



# PRIESTS FOR LIFE

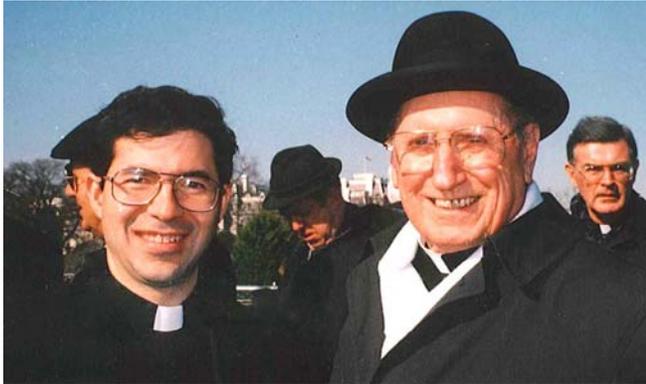
## *an outreach of Gospel of Life Ministries*

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

Mar - Apr 2014 Vol. 24

www.priestsforlife.org

Number 2



Fr. Frank Pavone with Cardinal O'Connor at the March for Life

### Be a Founding Member of the...

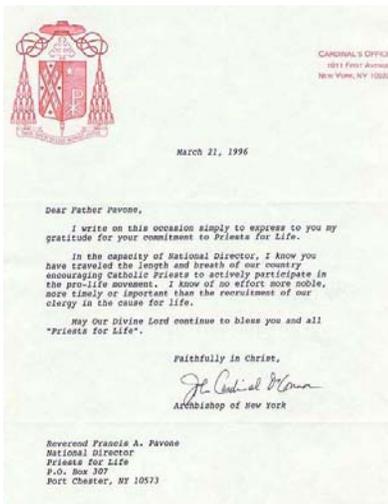
### Cardinal John O'Connor Institute for the Pro-life Training of the Clergy

We are happy to announce a new initiative and to invite you to partner with us to make it a success!

Cardinal O'Connor was instrumental in the genesis and growth of Priests for Life, having released Fr. Frank Pavone to do this work full time in 1993 and having later written to him reiterating its importance. (See reprint of letter below.)

Moreover, Dr. Bernard Nathanson, a key architect of the abortion industry who later became pro-life and eventually a Catholic, said publicly that he and his pro-abortion colleagues

in the 1960's and 70's "would never have gotten away with what we did if you (the clergy) had been *united, purposeful, and strong.*" For that reason, he praised Priests for Life as an extraordinary and much-needed apostolate. (See video of his comments on YouTube.com/frfrankpavone.)



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### Churches, Tax Exemption, and Politics: Part One

Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director

It's an election year again, and unless we're careful, we can easily be misled by vague assertions about "the dangers of losing our tax-exempt status."

Let me state categorically from the outset: *it's not going to happen, period.*

In this and in the rest of our newsletters leading up to November, we will explore and explode some of the myths surrounding "tax exemption" and the silly ways we strangle our own freedom to speak the truth about elections.

What may come as a surprise for many is that Churches are *not* tax-exempt because of a form they fill out and a letter of determination that they receive from the government. *Rather, Churches are already automatically tax exempt by law.* Whether they seek a determination of that status from the government by filling out a form and receiving a letter is *entirely up to them*, if they want a piece of paper that proves that they have the exemption. *But even without the piece of paper, they have the exemption anyway*, as long as their mission corresponds to the criteria of tax-exempt entities. Under the IRC, the section that talks about this "mandatory exception" rule for Churches is section 508(c)(1)(A).

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### Pope Francis on our Vulnerable Unborn Brothers and Sisters

On the Feast of Christ the King, November 24, 2013, our Holy Father Pope Francis issued his Apostolic Exhortation "Evangelii Gaudium," The Joy of the Gospel. Among his key points, he stressed that religion which does not make us responsive, on a human, effective level, to the sufferings of others, is false and dangerous. The Gospel is "joy" because, among other reasons, it empowers us to serve, and the document is issued on the Feast of Christ the King because, in his Kingdom, power is *service*.

It is in this context that the Pope raises the issue

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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).

## Cardinal John O'Connor Institute...

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It has, therefore, been the conviction of Priests for Life that today's proponents of the culture of death will still not get away with what they are doing if we become *more united, purposeful, and strong.*

Mindful, then, of the teaching and example of Cardinal O'Connor and Dr. Nathanson in this regard, Priests for Life intends to redouble its efforts in 2014 to train the clergy. With the support of Cardinal O'Connor's sister, Mary Ward, we are launching the **Cardinal John O'Connor Institute for the Pro-life Training of the Clergy**, which will include a re-packaging of many of the activities Priests for Life has done all along, together with some new initiatives. Among the Institute's activities will be the following:

-- Training seminars for seminarians, deacons, and priests, in which our team will travel to seminaries and dioceses, and present a flexible package of presentations ranging in length anywhere from a luncheon talk to a seminar of several days, and covering the themes of preaching, counseling, and pro-life strategies and activities that can be carried out and promoted in parishes, schools, and other Catholic institutions.

-- Training in pro-life spirituality, with retreats and days of recollection available for seminarians, deacons, and priests.

-- A new book on Preaching the Pro-life Message, containing, among other things, answers to the most common fears about addressing abortion, and homily hints based on the readings of every Sunday of the three-year liturgical cycle. These homily hints are also available for each of these Sundays in video format on You Tube, as well as in a smartphone application.

-- Special training days offered for clergy at our New York headquarters of Priests for Life, as well as at our Washington DC office, right behind the Supreme Court. Sessions in Washington will include special opportunities to interact with practicing Christians in Congress and to learn more about how to support pro-life legislation.

-- Specialized training in post-abortion healing, making use of our expert team who developed Rachel's Vineyard Ministries, which operates under the umbrella of Priests for Life, and also making use of the insights of our Silent No More Awareness Campaign.

-- Specialized training in the healing of former abortion clinic workers and abortionists, based on the research and experience of the "Society of Centurions," a worldwide organization of former abortionists, who have gone through healing based on the model developed by Canadian psychiatrist Dr. Philip Ney, foremost expert in the psychology of abortionists.

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## Churches, Tax Exemption, and Politics....

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The federal court case *Branch Ministries v. Rossotti* (211 F.3d 137 (D.C. Cir. 2000)) refers to this fact when it says,

*"Although most organizations seeking tax-exempt status are required to apply to the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS" or "Service") for an advance determination that they meet the requirements of section 501(c)(3), id. § 508(a), a church may simply hold itself out as tax exempt and receive the benefits of that status without applying for advance recognition from the IRS. Id. § 508(c)(1)(A)."*

The tax exemption of Churches actually dates back to ancient times. As the Supreme Court itself has noted, there is an "unbroken" history of such exemption in our country, and it "covers our entire national existence and indeed predates it" (*Walz v. Tax Comm'n*, 397 U.S. 664, 678 (1970)). As Erik W. Stanley points out, "[T]he unassailable fact remains that, for as long as anyone can remember, churches have always been tax-exempt or enjoyed favorable tax treatment" (*LBJ, The IRS, and Churches: The Unconstitutionality of the Johnson Amendment in Light of Recent Supreme Court Precedent*, *Regent University Law Review*, Volume 24, 2011-2012, Number 2). The article refers to examples of the tax exemption of Churches from the priests of ancient Egypt and from ancient Sumeria in 2800 B.C.! This is understandable from the perspective of our own Constitution and from a consideration of the nature of the Church. "My kingdom is not of this world," the Lord said. The Church is the breaking into history of the Kingdom of God. As we have already seen, good Christians are called to be good citizens. These identities are not incompatible. But neither are they identical, and that is why the Church does not seek permission for its mission from civil government, and our Constitution does not presume the authority to give such permission. Hence the First Amendment declared, "*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...*"

So Churches are tax exempt **by law**. Most of them take the additional step of seeking a letter of determination from the government, and most will organize their activities

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Fr. Frank with Bishop Thomas John Paprocki of the Diocese of Springfield, IL. Both were taping for *Shalom World TV* during the March for Life in Washington, DC.

## “Churches, Tax Exemption, and Politics....”

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under the umbrella of a section 501(c)(3) entity. But they do not have to do that either. A Church could choose to organize some of its activities under the c3 umbrella and others under the c4 model, or even organize an LLC or LL Partnership, hence allowing additional freedom.

More to follow in our next newsletter!

## Pope Francis on the Vulnerable Unborn...

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of abortion, and reminds us that the context for understanding this issue is “concern for the vulnerable.” It is not abstract, and is not primarily about sexual morality. Rather, it is about service and justice. His words about our unborn neighbors are as follows:

213. *Among the vulnerable for whom the Church wishes to care with particular love and concern are unborn children, the most defenceless and innocent among us. Nowadays efforts are made to deny them their human dignity and to do with them whatever one pleases, taking their lives and passing laws preventing anyone from standing in the way of this. Frequently, as a way of ridiculing the Church’s effort to defend their lives, attempts are made to present her position as ideological, obscurantist and conservative. Yet this defence of unborn life is closely linked to the defence of each and every other human right. It involves the conviction that a human being is always sacred and inviolable, in any situation and at every stage of development. Human beings are ends in themselves and never a means of resolving other problems. Once this conviction disappears, so do solid and lasting foundations for the defence of human rights, which would always be subject to the passing whims of the powers that be. Reason alone is sufficient to recognize the inviolable value of each single human life, but if we also look at the issue from the standpoint of faith, every violation of the personal dignity of the human being cries out in vengeance to God and is an offence against the creator of the individual.*

214. *Precisely because this involves the internal consistency of our message about the value of the human person, the Church cannot be expected to change her position on this question. I want to be completely honest in this regard. This is not something subject to alleged reforms or “modernizations”. It is not “progressive” to try to resolve problems by eliminating a human life.*

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*On the other hand, it is also true that we have done little to adequately accompany women in very difficult situations, where abortion appears as a quick solution to their profound anguish, especially when the life developing within them is the result of rape or a situation of extreme poverty. Who can remain unmoved before such painful situations? Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*.*

## Social justice begins with a T-shirt!

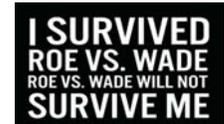
Stand True Pro-Life Outreach products were best-sellers at the March for Life in Washington, D.C. All of Stand True’s pro-life products – T-shirts, tanks, hoodie, stickers, books and more – are available at [www.prolifeworld.com](http://www.prolifeworld.com).

Here are just a few.

**Let God Plan Parenthood Sticker** – 5.5 x 2.75 - \$2.00 each (bulk prices available)



**I Survived Roe vs. Wade Sticker** – 4x4 square - \$2.00, 3/\$5.00, 10/\$10.00



**Abortion Is Homicide T-Shirt** – Espresso brown available from S-XL - \$20.00



**Aborto es Muerte T-Shirt** – Heather navy blue available from S-XL - \$20.00



## Pray with us for Life

PrayerCampaign.org is our prayer website. Visit there often for prayer campaigns, intentions, and resources, and to join the over 87,000 people in our cause “Pray to End Abortion.”

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

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

March 31, 2014: 9th anniversary of the death of Terri Schiavo.

April 28, 2014: 52nd Anniversary of the death of St. Gianna Beretta Molla, Patroness of Mothers and Physicians.

April 20, 2014 - June 8, 2014 Easter Prayer for Life

## Cardinal John O'Connor Institute...

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-- Specialized training in how to dialogue with advocates and practitioners of abortion, and show to them the face of Christ, inviting them to conversion based on a recognition that our belief in the sanctity of *every* human life includes *theirs, too*.

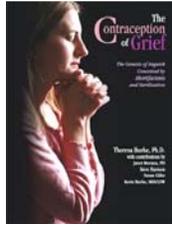
Cardinal O'Connor's sister, Mary Ward commented on this initiative as follows: "The pro-life legacy of my brother, Cardinal John O'Connor, is well known. Part of that legacy was his work in helping Priests for Life get started, and his support of Fr. Frank Pavone, whom he ordained and later released to help inspire and motivate clergy across the country. This new Institute started by Priests for Life, and named after the Cardinal, will continue to plant his vision and passion for the defense of life in the hearts and minds of many priests for decades to come. This work deserves the support of all in the Church."

We are therefore asking you, our Priests for Life family, to help jump-start this effort by becoming a *Founding Member* of the Institute. Invest today in the training of clergy for years to come in the most important battle our Church faces! For more details as to how you can support this effort, call us at 888-735-3448 or email [director@priestsforlife.org](mailto:director@priestsforlife.org).

### Featured Products from ProLifeProducts.org

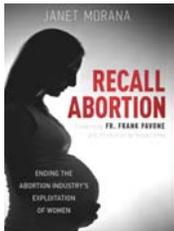
#### *The Contraception of Grief*

This book exposes the pain that so many women endure when they realize that the contraceptives they used caused the deaths of their children. This book is for women, men, pastors, doctors and all who minister to the family. \$5.00



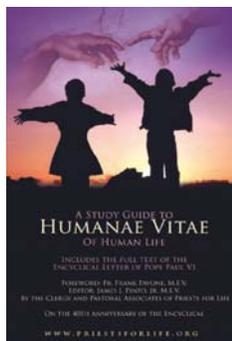
#### *Recall Abortion*

Janet Morana delves deeply into abortion as a bad product that should be recalled by our government, and explores what women who have abortions recall about the experience. She traces the societal changes that brought about abortion, and covers many of the arguments for keeping abortion legal, including at-risk mothers, victims of rape and incest, and fetal anomalies. Published by Saint Benedict Press. \$20.00



#### *Study Guide to Humanae Vitae (Of Human Life)*

This study guide, written by the Priests and Pastoral Associates of Priests for Life, contains the text of the Encyclical itself (*Humanae Vitae* written by Pope Paul VI) along with commentary and study questions. Great for personal or group use and Pre-Cana classes. \$5.00



Get all three for only \$25.00 including shipping and handling

- Send all three of the above resources for only \$25.00 including shipping and handling
- Send \_\_\_ *The Contraception of Grief* (#1776) at \$5.00 each for a total of \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- Send \_\_\_ *Recall Abortion* (#3393) for \$20.00 each for a total of \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- Send \_\_\_ *Humanae Vitae Study Guide* (#2115) for \$5.00 each for a total of \$\_\_\_\_\_.
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Please add an additional donation to cover shipping and handling.

#### Shipping and Handling

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Keep up with Fr. Frank at [FrFranksBlog.com](http://FrFranksBlog.com)!