayer website www.PrayerCampaign.org provides the faithful with specific pro-life prayers related to liturgical seasons, pro-life feasts, and other significant occasions.

All these prayers are made available online in English and Spanish, and some of them have printed prayer cards available as well.

Preaching on Abortion from the Lectionary

We continued throughout 2017 making Fr. Frank Pavone's book "*Proclaiming the Message of Life*," available to dioceses, clergy, and laity everywhere. The book provides an overview about preaching on abortion based on the extensive experience of the Priests For Life team since 1991 and includes the most frequently asked questions and concerns of clergy regarding preaching on this topic. The book then provides notes for homily suggestions based on each set of Sunday readings for the entire three-year Sunday cycle of the lectionary.

Various bishops have provided the book to all the priests in their diocese.

National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children

Priests for Life again sponsored the National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children on September 9, 2017.

Fr. Frank Pavone and Fr. Denis Wilde of our team led the service in Philadelphia, at the gravesite of babies killed by notorious abortionist Kermit Gosnell, who is now serving a life sentence for having killed babies outside the womb.

At some 50 different gravesites throughout the United States, where tens of thousands of aborted children are buried, simultaneous memorial services were held on that day. Leading up to this observance, educational efforts focused people on how these burial places came to be, how the babies were found, and how they were killed in the first place.

Silent No More: New Resource for Healing the Shockwaves of Abortion

Throughout 2017, Priests for Life, through its Silent No More Awareness Campaign (a joint project with Anglicans for Life) continued its campaign called ***Healing the Shockwaves of Abortion*** (www.AbortionShockwaves.com).

This initiative promotes educational and pastoral activity based on the fact that every abortion impacts multiple groups of people: not only baby and parents, but also grandparents, siblings, friends, abortion providers, pro-life advocates, and our entire society. Since the wound is multifaceted, so is the healing. Nobody can be healed from abortion ***in isolation***. The healing must extend to all of the relationships the wounded person has. We all heal together. Each month we focus on a special target group that has been directly impacted by abortion loss, with helpful information, resources, and abortion-recovery programs.

As another step in this initiative, Janet Morana, co-founder of Silent No More, released a book at the end of the year (through Catholic Book Publishing Co.) called *Shockwaves: Abortion's Wider Circle of Victims*. This book will advance awareness of the initiative throughout the coming year.

A separate [End of Year Report](#) is included here on the activities and growth of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign in 2017.

Priests for Life Media Outreach

Priests for Life maintains an aggressive media outreach in print, broadcast, and online content. We produce programming and our team is also available on a daily basis for interviews and comments on news related to abortion. Some 300 interviews were carried out in 2017. We belong to various media associations, religious and secular, and foster numerous personal relationships with key influencers and executives in major media outlets.

A separate [Short Overview](#) is included here on the media outreach of Priests for Life in 2017, as well as the [full 2017 End of Year Report](#).

Rachel's Vineyard

Rachel's Vineyard, founded by Dr. Theresa and Kevin Burke, is the largest ministry in the world for healing after abortion, and operates as a ministry of Priests for Life. Theresa and Kevin, as well as the staff of the international RV headquarters, are employed as full-time associates of Priests for Life.

Rachel's Vineyard offers retreats for healing, as well as group and individual follow-up. The retreat model is based on solid psychological research of abortion as trauma, and also based on the Word of God and the grace of the sacraments.

Rachel's Vineyard has been praised personally by Pope Francis and enjoys the endorsement of bishops around the world.

For more details on Rachel's Vineyard, please see the separate [Short Overview](#) as well as the [full 2017 End of Year Report](#).

Stand True Pro-life Youth Outreach

Stand True (www.StandTrue.com) is the Youth Outreach of Priests for Life. The founder and director of Stand True is Bryan Kemper, who travels the nation and the world mobilizing youth to stand up for the unborn and providing them cutting edge resources to do so. As one of the standard messages of Stand True declares, "This is the Generation that will Abolish Abortion".

Once again in 2017, Stand True sponsored its "Pro-life Day of Silent Solidarity," on which thousands of students express their opposition to abortion and their solidarity with its silent victims by spending the whole day without saying a word.

Stand True also continued to lead the way in utilizing social media to reach, encourage, and mobilize the youngest generation of pro-life activists, as well as many others who have been in the movement longer. Stand True helps to train other pro-life leaders and groups on how to use the power of social media to help the cause of life.

Stand True continued to lead prayer vigils and protests at abortion mills around the nation, and helped others to learn how to do the same.

Stand True brings the pro-life message and resources to pro-life youth conferences, summer training camps, and other pro-life conferences and rallies around the world. Stand True also helps to conduct the official youth rally each year at the National March for Life in Washington, DC.

Civil Rights for the Unborn

Under the leadership of our full-time associate, Evangelist Alveda King, niece of Martin Luther King Jr., we have continued the work of our African-American Outreach at Priests for Life, known as "Civil Rights for the Unborn." Through a variety of educational and media efforts, Alveda continues to proclaim that the civil rights movement of today is the pro-life movement, and that the dream of her uncle Martin cannot survive if we murder our children. *More details are available in the separate [2017 End of Year Report on Civil Rights for the Unborn](#).*

United Nations

Priests for Life is a registered Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) at the United Nations, and participates in many conferences and makes many interventions on behalf of the unborn. Priests for Life also provides extensive service to the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations and other Vatican agencies as they seek to defend human rights and promote human development around the world. *See the separate [2017 Short Overview on international activities for more details](#), and the additional [2017 End of Year Report from our Parliamentary Network for Critical Issues](#).*

Separate reports are also included here on the activities of our fulltime priest associates [Fr. Denis G. Wilde, OSA](#), and [Fr. Stephen Imbarrato](#).