



# PRIESTS FOR LIFE

## Gospel of Life Ministries

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

20th Anniversary ❖ 1991-2011

March - April 2011 Vol. 21

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

Number 2

### Re-Defining the Abortion Debate



*Unborn baby at six months*

Public opinion about abortion in America can best be described as ambivalent: uncomfortable with unrestricted abortion, yet unwilling to ban it totally.

Another word for public opinion on abortion is "stalemate." It has not moved much over the years since Roe vs. Wade. One time it did move was when partial-birth abortion was being debated publicly in the late 90's. People were more willing to identify with the pro-life position during and after that debate, because the debate focused on abortion itself, rather than on abstract issues of freedom and choice.

And it is only in the specific arena of partial-birth abortion that our nation has succeeded, at any time since Roe vs. Wade, in actually prohibiting an abortion procedure in many states and on a federal level, and have that prohibition upheld by the highest court in the land.

When the question is, "Should we allow abortion?" the debate is unwieldy and ambiguous, catching people in a seemingly endless and wearisome maze of arguments and counterarguments. But when the question is, "Should we allow a child to be pierced in the skull with scissors while still alive and partially delivered?" the public comes much more quickly to a consensus. And that consensus in turn affects their view of the overall abortion question.

Now it's time for Act 2.

The most common abortion procedure performed after the first trimester of pregnancy is the "D and E" (Dilation and Evacuation), a procedure which is legal throughout the nation, and which the Supreme Court itself described in this way:

*"The doctor grips a fetal part with the forceps and pulls it back through the cervix..., continuing to pull even after meeting resistance from the cervix. The friction causes the fetus to tear apart. For example, a leg might be ripped off the fetus as it is pulled through the cervix and out of the woman. The process of evacuating the fetus piece by piece continues until it has been completely removed." (Gonzales vs. Carhart, April 18, 2007)*

Now is the time to ask the American public, whether pro-life or pro-choice, a simple question: Should dismemberment of a living child in the womb be permitted? Let's go beyond the all-encompassing question of "Should abortion be allowed?" and ask, "Should this specific procedure, in which a child's arms and legs are ripped off, and head crushed, be allowed?"

As we saw in the partial-birth abortion debate, we will see again that many people who consider themselves "pro-choice" and who would want abortion to be generally available will nevertheless oppose this specific procedure and

even work with us to prohibit it by law. It is time to mobilize that segment of the public.

Every abortion is wrong, no matter what method is used; every child must be protected. We do not in any way retreat from that principle and goal. But helping people focus on one procedure at a time is a quicker way to get there. See [StopDandE.com](http://StopDandE.com) for more info.

### Action Alerts for 10StepsToEndAbortion.com

This ministry is not just about what we in the multi-faceted Priests for Life family do; it is primarily about what *you* do. Each of you is an indispensable part of the task of ending abortion in your community and throughout the world.

Priests for Life has been involved in shaping and carrying out national pro-life strategy for two decades. This year, we are initiating a new program of *Action Alerts*, which we invite you to receive by email and forward to others on your email list or social networks.

These *Action Alerts* allow you to be involved in urgent and timely tasks to advance the cause of life and to recruit new activists. They are shaped by our overall plan to end abortion, 10StepsToEndAbortion.com. Each of the alerts is connected to one of these ten steps. Together, we can make it happen. We need *you* and everyone you can recruit! Sign up at [priestsforlife.org/alert](http://priestsforlife.org/alert).

### Our Pastoral Team

Our full-time Pastoral Team of Priests for Life/Gospel of Life includes the following lay people: Dr. Alveda King (African-American Outreach), Dr. Theresa and Kevin Burke (Rachel's Vineyard), Marie Smith (wife of Congressman Chris Smith; Parliamentary Network for Critical Issues), Janet Morana (Silent No More Awareness Campaign). Priests for Life/Gospel of Life is proud to be a family of ministries, with these leaders and their work as an integral part of that family. To book one of these leaders, call Priests for Life at 888-735-3448.

### PRIEST PROFILE



*Fr. Arthur Minichello*

### Father Arthur Minichello

To demonstrate his commitment to the pro-life cause, Father Arthur Minichello doesn't have to venture too far outside his door. Six years ago, his Queens parish converted the former convent into the St. Fidelis Mother and Child residence, a home for pregnant women and their children.

"We've had seven women at a time," said Father Minichello, pastor of the 114-year-old parish for more than 11 years. Residences like Mother and Child, funded entirely by donations and the occasional grant from a politician, are the most eloquent response to frequent criticism from the pro-abortion side that pro-lifers' concerns for babies end at birth.

As he accepted a donation of \$1,300 for the residence from students at Holy Cross High School earlier this year, Father Minichello said, "The Catholic Church does not believe in abortion, yet these mothers had nowhere to go. We decided, 'let's put our money where our mouth is' and offer them a place to go when they were turned out at home."

*(Continued on reverse)*

**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).**

The women may stay in the residence up to a year and while there, receive counseling through Catholic Charities, as well as concrete assistance to help them get their lives back on track when they leave with their babies. "The one problem, really, is that after the year is up, they don't want to leave," the pastor said. The best outcome is when the new mothers are welcomed back by their families.

St. Fidelis has an active Respect Life Committee whose members pray outside abortion clinics and support pro-life charities. "The people here are very generous," Father Minichello said. Organized by German immigrants, the church is now home to Irish, Asian and Hispanic parishioners, all of whom "are very committed to life."

### The World's Best Known Pro-life Program

Our very own "Defending Life" program on EWTN television and radio now comes out with 13 new episodes twice a year! It is viewed and heard by millions around the world, and provides you a great tool to educate others about abortion. Check out viewing times and new episodes at: [PriestsForLife.org/defendinglife](http://PriestsForLife.org/defendinglife).

#### Prayer Intentions

You are encouraged to remember the following intentions in all your prayers:

**MARCH INTENTION:** That the fathers of aborted children may have the courage to make use of post-abortion counseling programs to find healing.

**APRIL INTENTION:** That faith in the Resurrection of Christ may strengthen the pro-life resolve of the People of God.

#### PrayerCampaign.org

At [www.PrayerCampaign.org](http://www.PrayerCampaign.org), Priests for Life promotes specific prayers that link the pro-life theme to seasons and special days of the year. Coming up, we have the following:

March 9 - April 21, 2011: Lenten Prayer for Life. Priests for Life invites you to make this Lent a particularly strong season of prayer and fasting to end abortion. And we invite you to join the largest prayer group in history, our Facebook cause "Pray to End Abortion," which can be found at [www.ProLifePrayers.com](http://www.ProLifePrayers.com).

March 22 - March 31, 2011: Novena in remembrance of Terri Schiavo (March 31 is "Terri's Day," and we encourage you to remember her with prayers and activities outlined at [TERRISDAY.org](http://TERRISDAY.org). Fr. Frank Pavone will celebrate the national memorial mass for Terri at Ave Maria University on the evening of March 31.)

March 25, 2011: Solemnity of the Annunciation. This is the day God became an unborn child within the body of the Virgin Mary. The prayer is to Jesus, Redeemer in the Womb.

April 24 - June 1, 2011: Easter Prayer for Life

#### Priests for Life is Supported Only by You!

Priests for Life is not subsidized by dioceses, the Bishops' Conference, or the Vatican. We rely completely on donations from individuals like you!

All contributions are tax-deductible, and may be designated for specific projects if you so choose.

You may donate at [www.priestsforlife.org/donate](http://www.priestsforlife.org/donate). On that web page you will find several options:

1. Make a one-time donation by credit card, or by electronic charging of your checking or savings account.
2. Allow us to charge your credit card, checking, or savings account each month.
3. Sign up for monthly mailings that will remind you to send your donation.
4. Call us at 718-980-4400, ext. 232 to discuss other options, including remembering Priests for Life as a beneficiary when you do your financial planning.

At any time, of course, you may write a check payable to "Priests for Life" and mail it to PO Box 141172, Staten Island, NY 10314.

### Order Key Pro-life Products

Order at [www.priestsforlife.org/store](http://www.priestsforlife.org/store) or mail your order to: Priests for Life, P.O. Box 141172, Staten Island, NY 10314; Or fax: (718) 980-3900; Or Email: [orders@priestsforlife.org](mailto:orders@priestsforlife.org).

#### Easter Prayer for Life Prayer Card

Easter is a season of life and we invite all believers to pray the "Easter Prayer for Life" each day, to counteract the most widespread and violent attack on human life in our day, which is abortion.



#### April is abortion recovery month!

#### Abortion Loss and Unresolved Grief

An Educational Series by Theresa Burke Ph.D., Kevin Burke, LSW and Fr. Frank Pavone on the Psychological and Spiritual Impact of Abortion. This is a 9 DVD set that comes with one course guide. **Additional course guides can be ordered separately.**



#### Abortion Loss and Unresolved Grief Course Guide

This is the course guide to accompany the Educational Series on the Psychological and Spiritual Impact of Abortion. The 9 DVD set above comes with one course guide.



#### Contraception of Grief

By Theresa Burke, Ph.D.

This book exposes the pain that so many women endure when they realize that the contraceptives they used caused the deaths of their children.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
 STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
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Send \_\_\_\_\_ *Easter Prayer for Life* Prayer Card(s) (#2456) at \$0.10 each for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send \_\_\_\_\_ Set(s) of *Abortion Loss and Unresolved Grief* Series (#2324) at \$60.00 each for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Course Guide(s) for *Abortion Loss and Unresolved Grief* Series (#2378) at \$7.00 each for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send \_\_\_\_\_ *Contraception of Grief* book(s) (#1776) at \$5.00 each for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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I made my donation online at [www.priestsforlife.org/donate](http://www.priestsforlife.org/donate)

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#### SHIPPING COSTS:

\$0.00 to \$25... \$7.95 \$100.01 to \$200...\$24.95

\$25.01 to \$50...\$12.95 \$200.01 or more...\$34.95

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