

# PRIESTS FOR LIFE

Assisting God's people to respond to the evils of abortion and euthanasia

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[www.priestsforlife.org](http://www.priestsforlife.org)

Number 4

## UPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR *The Mission of Priests for Life*



*Fr. Frank Pavone is received in May by Cardinal Castrillon Hoyos, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation for Clergy, at the Vatican. Fr. Frank updated the Cardinal on how Priests for Life is serving clergy worldwide.*

Dear Brother Priests and Lay supporters,

From the time Priests for Life was first established, our intention was not to found new structures, but to network and encourage people within the existing structures of the Church, to accomplish the mission laid out by our bishops.

That remains our task and vision today. Priests for Life does not come into a diocese in order to impose some

“outside” plan or agenda, or to take away anything of what is already there. Rather, we want to lend an additional measure of support for what is already planned. We are an association of priests helping our brother priests work in union with their bishops and the pastoral plans of their diocese.

We are always ready to offer our perspective from a national level, and the many projects and strategies we have come to learn from pro-life groups in every state. We likewise are ready to connect you with others in different parts of the nation who are doing similar things. Finally, there are many people who come to us, saying that they want to help the pro-life movement. We meet them in our travels, they hear us on TV and radio. We want to channel them back to you, so that they can assist local efforts. So let us know what you are doing; alert us to your programs and plans, and we will be ready to help you!

With prayers,

Fr. Frank Pavone  
National Director

## IN THE NEWS... PRIESTS FOR LIFE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR PRESENT FOR BILL SIGNINGS



*Janet Morana, Associate Director, thanks the President on behalf of Priests for Life at the signing of the Unborn Victims of Violence Act on April 1 in the East Room of the White House.*

Janet Morana, Associate Director of Priests for Life, was present for the signing ceremonies of two bills which have advanced in law the standing of the unborn child: The ban on partial birth abortions (signed on November 5, 2003) and the Unborn Victims of Violence Act (signed on April 1, 2004). In her words of greeting to President Bush, Janet expressed the gratitude of Priests for Life for the President's continuous call that “every child be welcomed in life and protected by law,” and for not hesitating to do what can be done in the political and legislative arena.

The Feinstein amendment, defeated by only one vote, would have created a separate and additional federal crime for "causing the termination of a pregnancy," but would not have recognized the unborn child as a separate victim. All the Republicans except four voted to protect the unborn child; all the Democrats but four voted not to protect the child.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

Parish Education Program .....	2
Deadline Registration.....	2
New Washington Offices for Priests for Life .....	3
New Products .....	4

This newsletter is available by email, along with a bi-weekly column written by Fr. Frank. Subscribe free of charge at [subscribe@priestsforlife.org](mailto:subscribe@priestsforlife.org)

# ABORTIFACIENTS...THE OTHER FORBIDDEN GRIEF

*By Janet Morana and Theresa Burke, Ph.D.*

We've learned a good deal about the emotional and spiritual pain of abortion. Aside from surgical procedures, the Pill, the IUD, and other hormonal "contraceptives" such as the morning after pill, Depro-Provera and Norplant can also cause an abortion of human life.

Ovulation is not always suppressed by oral contraceptives. In these cases, the egg is fertilized, conception takes place, and a new human being begins to develop. These abortifacients interfere with the pregnancy by changing the lining of the uterus so that a newly conceived child cannot implant in the womb. This hostile environment causes the child to die.

Janet Morana, Associate Director of Priests for Life and co-founder of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign, shares her personal story:

"Three months before my wedding date I started taking birth control pills. I continued taking the pill for two years until it seemed like it was time to start a family.... Eventually, I had a tubal ligation.

"As I began to study the teachings of the Church I learned about God's beautiful plan for marriage, including what NFP was all about.

"My grief finally hit me as I watched a video about the wonder of life and I realized completely what taking the birth control pills really meant: aborting new life. I came to grips with the fact that I had not only shut myself off to life, but had also destroyed an unknown number of children. At the end of that video I began to sob uncontrollably. I was overwhelmed with sudden feelings of grief and remorse. I was able to come to grips with these feelings of grief and loss recently at a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat. It was a first step in having my feelings validated, and I began to deal with my loss in a new light." The Church has always asserted that the method by which

a child is killed, or the age at which the killing occurs, do not make an abortion any less real or wrong. The Church can therefore serve at the forefront in ministry to the countless hearts wounded by abortifacients. Our church continues to be a prophetic guide in a new movement to re-claim inner voices that have been silenced, paralysed and obscured by the demands of a contraceptive and abortive culture.

Priests for Life invites all who have experienced the grief of abortion to share your testimony. Contact [Janet@priestsforlife.org](mailto:Janet@priestsforlife.org)

To find out more information about attending a Rachel's Vineyard Retreats for healing after abortion, visit [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org).

## DEADLINES FOR REGISTRATION

Often we think that a political race is a contest between two candidates. It is not. It is, rather, a contest between two teams, and the team that has the greater number of effective activists is the one who wins. This winning is not accomplished by big money or media, but ultimately by people "on the ground" who actually show up at the polls. This is why the *activation of our parishioners* is the key to doing what the bishops call for in *Living the Gospel of Life*, namely, using the power of the vote to build up the culture of life.

To that end, *our people need to be registered to vote*. Registration deadlines for each state are posted on our website at [www.priestsforlife.org/vote/deadlines](http://www.priestsforlife.org/vote/deadlines) and we ask you to alert your people to these dates. We also urge you to make voter registration forms available to your people in Church. *This is consistent gospel activity — we don't just preach nice words about "renewing the face of the earth"; we give our people the tools to do it!*

## PARISH EDUCATION PROGRAM

Our study guide to the US Bishops' document "Living the Gospel of Life" is an excellent way to prepare your parish for the elections! It can be conducted as a six-week study and discussion group from mid-September to the end of October.

More information is at [www.priestsforlife.org/gospel](http://www.priestsforlife.org/gospel). The guide is \$10. Call (718) 980-4400, x239.

The entire set of General Intercessions for each Sunday may now be obtained from us by visiting our us at [www.priestsforlife.org/prayers](http://www.priestsforlife.org/prayers). The intercessions contain a pro-life petitions, and are in English and Spanish.

**If you have had an abortion...  
Please visit  
[www.SilentNoMoreAwareness.org](http://www.SilentNoMoreAwareness.org).**

The Silent No More Awareness Campaign is a project of Priests for Life and NOEL, and enables women to speak out about how their abortion hurt them.

Also visit [www.RachelsVineyard.org](http://www.RachelsVineyard.org), to learn about retreats on which you can find healing. Rachel's Vineyard is also a ministry of Priests for Life.

## PRIESTS FOR LIFE OPENS WASHINGTON DC OFFICE!

Priests for Life has opened an office in our nation's Capitol, literally across the street from the Supreme Court! With the assistance of Dr. Paul Schenck, our pastoral associate, and his brother Rob, this office opened in April, and will be a companion office to our international headquarters in New York and our office in Rome.

Our Washington office will serve as a center of communications with our nation's leaders in the White House, Congress, and the Court, as well as with the many organizations that are based in Washington, including the headquarters of the US Bishops' Conference. This new office will also serve as the headquarters of Gospel of Life Ministries, a partner organization with Priests for Life.



*The view out the front window of our Washington DC office allows one to see the Supreme Court building right across the street.*

## ANNOUNCING GOSPEL OF LIFE MINISTRIES

Many people want to spread the message of Priests for Life to their friends who are not Catholic. Now, we have given you a way to do that. *Gospel of Life Ministries* is a new organization that takes the writings, teachings, and television programs that Fr. Frank Pavone and Priests for Life have produced, and presents them in an ecumenical format.

Pope John Paul II calls for this kind of effort when he writes in *The Gospel of Life*, "Service of the Gospel of life is thus an immense and complex task. This service increasingly appears as a valuable and fruitful area for positive cooperation with our brothers and sisters of other Churches and ecclesial communities, in accordance with the practical ecumenism which the Second Vatican Council authoritatively encouraged. It also appears as a providential area for dialogue and joint efforts with the followers of other religions and with all people of good will. No single person or group has a monopoly on the defense and promotion of life. These are everyone's task and responsibility. On the eve of the Third Millennium, the challenge facing us is an arduous one: only the concerted efforts of all those who believe in the value of life can prevent a setback of unforeseeable consequences for civilization" (#91).

Dr. Paul Schenck, a pastoral associate of Priests for Life and a former Anglican pastor and priest, brings his extensive knowledge and experience of the Protestant world to his role as Executive Director of *Gospel of Life Ministries*. We encourage you to invite your friends or relatives who are not Catholic to visit [www.gospeloflife.com](http://www.gospeloflife.com) for more information.

**Can you make a gift to enable us to send  
this newsletter to every priest in your diocese?**

**Call Jerry at (718) 980-4400**

## Priests for Life Episcopal Board of Advisors

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*Suggestions for bringing the  
respect life theme into your  
homily are now given for every  
Sunday of the year at  
[www.priestsforlife.org](http://www.priestsforlife.org)*

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

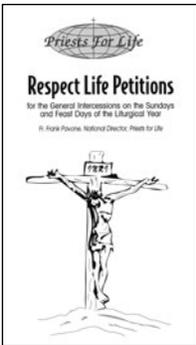
*You are encouraged to remember the following intentions as you pray the Liturgy of the Hours:*

**JULY INTENTION:** For all who volunteer their time and talent to the pro-life cause.

**AUGUST INTENTION:** That medical students and nurses may resist any pressure to take part in abortion or euthanasia.

## OUR LATEST PRODUCTS

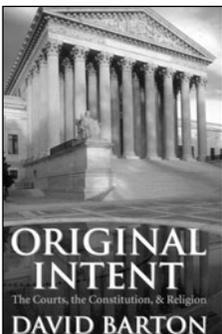
Please mail your order to: **PRIESTS FOR LIFE**  
P.O. Box 141172 • Staten Island, NY 10314 or fax to 718-980-3900



### Respect Life Petitions

In order to help parishes fulfill the request of the bishops that "parishes should include in the petitions at every Mass a prayer that ours will become a nation that respects and protects all human life, born and unborn, reflecting a true culture of life," Priests for Life is happy to make available our

booklet "Respect Life Petitions," which will put on your desk, in a single place, all the respect life petitions you will need for every Sunday of the three-year liturgical cycle. Each of them is based on the readings assigned for the Mass of that particular day. A more limited section of petitions in Spanish is also included.



### Original Intent

This is one of the best books in existence about the relationship between the Constitution, the Courts, and religion. Learn how to explain what "Separation of Church and State" means and what it doesn't mean. Read about how the Founders of our Country were religious men who praised

Jesus and proclaimed his Gospel. Learn why our Founders did not establish a "Democracy." Learn what the Founders really thought about the role of the courts and who has the right to interpret the Constitution. Great gift for students, teachers and clergy!

### ORDER FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
 STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send me copies of "Original Intent"**  
 Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$13.00 each for Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send me copies of "Respect Life Petitions"**  
 Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$2.00 each for Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

- I have made my check payable to: Priests for Life**
- Please charge my contribution to my credit card**

Card Type \_\_\_\_\_

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_