



PRIESTS FOR LIFE

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

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Number 4

National Day of Remembrance

On Saturday, September 14, Priests for Life, Citizens for a Pro-Life Society, and the Pro-Life Action League are calling on pro-life Americans to participate in a National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children to honor the gravesites of our unborn brothers and sisters.

Solemn prayer vigils will be conducted at these gravesites, of which there are 30 across the United States. Some of these graves contain hundreds and even thousands of bodies of aborted babies, discovered in trash containers outside abortion clinics.

The date of September 14, 2013, was chosen for this event because it marks the 25th anniversary of the burial of several hundred abortion victims in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

When people become aware of the reality of abortion, they can more easily cut through the lies by which some try to justify it, and the natural apathy to which human nature is inclined. Even pro-life people are thrust into a higher level
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Join us in Asking: Should this be legal?

Abortion is happening legally throughout pregnancy. Priests for Life is involved in exposing late-term abortion in particular, and making people aware of the specific procedure called "D and E" (Dilation and Evacuation, which is dismemberment abortion).



Fr. Frank speaking at the 2013 March for Life in Washington, DC.

Our campaign StopDandE.com has opened the eyes of many to this procedure, as has our "Is This What You Mean?" Campaign, by which we describe procedures like D and E (quoting medical textbooks that describe how the arms and legs are pulled off and the head is crushed) and then asking, "When you say the word 'abortion,' is this what you mean?"

While every direct abortion is equally wrong, pedagogically we make more progress starting with a focus on what is more obvious to the public, and then moving to what is

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Why Recall Abortion?

By Janet Morana, Executive Director

Soon after my book, "Recall Abortion," was published, a young woman from upstate New York died after a late-term abortion that she sought after learning very late in her pregnancy that something was wrong with her daughter. Since then, people have been asking me about late-term abortion, to which I devoted an entire chapter. The



Fr. Denis Wilde, OSA and Janet Morana tape new episodes of Defending Life.

question I heard the most was, why do women and couples decide to terminate pregnancies of nearly at-term babies? There are many reasons. Sometimes it's simply ambivalence coupled with denial that causes a mother to wait so long. At other times, couples may be told their baby has a life-limiting illness or will be born with a serious disability. Some doctors fuel their fears of a lifetime of hospital visits and medical procedures for their child. I know from my research that many doctors advise their patients to abort,

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National Day of Remembrance

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of commitment and activism.

Touching the reality of abortion happens in various ways: hearing a description of the procedure, seeing diagrams of it, seeing images of aborted children, hearing a woman's personal testimony of regret over her abortion.

This impact, whereby abortion no longer remains an abstraction, can be brought to an even more profound level when experienced in an event, such as a funeral for an aborted baby.

Tens of thousands of these children have been retrieved and buried at gravesites across our country. The stories of how they were killed, how they were found, and how they were buried, along with the images and videos that accompany those events, are powerful tools to awaken the consciences of our fellow citizens.

But while a funeral and burial for an aborted baby may be a relatively rare event, a visit to the burial places can happen regularly. That's what the National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children is all about.

To participate in the National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children, find information about a September 14 memorial service taking place near you, or to volunteer your help to organize one, see AbortionMemorials.com.

Why Recall Abortion?

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even late in pregnancy, because the doctor is worried about wrongful birth or wrongful life lawsuits. This kind of medical advice leaves couples with no hope and no useful information about alternatives. Sometimes a mother's life may be at risk, although at 33 weeks, an ob-gyn would likely deliver the baby and then treat the mother. But even earlier in the pregnancy, a caring physician will treat both patients, mother and child. Despite these ill-fated forecasts babies sometimes beat all the odds. Even if a baby will only live for a few minutes or hours, isn't it better to let nature take its course? Isn't it time to recall this terrible choice called abortion?

Naming the Gosnell Babies

See GosnellBabies.com

Priests for Life has been very involved in the trial and case of abortionist Kermit Gosnell, who was convicted of first-degree murder for killing babies after they were born by cutting their spinal cords with scissors. He also was responsible for the death of Karnamaya Mongar, one of the patients in his clinic, by a drug overdose. Fr. Frank, Janet Morana, Bryan Kemper, Alveda King, Kevin Burke, Fr. Wilde and Leslie Palma of our Priests for Life staff were all in the courtroom and provided information to the media and to pro-life activists nationwide. We are also making known other cases of abortionists engaged in various illegal activity and calling for investigations of them and their facilities. For instance, we have brought the case of abortionist Douglas Karpen of Texas to the attention of many people (see TexasGosnell.com).

All these cases bring America face to face with abortion, which, as Gosnell's defense argued, is "bloody" and "real."

For those who have had abortions, it brings them again in touch with a pain that is never really far away, and it brings them in touch yet again with their need for healing. This is especially true when we see what the Gosnell case has confronted us with: bodies of babies in bags and cartons in the freezer, severed feet in jars, some 45 babies retrieved in a raid on the clinic and entrusted to the Philadelphia Medical Examiner.

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Join us in Asking: Should this be legal?

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less obvious. Even many "pro-choice" people support a ban on dismemberment abortion, once they realize what it is.

In several states, laws have been passed that protect children in the womb from abortion after 20 weeks of development, because the weight of the scientific evidence is that they feel pain by that point. The awareness of late-term abortion generated by the Kermit Gosnell case has accelerated the momentum behind this effort. In May of this year, Congressman Trent Franks introduced a bill to make it a nationwide policy that abortions cannot be performed after 20 weeks. (By the time this newsletter reaches you, there may have been significant developments in this bill. Please check at Priestsforlife.org/legislation for what you can do to help.)

One of the things the Priests for Life team is going to do is go to members of Congress and show them the medical diagram explaining what D and E abortion is. Then we ask them one simple question: do they think that this process should be legal on a healthy baby carried by a healthy mother?

When we go to each member of Congress to ask this question, we want to take you with us. In other words, we want to tell your Senators and your Representative that you are asking the question with us. And we want to tell them that we will send back to you their answer.

Use the form below to sign on to this effort. We will share with you the responses we receive!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Yes, Fr. Frank, I join with you in asking my US Representative and Senators if they think dismembering a living unborn child should be legal.

Mail to: Priests for Life, PO Box 141172, Staten Island, NY 10314

Naming the Gosnell Babies

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As Pastoral Director of the world's largest ministry for healing after abortion, *Rachel's Vineyard*, as well as of the largest mobilization of those who speak out about their abortions, the *Silent No More Awareness Campaign*, I have accompanied countless mothers and fathers on their journeys of healing. And I have presided over the burials of many aborted babies.

One of the key moments of that journey of healing after abortion is when the parents name their child. The moment is powerful and freeing. Up until then, the child was a victim of de-humanization. Before we can kill, we have to dehumanize. *"This is not a child,"* we lie to ourselves, and so cover the child with a veil of dehumanization.



Fr. Frank outside the Philadelphia courtroom where he attended the Gosnell trial.

And that is where the power of the name comes in.

People have names. One of the first things we do when coming to know of another person is to inquire as to their *name*. The name expresses the person, it invites and welcomes the person. And in receiving their name we offer our own.

In the case of Dr. Gosnell, we have heard of the 45 babies retrieved from the clinic. And we have read the Grand Jury Report and heard the witnesses speak of "Baby Boy A," "Baby Boy B," Baby C, D, E, F and G.

But at this point in our collective journey through this nightmare, we must connect with these children more directly. That's why Priests for Life has named these children. We have no evidence that anyone else has given them a name or was interested in giving them a name. In fact, these babies were brought to an abortion facility to be killed and then thrown away. The fact that their parents abandoned them does not give us permission to do so. "Though father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me," Scripture tells us (*Psalms 27:10*). "I have called you by name, you are mine," the Lord says (*Isaiah 43:1*). As Pope John Paul II wrote, "God ... has entrusted the life of every individual to his or her fellow human beings, brothers and sisters" (*Evangelium Vitae*, 76). From the point of view, then, that we are one human family called into being by God, *these children are also ours*. And that's why we can name them when nobody else has.

On Ascension Thursday, May 9, 2013, a simple ceremony was held in the chapel at the headquarters of Priests for Life in Staten Island, NY. We heard the Word of God, prayed for these babies, their families, and those who participated in their deaths. And we then named them. I chose the name "Adam" for "Baby Boy A," simply as a reminder that Adam, the first man ever created, reminds us that in each man -- and in each child -- all humanity is somehow represented, and that our response to that one person, whether acceptance or rejection, shapes our response to every person. I named "Baby Boy B" Michael, to remind us of the struggle between good and evil that rages in our culture and in our own mind and heart as we choose how we will respond to each person.

Most of the other names are gender-neutral, since we do not have information on the genders of most of the babies.

Moreover, the naming ceremony took place on this Feast of the Ascension, for on that day, the humanity that the Lord Jesus took to the heights of heaven is the same human nature shared by all of us -- rich and poor, healthy and sick, born and unborn -- and by all these babies. We remembered all the babies killed by Dr. Gosnell, well beyond those found in his clinic, as well as the over 50 million children killed across America since *Roe vs. Wade* declared they were not persons.

The names we gave to the 45 babies follow. We invite you to pray for them and their families, and for Dr. Gosnell and his staff. We look forward, once receiving permission of the Medical Examiner, to give these children a proper funeral and burial.

Names of the Gosnell Babies

From the Grand Jury Report: *"The Philadelphia medical examiner analyzed the remains of 45 fetuses seized from the clinic. Of these, 16 were first-trimester; 25 were second-trimester, ranging from 12 to 21 weeks; 2 were 22 weeks; 1 was 26 weeks; and 1 was 28 weeks."*

Baby Adam (Baby Boy A, aborted at seven and a half months, six pounds weight)

Baby Michael (Baby Boy B, killed at 28 weeks)

Baby Alex (Baby C, breathed for 20 minutes after delivery.)

Baby Chris (Baby D -- Was delivered into the toilet and was seen swimming there.)

Baby Andy (Baby E -- This baby was heard to whine.)

Baby Lou (Baby F -- This baby's leg jerked and moved after being delivered.)

Baby Pat (Baby G), Baby Joshua, Baby David, Baby Ashley, Baby Sal, Baby Terry, Baby Sam, Baby Val, Baby Tony, Baby Ronnie, Baby Sarah, Baby Melanie, Baby Sandy, Baby Corey, Baby Drew, Baby Ryan, Baby Toby, Baby Sean, Baby Kelly, Baby Carroll, Baby Joseph, Baby Benjamin, Baby Stacey, Baby Gabriel, Baby Brett, Baby Julian, Baby Taylor, Baby Courtney, Baby Danny, Baby Kim, Baby Mandy, Baby Robin, Baby Austin, Baby Abel, Baby Michelle, Baby Lisa, Baby Shannon, Baby Nevin, Baby Connor

At PrayerCampaign.org, please join us in the following intentions and novenas:

July intention: For those who suffer persecution and discrimination for speaking up for the unborn.

August intention: For the healing of fathers of aborted children.

August 7-15, 2013: Assumption Novena

August 28 – Sept 5, 2013: Novena to Blessed Mother Teresa

Please also join our prayer cause, ProLifePrayers.com!

The Will to Live

In our next issue, we will have a detailed section on the Will to Live. In short, this is a document you can sign to appoint a health care proxy who can speak for you in those cases where you may not be able to speak for yourself. This document says you want the treatments that are morally obligatory and medically helpful, and protects you from being deprived of such treatments because of government bureaucracy or somebody else’s decision that may not be in accord with your beliefs. Go to www.priestsforlife.org/WillToLive to request a copy of this document for yourself or a loved one, or call us at 888-735-3448.

Action Alert successes

Do you want to be part of our cutting-edge activity to end abortion? We have been winning victory after victory through our *action alerts*, which are sent out via email when there is a situation that we can respond to and make a difference. For instance, we urged the Governor in North Dakota to sign strong pro-life legislation, and we called for investigations into abortion mills in Alabama and Delaware, *and we got the results we asked for!* You can be part of these victories, too. Your voice is needed! Sign up at our special action website, StopAbortionNow.org, and read more examples there of what we accomplish.



Fr. Frank with Gov. Sarah Palin, who told him she has read all his books.

Order great pro-life books for your summer reading!

Recall Abortion by Janet Morana delves deeply into abortion as a bad product that should be recalled by our government, and explores what women who had abortions recall about the experience.

Ending Abortion; Not Just Fighting It by Fr. Frank Pavone is a collection of stirring and informative pro-life essays.

Forbidden Grief by Dr Theresa Burke reveals the deep wound of abortion with profound insight and memorable examples.

Sharing the Heart of Christ by Kevin Burke presents abortion as a relational wound exploring the effects on marriage and family life and special chapters address unique issues for clergy in their ministry.

Social Justice Begins in the Womb by Bryan Kemper is a must-have resource for those interested in pro-life issues.

Send ___ *Recall Abortion* (#3393) at \$20.00 each for a total of ____.

Send ___ *Ending Abortion* (#1930) at \$5.00 each for a total of ____.

Send ___ *Forbidden Grief* (#2012) at \$17.95 each for a total of ____.

Send ___ *Sharing Heart of Christ* (#2116) at \$10.00 each for a total of ____.

Send ___ *Social Justice Begins in Womb* (#3401) at \$10.00 each for a total of ____.

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