



Activating the Church to End Abortion

# FR. FRANK **REPORTS...**

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## **Saying Goodbye to Mother Angelica**

*by Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director*

Our whole Priests for Life family was saddened to learn of the passing of Mother Angelica on Easter Sunday. We have all lost a friend, a mentor, a spiritual mother, a voice of conscience, and a source of laughter and encouragement.

In my frequent visits to EWTN, I was often privileged to say mass in her room, sometimes with Fr. Joseph, and other times just with Mother and the sister who attended to her. One of the many special aspects of these visits was that I would always bring with me the first class relic of some of the blood of Pope St. John Paul II. This relic was entrusted to me and Priests for Life by Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, who served as Pope John Paul II's personal secretary throughout his pontificate, and before.

I knew that the sisters prayed fervently to Pope St. John Paul II for Mother Angelica each day, and that therefore this would be a very meaningful gesture not only to the community, but also to Mother herself, who although unable to speak, was very aware of her surroundings and her visitors.

I remember in particular at one mass reflecting about how I was simultaneously in the presence of the Eucharistic Lord, the relic of John Paul II, and another saint still living on earth. Not exactly an everyday experience! I was eventually able to obtain an additional first class relic of John Paul II for the sisters to keep there permanently.

Now as it happened, the last time I celebrated mass in her room was exactly two weeks before she died. It was Sunday, March 13, and after having the mass, talking with those who were attending to her, and blessing her with the relic of John Paul II, I began to leave.

But as I was walking out the door of Mother's room, the sister attending



*Janet Morana (c.) greets Phoenix Bishop Thomas Olmsted and Katie Reyburn after the funeral of Mother Angelica.*

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to her called me back. **"Father,"** she said, **"come back, Mother is saying goodbye to you."**

And I turned to see her ever so slowly raising her left hand in a gesture of waving goodbye. It was not easy for her at this point to move her arms, and she had never made that gesture in the past as I left. So I blessed her again and told her how much everyone was praying for her. And then, of course, the Lord called her home on Easter.

The experience of the funeral liturgy at her Shrine in Hanceville was most inspiring. I got there early on that sunny Friday morning, April 1, and decided to mingle out on the plaza with all the faithful who were arriving little by little from places near and far. I connected with people there that I had not seen in years, but who, on the other hand, were very connected with me and with the others who have the privilege of broadcasting on this network that Mother founded.



*Fr. Frank Pavone processes into Mother Angelica's funeral mass with the other priests.*

The dominant emotion was gratitude, as we all smiled and recounted for one another how thankful we were that Mother spoke the truth so courageously and followed God's will so trustfully. We were thankful to God for the vocation he gave her, and thankful for her willingness to do what seemed crazy and impossible.

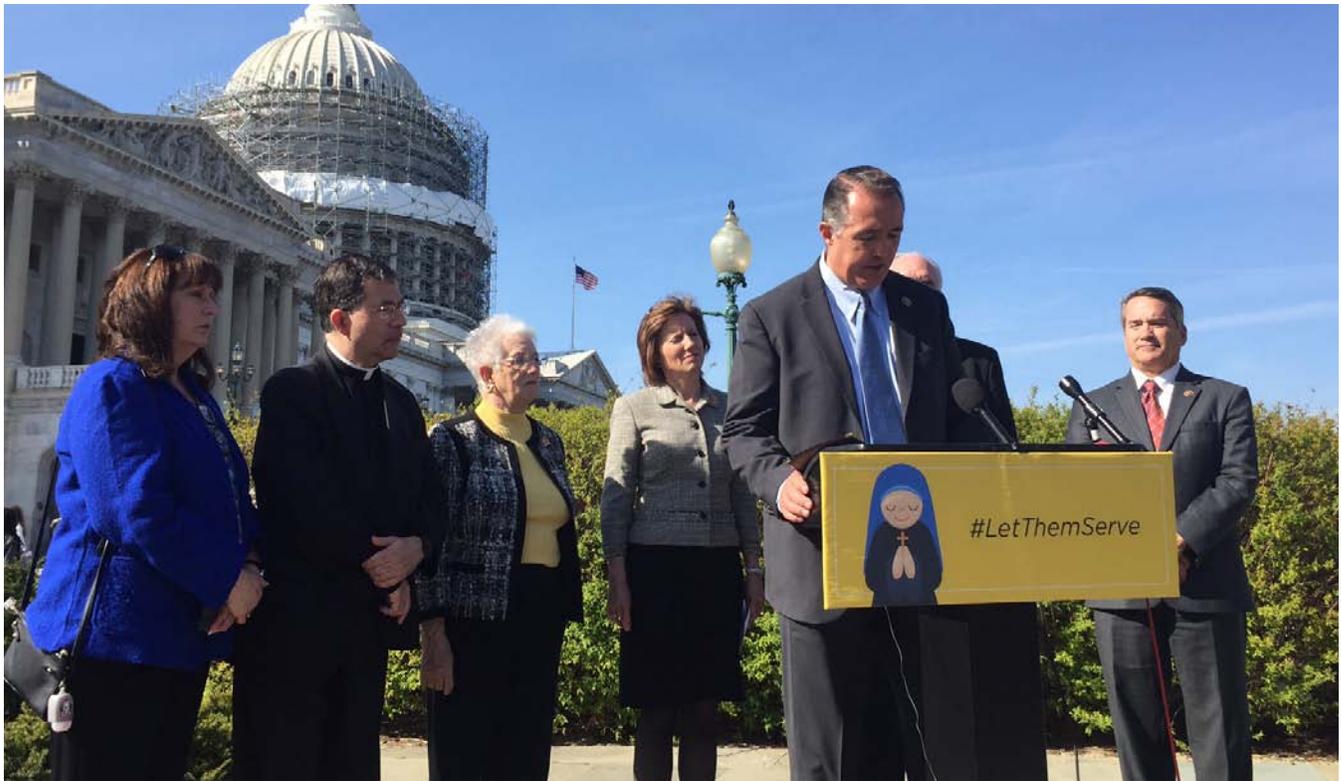


*Janet Morana and Fr. Frank join the crew of EWTN just prior to Mother Angelica's funeral Mass.*

Before the mass, I went up to the casket, which was still open, and blessed her one last time. I whispered some words of gratitude to her for having asked me personally, back in 1994, to begin taping for EWTN a TV series on abortion. The series, *Defending Life*, airs on EWTN to this day, and we just taped 13 more new episodes.

Mother Angelica's voice and her message will be with us for a long time. Thanks to the continued growth of the media apostolate she founded - an apostolate in which we eagerly participate - people will be able to learn and laugh with Mother Angelica for many years to come.

## Priests for Life Executives Join Members of Congress for Press Conference As Supreme Court Hears Priests for Life Case



On the day before the oral arguments for our Priests for Life vs. HHS case at the Supreme Court, along with our own press conference held at the National Press Club, I was invited - along with Janet Morana our Executive Director (and also a petitioner in the case) - to stand with members of Congress, led by Congressman Trent Franks (shown here at the microphone), as they addressed the press outside of the Capitol Building.

I have worked alongside these members of Congress for many years on matters related to abortion. As we chatted prior to and after the formal remarks, we were all expressing the dismay that so many of you share that our nation has come to the point where bishops, priests, and nuns have to go to the Supreme Court to battle with the government over our freedom to practice our faith on American soil.

All the members, in talking with me, also expressed their gratitude for Priests for Life, for the work we do, and for our lawsuit against the HHS mandate. I told them that our staff in Washington and throughout the country are ready to continue to assist them in their crucial work.

With several of the Congressmen, I also discussed the work of the Select Panel on Infant Lives and how Priests for Life is assisting in the investigation of the abortion industry.

## My walk across the Steubenville Campus

*by Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director*

At least once each academic year, and sometimes more, I have the joy of visiting the Franciscan University of Steubenville, and of celebrating mass for the students and speaking to them about the progress of the pro-life cause. And my visits there always remind me of the impact that Priests for Life is having across the country.

Take, for example, the day I was walking across campus, and at one point a male student approached me and excitedly and said, "**You are Fr. Frank Pavone, right?**" I said, "**Yes,**" he proceeded to thank me for the work of Rachel's Vineyard, which is a ministry of Priests for Life and the world's largest program for healing after abortion. He explained to me that his parents went through a Rachel's Vineyard retreat to mourn the loss of one of his siblings to abortion.

That healing experience for them, he said, extended to the entire family. He was keenly aware of the wound that the abortion of his sibling caused to him and to the dynamics of relationships within the whole family, and was also very aware that when this is faced openly and honestly, with the power of God's word, the sacraments, and the solid psychological basis for Rachel's Vineyard, the healing that can occur is invaluable.

I told him how much I appreciated him sharing this, and promised that we would keep his family in prayer and that we would do everything possible to make sure that the healing work of Rachel's Vineyard continues to reach as many families as need it.

Then I walked along a little further and encountered a professor who thanked me profusely for the resources that Priests for Life provides in articulating the pro-life message. He explained how he utilized a lot of our materials for his own research and for his presentations to his students on this topic.

And then, arriving at the other end of campus, a vehicle that was coming up the driveway where I was walking suddenly stopped and I noticed the driver gesticulating wildly. She called me to come over to the car, right there in the middle of the road, and began telling me how much she appreciated the political outreach of Priests for Life and how vocal I am in the media when it comes to the duty of citizens to vote in elections.

She proceeded to tell me that she was a relatively new citizen of the United States, and that thanks to the strong messages of our political outreach, she was motivated to register and had just voted for the first time in a United States federal election.

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I could not possibly put a price tag on this kind of encouragement, totally unsolicited and reaching across such a diversity of our activities as a family of ministries. And it always makes me think of how many other individuals, families, and professionals are benefiting from our work, people that I do not get to meet but who I know are thankful and who are also in my prayers.

## Vatican praise for the work of Priests for Life and Silent No More

*By Janet Morana, Executive Director, Priests for Life*



*Janet Morana in Rome, touching the Holy Door at Saint Peter's Basilica, and meeting with various Vatican officials about the work of Priests for Life.*

During my recent visit to Rome, I visited with various Church leaders including Bishop Ignacio Carrasco de Paula, President of the Pontifical Academy for Life, who thanked me again for my book *Recall Abortion* and for the work of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign.

I also met with His Eminence, Cardinal Peter Turkson, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, and updated him about our work with the African-American Community under the leadership of Evangelist Alveda King. He was happy to hear of our progress and encouraged us to keep up the good work.

I also had a chance to catch up with an old friend and longtime supporter of our work at Priests for Life, Cardinal Renato Martino, President Emeritus for the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and former Papal Nuncio to the United Nations. He continued to encourage me and all of our staff by stating **"Priests for Life continues to be a great work for the Church - keep it up!"**

## Reaching Young Pro-Life Leaders

*by Janet Morana, Executive Director, Priests for Life*

Students for Life of America invited me to do training sessions at their leadership conferences out West which gave me an opportunity to meet over 200 pro-life student leaders. As I was handing out my book to these pro-life warriors, I couldn't help but be impressed with their enthusiasm for the pro-life cause and their grasp of how best to reach out to their fellow students.

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One of the students commented, *"I know abortion is wrong, but to be able to share with people from your book about the experiences of those who have had abortions - especially in the hard cases of rape and incest - really gives me new confidence."* It's times like these, when I am surrounded by our young leaders that renew my spirit for the fight.



*Fr. Stephen Imbarrato and Larry Cirignano stand at the Planned Parenthood killing center being build in Washington, DC.*

## Protest Planned Parenthood

*by Fr Stephen Imbarrato, Priest Associate*

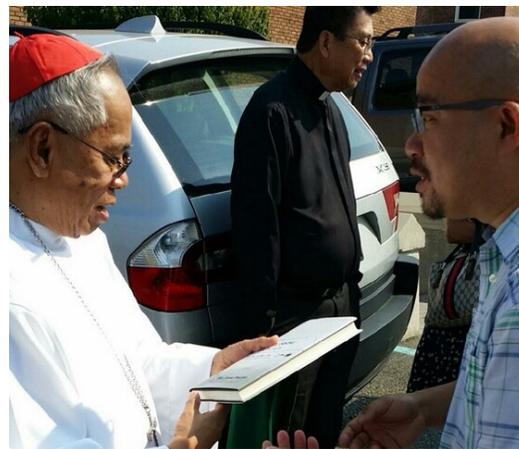
Whenever I'm in Washington DC I make every effort to protest outside a Planned Parenthood mega center that is still under construction. The facility is located right near a charter school, but school officials seem unconcerned that untold numbers of unborn children will lose their lives a few doors away. Instead, the school is suing pro-life advocate Larry Cirignano for displaying images of abortion victims.

Recently, while Larry and I were standing vigil at the PP construction site a gentleman named Gary came by and introduced himself. He said he was a flooring contractor and was planning to place a bid for the flooring of the Planned Parenthood building. After Larry

and I told him it was a future killing center he quickly changed his mind and decided he wanted nothing to do with the project. Please pray for Gary, and pray for the closing of all abortion facilities. **See [www.PrayPP.com](http://www.PrayPP.com).**

## Filipino Cardinal Visits Staten Island, Encourages Priests for Life

In his recent visit to Staten Island, New York, Cardinal Orlando Quevedo connected with our COO, Mark Valonzo. Mark presented him with a signed copy of Fr. Frank's book, *Abolishing Abortion*. The Cardinal, being very aware of the ministry of Priests for Life, expressed his thanks and asked for additional copies. He was happy to pose for a photo and to encourage all of us at Priests for Life to continue saving babies.



*Priests for Life Chief of Operations Mark Valonzo updates Cardinal Orlando Quevedo about our work.*

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We were more than happy to send a complete case of the books to the Cardinal's diocese in Cotabato, Philippines.

### Notes from your fellow Priests for Life supporters

Every day, we receive numerous messages from people who are being encouraged, educated, and activated by the ministry of Priests for Life. Here, we would like to share some of them with you.

Dear Father Pavone, We are so very grateful to you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to join our meeting via Skype. Your advice and review of your brochure "My Children Don't Practice the Faith! What Do I Do?" was very helpful in reassuring the grandparents and helping them to reflect upon the influence they have over the Grandchildren... You had the right words we needed to hear and hope you realize the big impact you made. We sincerely appreciate your time, sharing your thoughts and advice with us, as well as getting our new group off to a great start! Words alone seem inadequate to express our gratitude not only for assisting us but also for your mission in defending the unborn.  
- God bless you, Jackie C.

*THANK YOU SOOOO MUCH!!!! Fr Pavone For your hard work and all you do. The event was Wonderful!!! [Respect Life Seminar organized by St Elizabeth Ann Seton Right to Life. Fr. Frank was the main speaker.] During your talk I felt the anointing of the Holy Spirit so strong confirming my mission with Pro-Life.....( I kept crying)*  
- Osbelia Lozano, Secretary of Pro-life Ministry, St Mary's Fontana

Dear Dr. King, on behalf of the Board of Missouri Right to Life-Western region, we would like to thank you for visiting us and speaking at our annual banquet. This event was one of the most successful that we have hosted in many years. We have you to thank for this success. Most people who came had such enthusiasm to hear your message and you did not disappoint.

We have had many positive comments regarding your presentation. We are very grateful for your company and your kindness. Thank you again and may God bless you always.  
- Sincerely, Maryann Peale, Staff and Board Member

*Dear Janet, It was wonderful to have had the opportunity to meet with you and the others here at the Council earlier in the week. I'm always inspired to hear of all of the ways that you and all those associated with Priests for Life continue to wage the battle against the culture of death. And we are winning indeed! Archbishop Fisichella has asked me to extend to you his gratitude.*

*- In the Lord, Rev. Geno Sylva, STD Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, Vatican City*

Dear Priests for Life, Praised be Jesus Christ! We want to thank all of

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Priests for Life for the help with our 9th Annual March for Life Charlotte. We were so blessed to have Fr. Denis Wilde [Associate Director, Priests for Life] be our guest preacher at our march and other prolife events this past Jan. 9th. We saw the fruit of your ministry "blossom" in Charlotte! From Fr. Wilde's powerful preaching to all the awesome books and materials provided by Priests for Life that were available to the faithful. We are grateful to Fr. Pavone for all of his unbelievable efforts to make this ministry possible! Thank you Priests for Life!

- Tina Witt, Coordinator, March for Life Charlotte

*Kevin, I must tell you, my husband was very impressed with your talk about men & abortion. I have told him similar things, but he needed to hear it from another man! You've brought him further along in his conversion toward pro-life! Thanks for that. [Kevin Burke is a Pastoral Associate of Priests for Life and co-founder of Rachel's Vineyard.]*

A young man heard Bryan Kemper [Youth Outreach director at Priests for Life] give a speech... "That day something snapped in me, it was like someone flipped a switch inside. Before I had been pro-life, but now I had to do something about it. No longer was it enough for me to call myself a "pro-lifer" and do nothing ... That very day I signed up to start a Students for Life club at my school... we fought, we fight still... it all started with one man, one voice talking to a small handfull of people in a room about something not enough people care about... Thank you Bryan, for helping to light my flame, you have touched my life in many ways, ... So Thank you, Thank you for motivating me to save lives, because every life the Lord allows me to rescue is a life that the Lord allowed you to rescue as well."

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### Inaugural Issue!

Friends, welcome to 'Fr. Frank Reports,' a regular report sent to you and all our supporters to give you a glimpse of what takes place as my team and I go out 'on the road' across America and around the world to defend the unborn and bring an end to abortion.

We are convinced that you will be as inspired and encouraged as we are by the stories, the memorable experiences, and the insights we receive from those who are impacted by our work. Feel free to send us your comments and observations at [www.PriestsforLife.org/FrFrankReports](http://www.PriestsforLife.org/FrFrankReports).



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