



## **Priests for Life Associate Alveda King Singled Out for Honor by National Religious Broadcasters**

*by Fr. Frank Pavone - Priests For Life*

Alveda King was thrilled to accept the National Religious Broadcaster's Chairman's Award during Proclaim 17, the NRB convention in Orlando, Florida, at the end of February.

In bestowing the award, NRB Chairman Bill Blount said "I can think of no other person so worthy of the Chairman's Award than Alveda King. In a year that has seen significant racial unrest, she has been a clear voice to America to return to biblical values, which will strengthen families and communities, and bring hope and reconciliation to our country."



*Evangelist Alveda King with NRB Chairman Bill Blount and President Dr. Jerry Johnson.*

Alveda works fulltime for Priests for Life as the director of Civil Rights for the Unborn. She is the niece of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Alveda said, "I have tried through my life and work to honor God and stand up for what I believe in, beginning with the right to life for all human beings. This award tells me that, with God's help, I am on the right track."

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## **Archdiocese of New York welcomes Priests for Life Youth Outreach**

*By Bryan Kemper, Director of Youth Outreach*

Any time I can speak at a youth event I am excited, I love being able to inspire this generation to be the generation to abolish abortion. I recently was invited back to the Staten Island Youth Fest, an event I spoke at three years ago. Hundreds of students from several Catholic and public schools come together for a day of prayer, music, speakers and Mass.

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"Father Frank Pavone and Janet Morana attended the awards ceremony, and praised Alveda for having joined both Priests for Life and the Silent No More Awareness Campaign over a dozen years ago, recognizing the pro-life movement as the civil rights movement of today.

During the NRB convention, Alveda also was honored with the Legacy and Leadership Award from Bott Radio Network. The Bott family has long been friends of Priests for Life.

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They are able to connect with different ministries and learn about ways to get involved in pro-life and other good causes.

This year I spoke about being a voice for their generation and standing up against the abortion holocaust. I talked about different times in history when personhood was stripped away from groups of people and how we must not allow these kinds of tragedies to be repeated. My favorite part of the day was after my talk when a high school senior came to

the Stand True / Priests for Life table and asked about joining our summer internship. She was moved to want to stand up and will be applying to join us this summer. For more information about the Stand True Summer Internship please visit

<http://www.standtrue.com/standtruesummer2017>.



*In February, Alveda King was invited to join President Trump as he toured the National Museum of African American History in Washington, D.C. President Trump said to Ms. King: "I want to profoundly thank Alveda King. She is a tremendous fighter for justice. You are so incredible. And I want to thank you for all the nice things you say about me."*

***Praise from those we serve***

At Priests for Life we receive feedback every day thanking us for our work and telling us of its impact. We share some of this with you because, as our supporters, the praise also goes to you!

My name is Pastor Ken, and I just read about your strong stance on the preservation of life, during our recent election season. I am ... a bi-vocational Nazarene Pastor in the State of Nevada.

Despite our denominational difference, we are brothers in Christ, and I commend you and your organization, Priests for Life. In this lost and hurting world, it is so important that we stand together to defend the most vulnerable in our society. I just wanted to write and thank you for serving Christ and our little ones as you do. Together, and with God's help, we can make a tremendous difference in people's lives, and in the lives of countless children and families. God bless you, and your fine work.

## **An Ash Wednesday Encounter with Kellyanne Conway**

*By Fr. Stephen Imbarrato, Priest Associate of Priests for Life*

As part of my full-time work with Priests for Life, I attend conservative meetings when I am in Washington, D.C. Recently, I got notice that White House Counselor Kellyanne Conway - a longtime friend of Priests for Life -- was speaking at a lunch I was scheduled to attend on Ash Wednesday. When she arrived, she spoke immediately to the gathering, and I noticed she had no ashes - and I happened to have some with me.

As soon as she said she would take questions, I stood up.

"Kellyanne, I am Father Stephen Imbarrato of Priests for Life, and I am also from New Jersey. Before I ask my question, I just want to say, if you need ashes, I have some with me."

I then asked her about the President's faith, and she answered that President Trump is a prayerful man and that she has been to church services with him.

She also repeated the president's story of his conversion to pro-life, from his interview with CBN's David Brody:

*"One of the reasons I changed - one of the primary reasons - a friend of mine's wife was pregnant, in this case married. She was pregnant and he didn't really want the baby. And he was telling me the story," Trump told Brody. "He was crying as he was telling me the story. He ends up having the baby and the baby is the apple of his eye. It's the greatest thing that's ever happened to him. And you know here's a baby that wasn't*



*Fr. Stephen Imbarrato gives ashes to Kellyanne Conway.*

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*going to be let into life. And I heard this, and some other stories, and I am pro-life."*

As she left, Ms. Conway said, "Father, I am running late for Mass, so, yes, I will take you up on your offer of ashes."

Seated as I was right by the door, it turned out to be a perfect place for a photo opportunity as I made the sign of the Cross with ashes on her forehead. What a blessing that people of faith are serving at the highest levels of our government.

## **Priests for Life Participates in 55th session of the Commission for Social Development**

Marie Smith, founder and director of Parliamentary Network for Critical Issues, an outreach of Priests for Life, represented Priests for Life at the United Nations from February 1-10, participating in the 55th session of the Commission for Social Development (CoSD). Topics and issues dealing with "strategies for the eradication of poverty to achieve sustainable development" were discussed and debated. In its written submission, Priests for Life called for strategies to eradicate poverty that do not strip any member of the human family of innate dignity, marginalize them or treat them as a problem, rather than as a potential contributor to sustainable development.

Priests for Life reminded CoSD that authentic sustainable development, if it is truly to "leave no one behind" as promised in the 2030 Agenda, ought not to allow any human being to be selectively marked as expendable during any stage of development from conception to natural death, including in population control and reproductive health programs that target unborn children for elimination.

All members of the human family are deserving of protection, including those who have been classified as expendable by some and excluded from basic social protection. Life is not for the privileged, the perfect and the planned but extends to all.

The complete Priests for Life statement can be found on the website of the Commission on Social Development and also at [www.priestsforlife.org/CoSDStatement.pdf](http://www.priestsforlife.org/CoSDStatement.pdf).



*Marie Smith and Vice President Mike Pence behind the stage at March for Life rally in January.*

## Archdiocese of Newark welcomes Priests for Life Associate Kevin Burke for Men's Conference

Pastoral Associate Kevin Burke was a guest speaker at the Archdiocese of Newark's Men's Conference on March 4. More than 1,600 men attended the daylong event.

Kevin shared about the various ways men are involved in abortion decisions and the ways this can impact them personally, spiritually and in their marriage and family relationships.

For many, this was the first time they heard about how the loss of a child to abortion can impact men.

Kevin spoke of the real grief that grandparents can experience from their loss of grandchildren to abortion. A number of men shared with Kevin about their son or daughter's abortion, and after hearing his talk commented how they are aware now that this is an area that needs further healing in their lives. They were also encouraged to consider a Rachel's Vineyard weekend, which often opens the door for a wider healing in the family.

Others talked about their fear and confusion when their wives had a poor pre-natal diagnosis and were pressured to abort. Kevin was able to direct them toward reconciliation and explained the deeper healing they and their spouses could find in a Rachel's Vineyard retreat.

Kevin also explained the wider impact of abortion, as taught in our Healing the Shockwaves of Abortion initiative. He spoke to the men about the role of accomplices in abortion decisions: driving a friend to the abortion center; helping pay for a sister's abortion; being passive or silent in a past situation when a friend or family member was considering abortion; encouraging someone to have an abortion. This raised awareness of a need for repentance and healing of a man's role in an abortion decision, even when he is not the father of the unborn child.

Cheryl Riley, associate director of the Respect Life Office for the Archdiocese of Newark commented on the gathering:

*"The room was silent when Kevin was speaking. You could have heard a pin drop. Afterwards Kevin stayed and was available to speak to the men. There was a crowd not only around him but also at the table with materials. My office sponsors Rachel's Vineyard retreats and already I have had numerous inquiries from men at the conference regarding the next retreat."*

## Boots on the ground for #ProtestPP and #PrayPP

While helping to organize and promote the protests nationally, Priests for Life Pastoral Team members protested Planned Parenthood in three states and the District of Columbia on February 11.

Protests took place in more than 200 cities as Congress and President Trump prepared to end taxpayer funding for the nation's largest abortion business. Planned Parenthood kills more than 320,000 preborn children annually and receives half a billion dollars in taxpayer money as it does so.

Father Frank Pavone and Kevin Burke spoke during a protest outside the Warminster Health Center in Warminster, PA, where about 150 people gathered.

Bryan Kemper rallied the crowds outside the Dayton Health Center in Ohio.

Father Denis Wilde, OSA, spoke outside the Planned Parenthood's Wilmington Health Center in Delaware with about 120 people in attendance. He related, "A man who said he was homeless read two powerful poems he wrote about Planned Parenthood and about 'Love of Ignorance' -- which was demonstrated by the eight counter-protesters. One sign especially stood out: 'Get your theology off my biology'. They tried talking through our speakers' message. At one point I realized that one person especially not only wouldn't desist, but, chillingly, couldn't. If she did she might hear the truth. The satanic grip was very real here."

Father Stephen Imbarrato was an organizer of a protest march and rally in Washington, D.C., that began outside the Supreme Court. Marchers -- taunted by counter-protesters but undaunted -- walked 1.4 miles to Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington, the abortion giant's new flagship killing center in the nation's capital.

Women and men of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign also attended the protests from coast to coast.

Father Pavone said the Planned Parenthood protests are meant to convey five main points.

"Planned Parenthood is about abortion, not healthcare. They do not do many of the services they claim to provide. Furthermore, Planned Parenthood is a corrupt criminal enterprise that has been under investigation by Congress and various states. It is also a racist enterprise, and a political machine that spent \$38 million trying to elect Hillary Clinton. The money that will be taken away from Planned

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Parenthood will be redirected to women's health centers that do not kill babies, and that outnumber Planned Parenthood facilities by 20 to 1."

In addition to assisting the protest, Priests for Life also led a national prayer campaign leading up to the protest day, with special prayers at PrayPP.com for the defunding, conversion, and closing of Planned Parenthood. A coalition of national groups co-sponsored the prayer effort.

### **Fr. Denis Wilde, OSA, Preaches Mission to Holy Trinity Parish, Peachtree City, Georgia**

*By Fr. Denis Wilde, OSA, Priest Associate, Priests for Life*

In early January, Fr. Denis Wilde, OSA, completed a four day parish mission at Holy Trinity Church, in Peachtree City, GA. This was his fifth visit to this burgeoning community, with two previous visits featuring an evening of piano classics he performed, in addition to the weekend Masses with pro-life homilies.

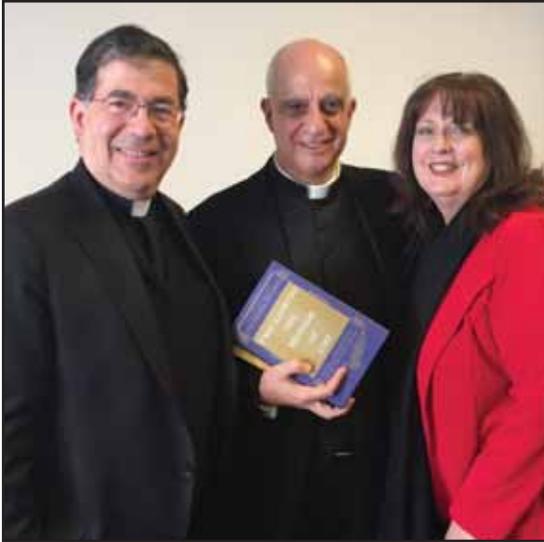


*Fr. Denis Wilde, OSA, Preaches Mission to Holy Trinity Parish*

a fatherly concern for the unborn and the means to support other men is a strong feature of this organization, a fellowship of brothers in Christ.

Our materials were in abundance and there was great coordination from the parish - even coming up with a poster in the main foyer. The youth of the parish were brought in after their 4:30 Sunday Mass to the opening of the mission - some 180 of them! It was a great swelling of the ranks and a good crop of cordial and "could hear a pin drop" listeners.

Priests for Life will continue its close relationship with this parish, whose pastor and associates are always most cordial and welcoming. And we look forward to other local parishes joining in the future events!



*Fr. Frank and Janet Morana visited at the Vatican with Archbishop Rino Fisichella, President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization. The Archbishop is holding Fr. Frank Pavone's latest book, *Proclaiming the Message of Life*, which has pro-life commentary on the Mass readings of all the Sundays of the year.*



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P.O. Box 141172  
Staten Island, NY 10314  
Phone: 888-735-3448  
Fax: 718-980-2542  
Email: [mail@priestsforlife.org](mailto:mail@priestsforlife.org)  
[www.PriestsforLife.org](http://www.PriestsforLife.org)