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FR. FRANK REPORTS...

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Matt Birk of Baltimore Ravens Praises "Silent No More"

At the annual Legatus Summit, held this year in Dana Point, California, Janet Morana had a chance to meet a famous fan of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign.

Matt Birk, former center for the Baltimore Ravens, was a speaker at the summit, and had a minute to meet Janet and talk about the campaign.

Prior to the Ravens defeating the San Francisco 49ers in the 2013 Super Bowl, Birk spoke about his admiration for the campaign in an interview with the National Catholic Register:

"I spoke at a pro-life rally in Maryland a couple years ago, and it was a life-changing experience. I heard other speakers, including women who deeply regretted their own abortions.

Their work, carried out through the Silent No More Awareness Campaign, was very persuasive. It wasn't just a theoretical discussion; it was real women who had experienced the trauma of losing a child through abortion. They wanted to prevent other women from going through that same thing. If people were told the truth about abortion, no one would ever seek out the procedure. We hear about "choice" and "reproductive rights," but no one is ever told by an abortionist, "I will kill your baby by ripping off its arms and legs." The women from Silent No More let people know the facts so that better decisions will be made. It's very admirable work."

Janet says she was thrilled to meet Birk and to have a chance to thank him personally for his kind words.

The father of eight, who played football at Harvard University and began his NFL career with the Minnesota Vikings, has long been involved in pro-life. When the Ravens were invited to the White House to celebrate their Super Bowl victory, Birk declined to attend, citing then-President Obama's support for abortion and Planned Parenthood, the nation's leading abortion business.



Janet Morana with Matt Birk

Walking and talking for life on the West Coast

It was a busy and productive few days on the West Coast for Priests for Life's Bryan Kemper.

With Father Frank Pavone, he flew to San Francisco to take part in the Issues4Life walk in Oakland, and the next morning, helped Father Frank lead a prayerful protest outside Planned Parenthood in San Francisco.

In addition to walking with more than 50,000 people for the Walk for Life West Coast, Bryan also manned the exhibit table for Stand True and Priests for Life, located right on the main Civic Center Plaza in the midst of the crowd of pro-life people gathered for the rally.

"I got to do some great outreach with youth from all over the western U.S.," Bryan says. "Then I participated in a 'die-in' with Survivors of the Abortion Holocaust. It's a way for people to visualize the carnage abortion causes."

Bryan also attended the Walk for Life Leader's Dinner with Father Frank, and the next day headed to San Luis Obispo to meet with a web developer who is designing a new site for the Pro-Life Day of Silent Solidarity.

His trip finished up with a talk at California Polytechnic State University, where former Stand True intern Margaret Caligaris goes to school.



Bryan speaking at California Polytechnic State University

"I gave my testimony and talked to the students about the importance of the moment we're in right now, maybe closer than ever to overturning Roe v. Wade," he said.

Bryan also shared about the unexpected pregnancy of his daughter, whose child will be born in May.

"I told them that we need to welcome every child into the world."



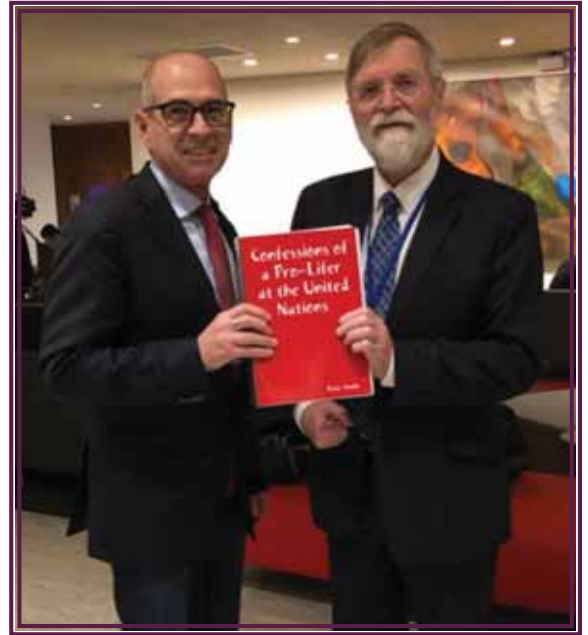
Bob Lalonde, Priests for Life Director of International Outreach, was in Richmond, VA with Andrea Pearson, Leslie Blackwell and Maureen Nwoye of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign on February 7 protesting proposed pro-abortion legislation in Virginia similar to the New York law allowing abortion up to the day before birth, and protesting Governor Northam's stance in favor of such extreme legislation. Leslie Blackwell spoke at the rally. The Democrat Governor of Virginia, Ralph Northam, has defended infanticide by talking about making the newborn child "comfortable" while parents and doctors decided whether or not the child should live.



Presidential Communication: Evangelist Alveda King was at the White House on February 14 representing Priests for Life as the President conducted a conference call with pro-life leaders and activists across the country. He let us all know that he is firmly behind the cause of protecting the unborn, and that we should look forward to eventually having bill-signings with him of pro-life legislation for which we are all working.

United Nations 57th Session of the Commission for Social Development

Priests for Life is fighting for the unborn at every level of society, including at meetings of the United Nations. Bob Lalonde who heads up our international outreach participated in the United Nations 57th Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD57) that took place in NY February 11-21. The Priority theme this year is "Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies". CSoc57 has already accepted and published a statement from Priests for Life in advance of the conference. The statement emphasizes that "the groups most in need of social protection span the life cycle, beginning with the child (who, as the Convention on the Rights of the Child reminds us, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth), the disabled and the elderly." Below is the statement submitted by Priests for Life.



Bob Lalonde with Peter Smith, UN prolife advocate and longtime warrior out with new book on history of prolife activity at the UN.

Priests for Life believes that groups most excluded in today's world are urgently in need of social protection policies if the goal of Agenda 2030 to leave no one behind is to be achieved. The groups most in need of social protection span the life cycle, beginning with the child (who, as the Convention on the Rights of the Child reminds us, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth), the disabled and the elderly.

Priests for Life believes that inclusivity in human rights applies to all human beings, no exception, from conception to natural death, and the intrinsic dignity of life is the foundation of social protection policies. Social inclusion ought to extend to all members of the human family during all stages of life.

The need for social protection is especially critical for the preborn baby girl who is identified as female and whose life is lost through sex selection abortion. Imbalanced sex ratios at birth demonstrate the dangerous lack of social protection policies for girls in the prenatal stage of life and are a sign of a global failure to protect the most vulnerable girls from the most lethal form of discrimination – sex selection abortion.

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Research and data from countries most affected by sex selection and resulting imbalanced sex ratios at birth, India and China, reveal unprecedented social and economic inequalities and challenges due to the large number of missing women and girls. The failure to protect the lives of girls in the womb leads to additional failures to protect women and girls from the troubling consequences that follow – increases in kidnappings, rapes, sex trafficking and prostitution, bride-selling, and child marriage.

Unless concerted action is taken to protect infant girls in the womb, sex imbalances at birth are not only expected to continue but to rise compounded by access to prenatal sex determination testing kits and access to drugs for self-induced prenatal sex selection abortion. Demographers warn in *Missing Girls: A Globalizing Issue* that the systemic elimination of girls before their birth is the most extreme symptom of women's contemporary undervaluation.

The identification of a girl in the womb followed by her termination combined with boy child preference is the beginning of the pernicious failure of social protection systems. Women's and girls' progress in education and employment opportunities are likely to be affected due to the increasing threat of violence against women and girls in public and private spaces, impacting achievement of the SDGs.

Prenatal sex selection is increasingly not confined to countries in Asia but is evident in imbalanced sex ratios in several countries in Eastern Europe including Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Montenegro, and Albania, and among ethnic groups around the world. The resulting challenges present serious social and economic implications impacting women's and girls' lives and well-being.

The Beijing Platform for Action recognized prenatal sex selection as violence and discrimination against girls and women and urged governments to prevent and eliminate it. The failure to provide social protection to girls in the earliest stages of life not only results in violence against women and girls throughout the life cycle, but also hinders social and economic development.

The Beijing Platform also recognized that son preference not only discriminates against girls and limits access to food, education and health care but to even life itself. While efforts to ensure girls' access to food, education and health care have benefitted by nearly universal agreement since Beijing, social protection policies to ensure that girls have universal access to life itself have been stymied by a global failure to embrace consistent non-discriminatory protection of girls beginning at the earliest stages of life.

FR. FRANK REPORTS...

The need for social protection is also especially critical for the unborn child who is diagnosed with a disability and whose life is devalued based on subjective views. Such exclusion is evident in State-sponsored maternal health programs that emphasize prenatal screenings for impairment followed by abortion when there is possibility of disability, especially in the case of Down syndrome, and in the pronouncements by States that there are nearly zero births of infants with Down syndrome. These actions reinforce the fatal discrimination that selectively ends the lives of children with trisomy 21 and perpetuates negative stigma against an entire group of people.

The failure of States to offer social inclusion to unborn children diagnosed with disabilities and to offer special assistance to their mothers and fathers rather than elimination of their child perpetuates inequality and casts preborn children with a disability as burdens to families and society. Such failure to embrace this excluded group of children jeopardizes efforts to overcome the prejudice, stigma, and negative stereotypes against persons with disabilities and perpetuates a discrimination that fails to protect and provide social inclusion to children subjectively deemed to be imperfect bolstering the falsehood that individuals with an impairment are considered to be unworthy of life.

Subjective discrimination for any reason negatively impacts respect for the right to life of all and renders the human dignity and worth of a human being contingent upon the subjective opinion of others. Priests for Life believes that such reckless disregard for the lives of society's weakest members subjectively denies a human being her or his right to life and perpetuates the perception that life is only for the perfect and that society is intolerant of those with an impairment regardless of their age, condition of dependency, or disability.

Social protection policies for impaired newborns are needed to ensure that impaired newborns do not become the victims of infanticide or abandonment but are afforded the same medical care as non-impaired newborns as well as given critical life-saving treatments when needed. The ending of the lives of children who exhibit physical imperfections at birth must be stopped by strong non-discriminatory social protection systems.

The right to life of each child ought to be respected and protected regardless of subjective views, the family's social and economic condition, the child's sex, or the presence or suspicion of a disability.

Governments exist to preserve and protect inherent rights of all human beings beginning with the right to life and beginning when life begins – at conception – and ending at natural death. Read the full statement at www.priestsforlife.org/UNStatement.pdf.

Late-Term Abortion - What Can You Do About It?

Lately, Democrats in New York, Virginia and other states have been advocating for abortion until birth and taking away all restrictions on it.

You can help expose and end the practice of late-term abortion!

Every abortion is morally unacceptable, and every baby is equally deserving of protection. However, to move the American public and policy away from abortion, we start by talking about what is most obvious and then move on to what is less obvious. And restoring protection to every baby is -- like everything else in life -- a process involving many steps.

Priests for Life is leading the way in giving people action steps to take. Find action items and updates at www.ExposeAbortion.com.

Follow Fr. Frank Pavone on Twitter

Follow Fr. Frank Pavone on Twitter Priests for Life is a leading force for prolife social media. Here is one of the recent tweets on Fr. Frank's Twitter account, @frfrankpavone. Please make sure you're following him there!



Fr. Frank Pavone  

@frfrankpavone

Someone told me that as a priest I should not express my support for [@realDonaldTrump](#). Well, there are plenty such priests already. But I will not be a coward and fail to back a man who is trying to end [#abortion](#). And I will oppose the Democrat party trying to increase it. [#MAGA](#)

1:40 PM - 13 Dec 2018

1,890 Retweets 5,567 Likes



 634  1.9K  5.6K 

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Priests for Life, PO Box 236695, Cocoa, FL 32923.

You can also sign up to be a monthly donor, which helps us plan future events more effectively! See the options on our website, or call **321-500-1000** for assistance!

And you can remember us in your will and other forms of planned giving. Find out more about joining our Priests for Life Legacy Family at www.PriestsForLifeLegacy.com or call **(321) 500-1000**. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Connect with us on social media

so we can exchange encouragement and information. At www.ProLifeSocialMedia.com, you will find a multitude of platforms that Priests for Life manages. Follow us, friend us, like us, and communicate with us. Among our largest platforms are the following:

-  facebook.com/fatherfrankpavone
-  facebook.com/SilentNoMoreJanet
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