

PRIESTS FOR LIFE Gospel of Life Ministries

Activating the Church to End Abortion

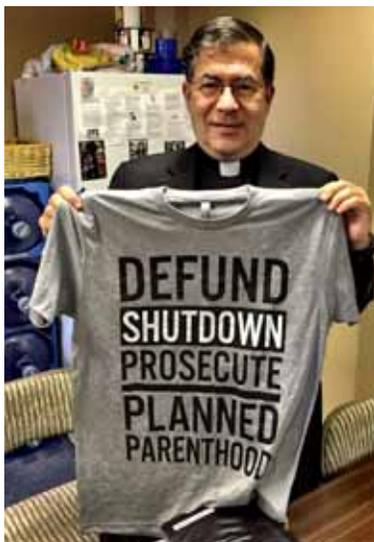
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www.priestsforlife.org



Priests for Life Youth Outreach Director Bryan Kemper has designed this new, popular t-shirt.

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event itself. Let me make five simple points.

First, yes, these are protests. In our day, many Christians shy away from the word 'protest,' but there is no reason to do so. To affirm good means to reject evil. To stand up for what is right means to protest what is wrong. When people realize the atrocities going on in Planned Parenthood, such as the harvesting of body parts, and when they have the courage to view what an aborted baby actually looks like, a voice of protest arises from inside of them: "No, this is wrong; this must stop!" At that point, every human being is at a crossroads: we either act on that voice of protest or we silence it. To have organized, public protests is one way to choose the former option; to choose the latter and ignore the problem is to begin to deaden one's conscience.

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Pro-life Symposium a Major Success at World Meeting of Families

During the course of the World Meeting of Families, which led up to the visit of the Pope in Philadelphia, the premier event focusing on abortion was organized by Priests for Life and was part of the official schedule of events at the Convention Center on Wednesday night, September 23.

Dozens of pro-life leaders joined over 1500 pro-life activists

Proud of our Movement's Protests

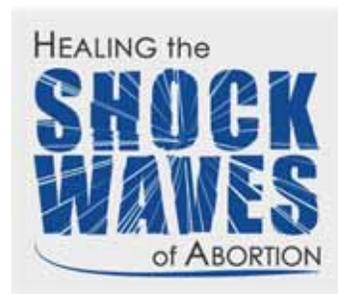
Fr. Frank Pavone,
National Director, Priests for Life
The following op-ed was originally published on FoxNews.com.

The simultaneous protests at Planned Parenthood facilities throughout the nation - protests which occurred in over 330 cities at the end of August - are going to continue in the months ahead. As one of the leaders helping to organize these protests, I can speak to the spirit and purpose of these events. That spirit and purpose is just as important to know as the existence of the

from around the world to hear an exhortation from Fr. Frank Pavone pointing out that there can be no moral priority more urgent than ending abortion.

The World Meeting's theme was *Love is our Mission: The Family Fully Alive*. Fr. Frank and the other speakers declared that the family cannot be fully alive unless all its members are protected, and that nothing destroys the family more than abortion.

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November Shockwaves Theme: Helping Pro-life Activists Grieve the Lives they Could Not Save

Priests for Life and Anglicans for Life, through our Silent No More Awareness Campaign (www.SilentNoMore.com) have been conducting the initiative *Healing the Shockwaves of Abortion* (www.AbortionShockwaves.com), which focuses each month on a different group of people who are wounded by each abortion that occurs. The month of November focuses on the pro-life advocates, who try to save children from abortion. Every day, lives are in fact saved, and that is a cause of joy and encouragement for these activists.

But every day, lives are also taken, despite our best efforts. And that is a cause of sorrow and grief. Pro-life activists often find themselves *powerless to stop a woman or man from going through with an abortion*. Psychologically, the definition of trauma includes being helpless in the face of the death of another person. Every time a baby they tried to save is killed, they are wounded by that abortion and must grieve that loss. Moreover, anyone who has come to realize the profound violence of abortion carries a daily grief that this tragedy continues.

Pro-life advocates must learn how to *carry that grief in a way that enables them to feel the weight* and yet not be crushed by it; in a way that helps them *experience the sorrow but not despair*. These pro-life advocates span the entirety of the pro-life movement...

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Proud of our Movement's Protests

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Second, these are prayerful, peaceful, and legal protests. A key tactic of the supporters of legal abortion is to paint those who protest it as “violent extremists.” I have personally been the target of protests organized in New York City by Planned Parenthood, and have been called violent myself, not for any action I’ve performed, but simply for positions I have taken. It’s time for the American people to see through these tactics. Instead of listening to the complaints of Planned Parenthood about the anti-abortion protestors, look at the protestors for yourselves, and you will see a cross-section of American families, who are law-abiding, peaceful citizens. You will see people of all ages and ethnic backgrounds, expressing their faith in prayers, songs, and smiles full of compassion for those who feel they need to have an abortion.

And that brings me to the third point. When you look at the organizations that help sponsor these events, you will find people and groups who pour out their time, money, and energy all year long to provide alternatives to abortion and healing after abortion. Some of the organizers are pregnancy centers and maternity homes. Abortions do not happen because of freedom of choice, but because some people feel they have no freedom and no choice. The same people who come out and protest a Planned Parenthood on a Saturday will volunteer at a pregnancy center during the week. Moreover, they reach out to provide counseling and healing to those who have had abortions. We who reject abortion do not reject those who have had abortions, but rather embrace them with mercy and forgiveness.

Pray with us for Life

PrayerCampaign.org is our prayer website. Visit there often for prayer campaigns, intentions, and resources.

November intention: For a greater awareness of pain management options for the terminally ill.

December intention: That prayerful presence at abortion facilities may turn many away from the act of abortion.

**Nov 28 - Dec 24 – Advent Prayer for Life Novena
Dec 4 - 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena**

Fourth, while those who oppose us will try to say that our protests are part of a war on women, the reality is that these protests embody the voices of women who have in fact had abortions and have learned through bitter experience that abortion doesn’t solve any problems, but only creates new ones. As we at Priests for Life help to organize these protests in so many cities, the women who belong to our Silent No More Awareness Campaign come forward to not only attend the protests, but to bring their signs that say, “*I Regret My Abortion.*” Many of them speak at the protest rallies, sharing their testimony of how they had an abortion not because of choice, but because of the coercive power of despair. They speak about how it devastated them and their families, and about how they found healing and peace through some of the very ministries the help organize the protests. We also have dads holding signs saying, “*I Regret Lost Fatherhood.*” Other signs you will see include, “*I Mourn My Aborted Sibling.*” “*I Regret Losing My*

Grandchild to Abortion,” and even, “*I Regret Performing Abortions.*”

And finally, these protests fuel constructive action to change public policy. We give to those who come to these gatherings specific action to carry out once they return home - actions that involve electing public servants who know the difference between serving the public and killing the public, and lobbying those in public office to pass measures such as the Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, and actions to change policies that force taxpayers to pay for abortions.

The bottom line is that the pro-life movement is the largest, most sustained, most peaceful human rights movement in our nation’s history. We who are its leaders are proud of its accomplishments and of its protests.

November Shockwaves Theme: Helping Pro-life Activists Grieve the Lives they Could Not Save

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...and all its efforts. They include:

- Sidewalk counselors, participants in prayer vigils outside abortion facilities, pregnancy resource center staff, and ultrasound techs.
- Those who speak about abortion in educational or church settings, including preachers, and who do media work to persuade the public.
- Men and women who try to save lives by passing pro-life laws, whether they are the lawmakers themselves, their staff, or the pro-life activists who lobby them. We are talking about those who do pro-life political work, trying to elect candidates who will save lives by enacting pro-life policies and pro-life fundraisers and donors, who give in sacrificial ways hoping to see lives saved as a result.

These efforts will often enough fail to save the lives they seek to save. This will have a particularly profound effect when the pro-life advocate such as an ultrasound technician has actually seen the child who was killed, or has seen or talked to the mother who went ahead with the abortion, such as the sidewalk counselors, prayer vigil participants, and pregnancy counselors will do.

In the arena of legislative and political activity, the awareness of the numbers of lives lost by failing in attempts to pass pro-life laws and elect pro-life candidates is also very measurable, and can be overwhelming because the lives are in the millions. Studies by researchers like Dr. Michael New demonstrate how pro-life state laws save lives. And the ways in which elections influence the courts, including the Supreme Court, make the loss of lives very tangible to those working in these arenas.

All of these individuals need ongoing healing. Pro-life advocates endure a lot of hard work, frustration and self-sacrifice, whether their efforts succeed or fail. And in the process of trying to save lives, they also endure ridicule and rejection from others who do not understand, appreciate, or agree with their efforts. That kind of rejection hurts too, and must be healed. If the pro-life advocates do not know how to properly grieve the children that were lost despite their efforts to save them, they run the risk of drifting away from doing pro-life work, or of becoming

bitter and angry while doing it. Neither of those alternatives is productive, and neither solves the underlying problem of a wound that has not been healed.

This grieving is a process that takes time and hard work, just as it does for the mom or dad or other family member who has lost a child to abortion. It involves praying for, naming, and writing a letter to that child. It may involve attending a Rachel's Vineyard retreat.

During November, let us educate and pray for all who have tried to prevent an abortion but could not, and let us ask God to facilitate their healing, that they may continue to fight abortion with confidence, strength, and joy.

Healing the Shockwaves of Abortion is not just an initiative for 2015. It will continue each year, with a theme for each month as indicated below. We invite you to join us in promoting awareness of the wounds and the healing.

January: Healing through the Church

February: Healing the Black Family

March: Healing the Grandparents

April: Healing the Siblings

May: Healing the Mom

June: Healing the Dad

July: Healing the Survivors and Friends

August: Healing Abortion Providers and Advocates

September: Healing Families

October: Healing the Hispanic Family

November: Healing Pro-life Advocates

December: Healing Comes from Our Savior

Pro-life Symposium a Major Success at World Meeting of Families

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The crowd at the Pro-life Symposium was standing room only

Teresa Tomeo was the emcee for the event. Dr Alveda King spoke about the toll abortion takes on the Black Community, and how to reach them. Astrid Bennett Gutierrez, President of Hispanics for Life, spoke about the same theme related to Hispanics, and Mexican actress Karyme Lozano gave her pro-life testimony. Kathy DiFiore of Several Sources Foundation brought three moms and their babies saved from abortion, and Kevin Burke gave a presentation about Healing the Shockwaves of Abortion.

Steven Bozza, Director of the Respect Life Office for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, helped to organize the evening and thanked everyone for their participation, expressing the strong support of the Archdiocese for this initiative and for the www.priestsforlife.org

work of Priests for Life and its affiliated ministries, including Rachel's Vineyard, whose principal office is in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Join us on January 21-22 in Washington DC

Fr. Frank Pavone of Priests for Life will help to lead a major protest at the new location of the Washington DC Planned Parenthood on the day before the March for Life. Details about the morning event on Thursday, January 21, will be posted at PriestsForLife.org.

Then, the next morning, Fr. Frank will help lead the National Prayer Service at Constitution Hall (1776 D St., NW (18th and D St), Washington, DC 20006) from 8:30 to 10:30am. He will also offer a Mass at 7:30am in the same location. Don't miss this annual display of interdenominational unity for the unborn!

Impact of Planned Parenthood Videos on Those Who Have Had Abortions

Fr. Frank Pavone, Pastoral Director of Rachel's Vineyard and of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign

At Priests for Life, we have daily interaction with mothers and fathers who have lost children to abortion. Our ministries of Rachel's Vineyard and the Silent No More Awareness Campaign are worldwide efforts we oversee to bring healing after abortion and to bring testimony out of healing.

We have also been putting in front of the public the videos showing the body parts that Planned Parenthood harvests and sells. (See www.BabyBodyParts.com.)

Our ministries report that more people have been coming forward to find healing, because the videos do what such videos and images have always done: they break the denial that blinds people to their own need of healing. Sure, they hurt, just like every healing process hurts. It is precisely the ability to feel that pain that saves us from the consequences of denying it and starts us on the path of healing.

Karen Perez is one of our Regional Coordinators for the Silent No More Awareness Campaign. She said in a recent interview, *"These videos are just opening up a lot of memories for a lot of women. For me, it's memories that I never imagined I'd see ... But you know what, I'm happy, I'm so happy that we're finally able to see what it is that we knew all along that these are our babies. These are babies!"*

Her sentiments were expressed over and over in a series of worldwide conference calls we held over the summer with the members of Silent No More. The theme that came across again and again was that the memories and questions brought about by the revelations in the videos were painful, but that these moms and dads willingly embraced and carried the cross of that pain because they knew that through those revelations, others could be prevented from having that pain in the first place. It was a beautiful expression of spiritual solidarity with those whose eyes still need to be opened.

One participant said, *"I hate these videos. I hate seeing these poor*

babies' broken bodies. I hate seeing the callous, cavalier behavior of these people that profit from this. But, I am glad that they are coming out and I hope there are many, many more. I will watch them and I will share them. I have been to a Rachel's Vineyard weekend for healing; it changed my life. I will spend the rest of my life fighting against abortion."

One of the things we learn anew each day in our work of healing after abortion is that the mission of prophetic activism, with all the disturbance and public tension it creates, is completely consistent with the closely-related mission of healing the wounds of abortion. To fail to see the close connection and compatibility between these tasks is to fail to understand either one of them. These are, in fact, aspects of the one mission of building a culture of life.

Priests for Life to lead Catholic Outreach for 2016 Election

Without fear or self-censorship, Priests for Life will again sound the trumpet for the 2016 election that the People of God need to elect public servants who know the difference between serving the public and killing the public.

We are putting together a coalition aimed in particular at educating and influencing the Catholic vote. As we have done consistently over the years, we will explain the teachings of the Church and the statements of our bishops and apply them to the political process.

A key tool will be Fr. Frank's new book *Abolishing Abortion*. The book, published this summer by Thomas Nelson/HarperCollins (the world's largest Christian publishing house), lays out the principles and strategies for Catholic pro-life political engagement and examines the self-censorship that Church institutions often exercise due to a misguided view of the risk of "losing the tax-exempt status."

Obtain a copy at www.AbolishingAbortion.com and join our efforts at www.PoliticalResponsibility.com.

Featured Products

Great products for Christmas gifts!



Abolishing Abortion

Brand new book by Fr. Frank Pavone

This pro-life manifesto is not for the faint of heart. It calls Church and state to task, to sacrifice more to end abortion!

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Pro-Life Reflections for Everyday

This is a devotional prayer book by Fr. Frank Pavone, one of the "Spiritual Life" series that Catholic Book Publishing Company has produced for years.

Sharing Keys to Christmas

Father Denis Wilde, O.S.A., has recorded this CD, a piano rendition of old favorites, carols and Christmas tunes to bring in the joy of the season of Advent and Christmas

In Concert with Life

Fr. Denis Wilde, O.S.A., draws on the piano repertoire of the Romantic Period, spanning from Beethoven to Gershwin.

2016 Priests for Life Calendar

Special pro-life, liturgical and secular days are marked and each month has a beautiful pro-life quote for reflection.

Recall Abortion

This book by Janet Morana delves deeply into abortion as a bad product that should be recalled by our government.



Find more great Pro Life products at [ProLifeProducts.org!](http://ProLifeProducts.org)

Order at 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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Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Send _____ Abolishing Abortion (#3573) at \$25.00 each for a total of \$ _____

Your book will be signed by Fr. Frank. If you would like him to also personalize it to one or more individuals, please indicate here the name(s) to whom he should make it out, and indicate if those names are for the same book or different copies:

Send _____ Pro-Life Reflections for Everyday (#2282) at \$7.00 each for a total of \$ _____

Send _____ Sharing Keys to Christmas (#2550) at \$10.00 each for a total of \$ _____

Send _____ In Concert with Life (#2123) for \$10.00 each for a total of _____

Send _____ 2016 Calendar (#3516) for \$10.00 each for a total of _____

Send _____ Recall Abortion (#3393) for \$15.00 each for a total of _____

Additional Donation \$ _____ **Total Donation** \$ _____

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