

# PRIESTS FOR LIFE

## an outreach of Gospel of Life Ministries

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 5



*Fr. Frank blesses an unborn baby for whom a national memorial service was offered in New Orleans.*

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

*Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director*

The midterm elections are upon us. Let's be clear: it is time for clergy to state in the pulpit that *the People of God have to elect public servants who know the difference between serving the public and killing the public*, and that those who can't tell the difference don't belong in public office. To permit abortion, to favor *Roe vs. Wade*, is in fact a failure to distinguish serving from killing.

Clergy may want to quote from the U.S. Bishops' document *Living the Gospel of Life* to start teaching about this. An official document like this, one can trust, is safe both doctrinally and legally.

And yet so many will still be frozen into silence because somebody tells them the tax exemption of the Church - not just theirs, mind you, but of the entire Catholic Church from coast to coast - is in jeopardy and hangs by a thread.

And we say, **Nonsense.**

Once, for a single day, and without any tax being assessed, or any penalty being imposed, a single Church (not a Catholic parish) had its "Advance Determination Letter" revoked, because the Church had put a paid advertisement in the paper urging people to vote against Bill Clinton. That was pretty explicit. Yet the next day, the Church was back to business as usual with its tax-exempt status. "*The impact of the revocation is likely to be more symbolic than substantial,*" said the federal court in this...

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### Why Are the US Senate Elections Important?

This November's elections will determine more than whether pro-lifers have majorities in the Senate and House next year to pass good bills. They will also determine how many pro-abortion judges receive lifetime appointments to our federal courts.

This is crucial because if our courts are dominated by radical pro-abortion jurists like those the President has been nominating, it won't matter how many sound, protective state pro-life laws we pass - those laws will be struck down by judges who look to Planned Parenthood instead of the Constitution for legal guidance.

Whichever party holds at least 51 Senate seats (or 50 seats plus the Vice Presidency) holds the keys to political power in that body - both in terms of which bills get passed and which federal judges get approved.

For starters, the party that controls the Senate appoints the chairmen of all its 20 legislative committees and 68 subcommittees. Every bill that's introduced is referred to a committee and quite often a subcommittee. Barring an unusual parliamentary maneuver, before a measure is ever voted upon by the full Senate, it must first be approved by a committee; before a committee may vote upon a bill, a subcommittee usually has to approve it first. And since a committee or subcommittee doesn't act without its chairman's orders, committee chairmen become the gatekeepers of legislation - virtually nothing passes without their permission.

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### A Bitter Pill to Be Avoided

*Janet Morana, Executive Director*

*Adapted from the version printed in the National Catholic Register on May 19, 2014*

It is crucial for voters who care about the dignity of human life to go to the polls in November.

We need a pro-life Senate.

By 2016, it might be too late to reverse the deadly momentum of the Affordable Care Act and its contraception and abortion mandate, so it is no overstatement to say the 2014 midterms might be our last chance to overturn it.

This November, voters will choose 36 Senate seats. Most of the seats are held by incumbents looking for an easy win, but Catholics - if they make the life issue their No. 1 priority - have

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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)

*Under Church law, the competent authority of Priests for Life is Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York.*

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the power in numbers to make sure no abortion-loving politician of either party coasts to a new six-year term.

The language of choice has grown much more sinister in the four years since the Affordable Care Act became law. The HHS mandate and its guarantee of contraception, abortion and sterilization covered by health insurance for every American is the most compelling illustration of how “choice” has degenerated into coercion. But this did not happen overnight, and it didn’t begin with President Barack Obama.

When the looming abortion war was just a shadow on the horizon, doctors were already playing God.

By 1965, it had long been accepted that a woman was pregnant from the time conception had taken place. But that year, five years after the birth-control pill was approved for use in the United States, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) changed the definition of pregnancy to begin at implantation. Hence, killing a new life by ejecting it from the womb before implantation was not an early abortion, but merely birth control. That is not biology; that is politics.

This had huge implications, as Dr. Bent Boving was aware when he famously said, at a 1959 Planned Parenthood population symposium: “The social advantage of being considered to prevent conception rather than to destroy an established pregnancy could depend on something so simple as a prudent habit of speech.”

What Boving and his ACOG compatriots were doing was ensuring that Americans didn’t start questioning the abortifacient effect of birth control, hence paving the way to legalizing abortion.

I was devastated when the full impact of how contraception works struck me. I felt as if the planet had tilted on its axis. My painful epiphany happened at Disney World. I had taken the pill for the first two years of my marriage. Almost immediately after I stopped, I became pregnant with my first daughter. My twin girls followed not even two years later. I was young and fertile.

Decades later, at Epcot Center, watching a video called *The Making of Me*, it struck me that, during those two years on the pill, I could have - and very likely did - conceive a child or many children. I was overcome by grief for the life I had, unwittingly, destroyed. Now, after working in the pro-life movement for more than 20 years, I know that I am not alone in the sorrow I felt over contracepting my children out of existence. I did not have a surgical abortion, but I swallowed the lie that the pill was harmless and would guarantee a future of my choosing.

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I never could have imagined 10 years ago, when I had my Epcot epiphany, the crossroads at which we stand today. “Abortifacient” has become a familiar word that was even debated at the Supreme Court when the Hobby Lobby case was heard. With questions of contraception at the center of dozens of lawsuits, including one in which I am a plaintiff, some people, at least, are finally starting to question what contraception really is and what it really does.

The HHS mandate tries to force nonprofit groups like Priests for Life to provide coverage for these abortion-causing drugs. As a plaintiff in our case against the Obama administration,

this violates my conscience and the mission of Priests for Life, a Catholic pro-life organization that follows the Church teaching that states that any artificial method of avoiding conception goes against God’s plan for humanity.

When Obamacare supporters charge that religious fanatics are trying to control women’s sex lives, those of us who believe in the teachings of the Church and care about the lives and health of women and their children must be ready to counter with the truth. We have been deceived by a medical profession that works in tandem with the pharmaceutical industry, and both have profited handsomely from our ignorance. Complacency is a luxury we can no longer afford.

The Church is stirring us into action this October by beatifying the Pope who wrote the controversial document known as “the birth control encyclical,” *Humanae Vitae*. As Pope Francis puts an exclamation point to Blessed Pope Paul VI’s teachings, it’s time for us to reread them and apply them.

We can no longer afford to look at the life issue as just one among many when we are headed to the ballot box. Elections have consequences.

The results of the midterm elections are critical if we want to ward off further attacks on the Church, on the family and on life itself. Remember, every vote counts, and we as Catholics have a duty to vote - and vote pro-life.

We can’t wait for someone else to do it.



Fr. Frank and Fr. Victor at EWTN on the set of *Defendiendo la Vida*.

### Hispanic Outreach of Priests for Life

Fr. Victor Salomon, International Director of Hispanic Outreach

Priests for Life recognizes the need to reach the Hispanic community worldwide, and our activities and resources in that regard continue to grow. In addition to preaching in parishes, Sacerdotes Por la Vida serves the unborn through the mass media on a weekly basis: On Television we have had a pro-life series on EWTN for five years, called *Defendiendo la Vida (Defending Life)*. It is transmitted to Spain and to the cable networks of the Americas, as well as worldwide through the internet. At the present time we have one radio show. It is called *Evangelio de Vida (Gospel of Life)*, and it has been on the air for three years, on Tuesdays at 9a.m. ET on Radio Maria. On the show we have Spanish-speaking guests who are involved in the pro-life movement. We participate as guests on the radio show *Familia y Vida (Family and Life)*. It airs on the third Saturday of each month at 1p.m. ET on Radio Jesús New York.

As you know, the new “areopagus” to preach the Gospel of Life

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is social media. Our *YouTube* channel is called *Contraelaborto* (*Against abortion*). In it you will find many pro-life videos. We have also our *Sacerdotes por la Vida* Facebook page with more than 200,000 followers from more than 20 countries. This pro-life power tool permits us to be in contact with many of our followers. The fruits of this apostolate are immeasurable, but we are only sowers. God will reveal the fruits in his time and ways. For more information “en español” please visit *SacerdotesPorLaVida.org*.

### 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.”

September intention: That youth leaders have the courage and creativity to speak about abortion.

October intention: For strong and effective pro-life homilies throughout the Church.

Sept 2 - Nov 4, 2014: Nine Week Election Novena

Oct 8 - 16, 2014: Novena to St. Gerard Majella (Patron Saint of Pregnancy and Childbirth)

Oct 14 - 22, 2014: Novena to St. John Paul

Oct 18 - 26, 2014: Novena for Priests, leading to Priesthood Sunday

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

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... case (*Branch Ministries v Rossotti*).

This wasn't even dealing with sermons or with articles in the bulletin.

And one would be hard pressed to find a single additional case in our entire history in which a Church had its tax-exempt status revoked because of “political intervention.”

Consider the case of All Saints Episcopal Church in Pasadena, California. In the Bush-Kerry presidential election, a visiting minister conducted a mock debate. Jesus was the moderator, and criticized President Bush. There was an IRS audit of the Church that went on for 27 months. The Church stood firmly for its freedom to speak. In the end, *no penalties were imposed*, despite the fact that the IRS sent a letter saying that the Church did intervene in the race and should not do it again.

During the 2004 election cycle, the IRS launched an initiative called “PACI” -- the Political Activities Compliance Initiative. For whatever motive, the agency wanted to appear tough and swift on enforcing the Johnson amendment. But in the end, it was more bark than bite. After a couple of years, a hundred cases had been investigated, but *no church had its tax-exempt status revoked*. The project then seemed to fade out, with no explanation of why.

The *Pulpit Freedom Sunday* initiative launched by the Alliance Defending Freedom in 2008 seeks to provoke a court challenge to the Johnson Amendment by having pastors preach very explicitly about candidates and make recommendations to their congregation on how to vote. The point here is not to turn the Church into a political mechanism. Instead, the point

is to increase the freedom of the Church to speak in a way that pertains to what is happening in our nation. The point is not to preach politics, but to preach the Word of God and let it illumine politics.

Over 30 pastors across America participated in the first Pulpit Freedom Sunday in September, 2008. The number has grown every year since then. In 2009, there were 83 pastors; in 2010 there were a hundred; in 2011 there were 539 and in 2012 the number of pastors who signed up surpassed 1,500. It is happening again this year on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Not only did these pastors defy the IRS interpretation of the Johnson Amendment, but they sent recordings of their sermons to the IRS!

Now those who run around the country yelling inside and outside the Churches, “The IRS is coming, the IRS is coming” might expect to see an immediate, draconian crackdown on this blatant refusal to “follow the law.” No doubt, they would think, these pastors have gotten their Churches into hot water, leading to “losing the Church’s tax-exempt status.”

*But no such thing has happened*, in any of these years, to any of these Churches. In fact, the IRS has been silent. No investigations have been launched, no tax-exempt statuses revoked. In fact, not even a warning has been issued.

There was only one “peep” out of the IRS when this project started, and it was an anemic one. The IRS launched an investigation into a single church in Minnesota during the first year of the project, but after an 11-month audit, closed the investigation without any findings. And that was it.

Might it be reasonable if we suggest that the fear of preaching about the elections is highly exaggerated?

See **PoliticalResponsibility.com** for more details and resources.

Find our many Social Media platforms at [PriestsForLife.org/SocialMedia](http://PriestsForLife.org/SocialMedia)

### Why Are the US Senate Elections Important?

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If a committee chairman favors a bill, he will order his committee to take action on it by scheduling hearings and a vote. If a committee chairman doesn't like a bill, he simply kills it by ignoring it. Less than 10 percent of all bills introduced in Congress are ever voted upon - and committee chairmen choose those measures.

The most long-lasting impact of control of the Senate is found in the constitutionally granted power to decide if a president's nominees for lifetime judicial appointments should be confirmed.

Under Article II of the Constitution, the President must obtain Senate approval for his judicial nominees. This means the Senate has the power to confirm - or block - any person nominated for any federal court position.

All federal court appointees, including those to the Supreme Court, must be approved first by the Senate Judiciary Committee and then by the full Senate. The Judiciary Committee conducts investigations of the president's judicial

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picks and holds hearings where the committee chairman and members ask questions of the potential judges about their records and their beliefs. While a judicial nominee can occasionally be sent to the Senate floor for a vote without the Judiciary Committee's approval, in general, if the President's nominee doesn't pass muster with the committee, that nominee is not confirmed.

The Senate, then, has the power, if it wants to exercise it, to block a president's pick for the federal bench. This is a power that the House of Representatives does not have and, since appointments to the federal bench are for life, it is a power that impacts the nation far beyond a Senator's or a President's tenure.

### Upcoming Events

National Life Chain  
Sunday, October 5, 2014 - NationalLifeChain.org  
Pro-Life Day of Silent Solidarity  
Tuesday, October 21, 2014 - SilentDay.org

For decades, Senate rules required that a judicial nominee receive 60 votes before his or her nomination could be voted upon. Last year, the Senate, with the support of President Obama, changed those rules so that only 50 votes are needed for judicial nominees to gain approval. This change had been so unthinkable in the past that it was called the "nuclear option." Now it's a reality - the rules have been blown away.

Since this "nuclear option" was invoked in 2013, the President has been filling the federal courts with rabidly pro-abortion judges. In fact, he has succeeded in giving lifetime appointments to more judges than either Presidents Clinton or Bush did in their first six years - and Mr. Obama hasn't even completed his sixth year!

If President Obama is allowed to continue packing our courts:

- State pro-life laws for which we've worked so hard for so many years and which can save so many lives will never be implemented;
- State pro-life laws that have been on the books for years may be declared void;
- The right to live our faith as guaranteed by the Constitution will be swept aside;
- And Roe v. Wade, rather than being dismantled, could one day be strengthened.

The greased-skid approach now in play in the Senate for appointing pro-abortion judges will continue for at least two more years – unless this November's elections bring a change in which party controls the Senate. In short, if six pro-life Senators replace six pro-abortion Senators this fall, it will be much more difficult for the President to transform our courts into the ACLU with robes.

### Featured Products



#### Voting with a Clear Conscience

This brochure explains the Catholic citizen's moral obligation to vote and take an active role in the country's political process. It does not endorse any particular candidate or political party. It stresses the importance of:

- (1) Knowing every candidate's position,
- (2) Rejecting those who disqualify themselves from public office, and
- (3) Weighing the various issues confronting the nation.

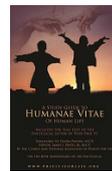


#### In the Palm of His Hand

This popular little prayer book has been revised and expanded to include additional prayers from Fr. Frank Pavone to enrich your private and public prayer to bring about a culture of life. This little treasury of prayer now includes your favorite novenas, found at [PrayerCampaign.org](http://PrayerCampaign.org), post-abortion healing prayers and more. 58 pages.

#### Mass Cards for the Living and Deceased

Priests for Life is happy to offer Mass cards - free of charge - to enroll your living and deceased loved ones and friends in the prayers and Masses of our association, and for all your special intentions. When you use them, please send in your donation.

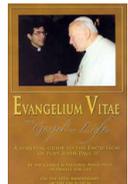


#### Study Guide to Humanae Vitae

Written by the Priests and Pastoral Associates of Priests for Life, the guide contains the text of the Encyclical itself, *Humanae Vitae (On Human Life)*, written by Pope Paul VI along with commentary and study questions.

#### Study Guide to Evangelium Vitae

Written by the clergy and pastoral associates of Priests for Life, this guide can be used by individuals or groups as a side-by-side companion with the Encyclical itself. It will aid in delving more deeply into the text and will stimulate reflection and discussion.



Order at [ProLifeProducts.org](http://ProLifeProducts.org) or use this order form and mail in the enclosed envelope to  
Priests for Life, PO Box 141172, Staten Island, NY 10314

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- Send \_\_\_\_\_ Voting with a Clear Conscience brochure (#3469) at \$.20 each for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Send \_\_\_\_\_ In the Palm of His Hand (#125) at \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5; 12 for \$25; 25 for \$50; 50 for \$75; 100 for \$125; 500 for \$500 for a total of \_\_\_\_\_
- Send \_\_\_\_\_ Mass Cards for the living (#1732) and/or \_\_\_\_\_ Mass Cards for the deceased (#1708) free of charge.
- Send \_\_\_\_\_ Study Guide to Humane Vitae (#2115) at \$5.00 each for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Send \_\_\_\_\_ Study Guide to Evangelium Vitae (#1786) at \$5.00 each for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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