

PRIESTS FOR LIFE



Activating the Church to End Abortion

www.priestsforlife.org

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Norma McCorvey, plaintiff of Roe vs. Wade and friend of Priests for Life, goes home to the Lord

Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director

Priests for Life lost a friend February 18 when Norma McCorvey died.

Although she initially became famous as the “Jane Roe” of the Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion in the U.S., her conversion to the pro-life cause and to Catholicism brought her in close contact with our ministry, and especially to Janet



Janet Morana, Norma McCorvey and Fr. Frank Pavone at the National Right to Life Convention

Morana and myself.

Norma became a good friend of mine in 1995, when she accepted the gift of faith and baptism and became 100% pro-life. I was privileged to be one of her spiritual counselors and in 1998 received her into the Catholic Church. I also had the privilege of officiating at her funeral service.

The first time I interviewed Norma, I said to her, “So you are the Jane Roe of Roe vs. Wade.”

“No, Father,” Norma responded. “I *was* the Jane Roe of Roe

vs. Wade, but now I am a new creation in Christ. I am Roe no more!”

And it was true. The poster girl for the Roe v Wade Supreme Court jumped off the poster – but it was because she never fit there to begin with. Even when she revealed to the world her identity as “Jane Roe” and was a spokesperson for the “abortion-rights” movement, she confided in the pro-choice leaders that she thought abortion was wrong. And when she worked for a time in an abortion clinic, she would counsel women against having the procedure.

Her role as “Jane Roe” started when two activist lawyers from Texas, Sarah Weddington and Linda Coffee, were looking to overturn the Texas abortion statute in 1969. They saw an easy target in pregnant Norma McCorvey. She met them not because she understood what they were doing, but because she was hungry and the meeting was in a pizza parlor. She wasn't looking to legalize abortion, but just to get help with her own pregnancy – help she thought they could give her. Not realizing the full implications of what she was doing, Norma signed on

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Donate to Save Lives!

Priests for Life is not funded by Church entities, but by ordinary people like you! Please help us save lives by donating at our secure site, www.priestsforlife.org/donate, or sending a check made out to

“Priests for Life” to Priests for Life, PO Box 141172, Staten Island, NY 10314.

You can also sign up to be a monthly donor, which helps us plan future events more effectively! Also contact us to discuss including us in your will or other forms of planned giving. See the options on our website, or call 888-735-3448 for assistance!

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

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www.priestsforlife.org

the dotted line, making her the plaintiff in what became the Roe v. Wade case.

Norma never appeared in court and never had an abortion. Instead, she made an adoption plan for her daughter. When she heard about the outcome of the Roe case, she was not elated, but devastated.

One day she'd had enough. She literally walked out the door of the abortion clinic where she was working and knocked on the door of the national office of the pro-life organization next door - Operation Rescue. It was the catalyst of her Christian journey.

Norma decided to give her life to Jesus, and was baptized by my friend, Rev. Flip Benham. Seeking to reverse the holocaust she helped unleash, Norma founded *Roe No More Ministry* in 1997 with the mission of exposing the lie that is Roe v. Wade. But her journey was just beginning.

After she was baptized I visited her to bring her the best wishes of the Catholic Community... She began attending Masses I would offer on my trips to Dallas, asked me to bless her home, and asked various questions about the Mass and the Catholic Faith.

One day she told me she had a dream in which the Lord said he was "calling her home." She was scared and asked me what it meant. I said I didn't know, but that she should ask the Lord and he would make it clear. He did. Some weeks later she told me that it meant he wanted her in the Catholic Church.

In her booklet, *My Journey into the Catholic Church*, Norma recounted my words to her that day and her reflection on them.

Today, you have received the very same flesh of the Son of God, to which all humanity has been joined. That means, Norma, that today, in giving you His Body, Jesus has also given you back all the babies that were aborted because of what you did. He has reunited to you all the children who never got to play in the playgrounds. He has restored them to you, closing the distance between you and them. He has reconciled them to you and given you peace.

"During these remarks, I was sitting there crying," said Norma. "I knew I had been forgiven -- and to think I was reunited with those children...it was sorrow and joy at the same time. It was like having my own children come back to me all at one time. It was like seeing all their faces, even though I've never known them".

Norma dedicated the rest of her days on earth towards evangelizing and reversing what she was a part of over four decades ago. Although she would have liked to have seen Roe reversed in her lifetime, I have no doubt that her prayers and example will bring about the reversal of Roe v Wade in ours.

Pray with us for Life

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

May intention: That people may have a greater awareness of the dangers of abortion.

June intention: For the success of efforts to represent the pro-life message in the secular media.

~ May 25-June 4, 2017: Pentecost Novena for Life

~ June 10-18, 2017: Father's Day Novena

~ June 26-July 4, 2017: Prayer of Thanks for our Nation's Independence

Priests for Life: On the front lines in support of Justice Gorsuch with us for Life

At Priests for Life, the confirmation of pro-life Justice Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court was a top priority, and we mobilized tens of thousands, through our StopAbortionNow.org action alerts, to urge their Senators to confirm him. We are grateful to President Trump for fulfilling his promise to put a pro-life Justice on the court.

When the Senate confirmed Justice Gorsuch on April 7, Father Frank Pavone, National Director, issued the following statement:

"Judge Gorsuch's confirmation is Exhibit A for the argument that advocates for life and religious liberty need to vote. Without the active participation of social conservatives in last year's elections, today we would be looking at a Supreme Court dominated by extreme pro-abortion justices. Instead, there's great hope for the future.

"Justice Gorsuch's confirmation is a victory for constitutional rule, for life, for religious liberty, and for all of us who hold them dear. And it is just the first step in moving all the courts away from the judicial activism that has mangled the bodies of unborn children, the fabric of our morals, and the rule of law. This confirmation should motivate us to work hard for pro-life candidates in the midterms, and to expand the pro-life majorities in the House and Senate."

There is much speculation that another Supreme Court justice will announce his or her retirement during President Trump's term. If that happens, Priests for Life – with your help – will again be at the forefront of helping confirm another pro-life Justice to the Supreme Court!

Letter from Cardinal Martino about Priests for Life: You Have Grown and Diversified by Following the Spirit's Lead

On one of his regular visits to Rome a few months ago, Fr. Frank Pavone visited with our Priests for Life advisor Cardinal Renato Martino, who gave him the following letter in which he praises the growth of Priests for Life and encourages our supporters to rally behind us more generously than ever! The Cardinal is past President of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, and past nuncio to the United Nations. Please feel free to copy and distribute.



Cardinale Renato Raffaele Martino

Presidente del Pontificio Consiglio della Giustizia e della Pace

Vatican City, 2 February 2017

Dear Father Pavone,

In response to your recent update about your many activities in 2016, I wish to encourage you and your team to continue the fruitful work that Priests for Life is doing.

You have every reason to proceed with confidence, because you have welcomed the assistance of the Church to strengthen your ministry as it continues to grow around the world. At the inception of Priests for Life in 1991, when it was given recognition as a Catholic Association of the Faithful, it was a relatively small apostolate focused within the United States on assisting priests to proclaim the Gospel of Life.

Since then it has grown and diversified into an entire family of ministries, and an international apostolate. While continuing to be faithful to your original vision of assisting and training the clergy, you have sought to follow the Spirit's lead and respond to the needs of the pro-life movement, and therefore have integrated into your ministry the work of Rachel's Vineyard, Silent No More, the Youth Outreach of Stand True, outreach to Hispanic and African-American communities, and the international work of Marie Smith and the Parliamentary Network for Critical Issues, which assists lawmakers in many other countries to defend the most vulnerable human lives. You have also become an NGO at the United Nations and continue to assist the Holy See Mission.

As your ministry has grown and diversified, you have outgrown (by your own discernment and decision) the original category of 'Catholic Association of the Faithful'. The Congregation for the Clergy here in Rome has accompanied you during this process and has affirmed your work.

I want to clarify for your supporters that in order for an organization to do good work in union with the Church, it is in no way necessary to be a canonical *'Association of the Faithful'*. The Congregation for the Clergy has said that you are not *'a Catholic Association of the Faithful.'* Nobody should think this means you are not Catholic. Many well-known Catholic organizations, like the Knights of Columbus, Legatus, and EWTN, are not 'Catholic Associations of the Faithful,' either.

What the Congregation has done is simply to clarify what kind of structure you have. You are, like so many Catholic apostolates, a *'non-canonical entity'*. You are a civil corporation doing work to advance Catholic values. In fact, the Congregation has recognized the value of your work in the Church in the letters they have issued, stating things like the following:

PFL is present in more than 50 nations, and its work benefits the Church both in the United States and beyond ... Without doubt, PFL has offered to the Church a great service in the Pro-Life movement. By all indications,



Fr Frank Pavone, Cardinal Martino and Janet Morana in Rome

Father Pavone is a truly charismatic leader who has led PFL to significant heights ... (T}he work and finances of PFL are in order ... The Association has been well administered financially ... (T}he administrative costs of PFL are In keeping with other groups receiving similar funding in the United States.'
 (Visitation Report, Sacred Congregation for the Clergy, November 2013).

Moreover, as the Congregation has indicated in a subsequent letter, *'there is nothing to prevent 'Priests for Life, Inc.'*, together with its numerous affiliated agencies, from continuing to labor on behalf of the pro-life movement,' with *'the many excellent works which Priests for Life continues do in promoting respect for the sanctity of human life'* (Letter of His Eminence Cardinal Beniamino Stella, Prefect, Sacred Congregation for the Clergy, to Fr. Pavone, February 6, 2015, Prot. N.20150367). Bishops, of course, are free to associate with and support your work in the ways that they wish to do so, and as many have done over the years.

Please know, then, of my continued support as an ecclesiastical advisor and friend. I encourage all the supporters of Priests for Life to increase that support and work harder than ever to build on the progress you have already made in bringing about a Culture of Life.

Sincerely
Benato R. Card. Martino

Featured Products

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Fr. Pavone EWTN Homilies: Twenty-one volumes available. Get 3 for \$10 including shipping. See full descriptions of each CD at www.priestsforlife.org/products/ewtn-homilies.htm and indicate below which three you want or let us decide.

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Send _____ CD Bundle (s) (includes Rosary for Life, Divine Mercy and Mercy and Healing) (#3722) at \$25 each bundle including shipping for a total of \$ _____.

Send me _____ (quantity) CDs of Fr. Frank's EWTN Homilies at 3 CDs for \$10 including shipping for a total of \$ _____.

Send me whichever ones you select OR Send me the following volumes:

Additional Donation \$ _____ Total Donation \$ _____

I made my check payable to: Priests for Life.

I made my donation online at www.priestsforlife.org/donate

Please charge my contribution to my credit card:

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