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# FR. FRANK **REPORTS...**

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*The Priests for Life team with Congressman Russ Fulcher of Idaho.*

## **Lobby Day in D.C. asks Democrats to end infanticide**

*By Leslie Palma, Priests for Life Director of Communications*

Who were all those people roaming the halls of Congress wearing black T-shirts emblazoned with the words "Take Action to End Infanticide"?

It was the Priests for Life Pastoral Team and a group of dedicated pro-life volunteers who assembled in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 10 to visit the offices of 28 Democrat members of the House of Representatives. We were there to urge the elected officials to sign the discharge petition to get a vote on HR 962, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.

Some 50 people signed up to come to DC for the lobbying effort. We broke up into nine groups, and each group was provided a list of talking points to share as they met with legislative staffers - some who were kind enough to set appointments with us in advance. We also visited some friendly representatives, to thank them for their support of the bill and for the pro-life cause in general.

Evangelist Alveda King, director of Civil Rights for the Unborn for Priests for Life, led a team that had the first appointment of the morning, with staffers in the office of Pennsylvania Rep. Matt Cartwright. Team member Rev. Allison Johnson, director of a post-abortion healing program called Beauty for Ashes, wrote of the visit:

*"The team met with Ms. Rachel Cohen, Legislative Assistant, and Ms. Kaylee Robinson. Both were new and were interested in the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. Dr. King shared her personal story, and Rev. Allison shared that she was post-abortive and worked with women who suffer from an abortion experience."*



The Priests for Life team with Rep. Ann Wagner, (R-MO) and Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) at the hearing.

Day Gardner of the National Black Pro-Life Union, wrote about her team's visit to the office of upstate New York Rep. Anthony Brindisi:

"Our meeting was via appointment with Legislative Director Robert Dougherty. He was quite amiable. He listened intently, asked questions and stated he has done a lot of homework with regard to our issue. I made sure to remind him no matter where

his boss may stand regarding abortion, we are talking about the care and the very lives of the little survivors of abortion."

Although many staffers seemed receptive to, or at least willing to hear, our message, there were those who became defensive, incorrectly described HR 962 as an abortion bill or seemed very relieved when we left!

Also serving as team leaders that day were Father Frank Pavone, National Director of Priests for Life; Janet Morana, Executive Director; Father Denis Wilde, OSA, Associate Director; Youth Director Bryan Kemper and Rachel's Vineyard Co-founder Kevin Burke.

After the morning of lobbying in the three stately office buildings that house congressional offices, the Priests for Life team headed through the underground tunnels connecting the offices to the Capital Visitors Center, where House Whip Steve Scalise, (R-LA), Rep. Ann Wagner, (R-MO), and Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) convened a hearing on the Born-Alive bill.

About 40 representatives - all Republican - attended and spoke at the hearing. Four witnesses testified, including our long-time friend Jill Stanek, who was working as a nurse at a Chicago hospital when she found a



Fr. Frank gives instructions to one of the groups of volunteer lobbyists as they prepare to join the others we had already sent into the Halls of Congress.

child who survived abortion and was then left to die alone. She held the baby for the last 45 minutes of life. We helped Jill get her story out twenty years ago. Also on the panel were Dr. Kathi Aultman, a former abortion provider who is now a pro-life activist; neonatologist Dr. Robin Pierucci, and Heritage Foundation researcher Tessa Longbons.

The discharge petition has 203 signatures and needs just 15 more to allow the bill to come up for a vote in the House. On the day Priests for Life was lobbying in DC, North Carolina voters elected two more Republican representatives who, after being sworn in, immediately signed the Discharge Petition.

Will you join us in praying that of the 28 Democrats we visited, another 15 will have been moved enough by our efforts to sign the petition? See the prayer at [www.PrayerCampaign.org/EndInfanticide](http://www.PrayerCampaign.org/EndInfanticide).

## Lessons from the case of Abortionist George Klopfer

**Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director, Priests for Life**

On September 30, I was in South Bend, Indiana, to take part in a press conference in front of the now closed abortion clinic run by abortionist Ulrich George Klopfer.

You may recognize his name. He died on September 3, at the age of 79, and on the 12th, the remains of 2, 246 babies were found in his residence in Will County, Ill.

He had killed the babies by abortion during the years 2000 through 2002. Now an investigation will be launched into what he was doing. The babies' bodies will be transferred to Indiana as this process gets underway.

I was invited to the press conference because of my experience in conducting funerals for aborted babies, investigating what goes on inside the abortion industry, ministering to abortionists both before and after they leave the abortion industry, and leading the world's largest ministries for those who have had abortions.

Attorney and pro-life activist Shawn Sullivan of the Life Center in South Bend convened the press conference. Shawn's Life Center stands adjacent to Klopfer's abortion clinic, which had just been raided by law enforcement officials the previous day. I saw the broken locks of the doors, and two abandoned vehicles of the abortionist. One of them was filled with large buckets.

At the press conference I pointed out a few key thoughts to keep in mind as we ponder this national tragedy.

1. This bizarre behavior by an abortionist is not at all unusual. We should be alarmed and disgusted by it, but not surprised. I've worked with former abortionists and dialogued with practicing abortionists for over 30 years. They are deeply ambivalent about what they do and deeply damaged by it. Not only will they sometimes keep the bodies of the babies they killed, but they and their staff will play games of catch, bowling, and "wishbone" with those bodies in the hallways of the clinics.

Part of the explanation is that the deliberate killing of children does not fit into the

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human psyche, and if you try to impose it, the psyche will rebel in bizarre ways.

Moreover, keeping the bodies of those you kill means, psychologically, that it's not really the end. So if you're ambivalent about the killing, you may want to suspend the action in time while you wrestle with it.

2. Many, like the Mayor of South Bend, Democrat Presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg, find the discovery of the bodies "disturbing" and "unacceptable." Yet they don't find the killing of the bodies similarly disturbing and unacceptable.

This reveals a process of dehumanization, which on one level or another explains what we all find disturbing about this. People cannot dehumanize the child in the womb (as Roe v Wade and the abortion lobby have done) without dehumanizing themselves. We are hard-wired to preserve our species, to protect our children. But abortion violates that boundary, and therefore makes us uncertain of what we will do next, and whether our species will be able to survive.

That is the deep and most scary dimension of this story.

3. One of the things that complicates the grief and guilt a mother experiences after aborting her child is the absence of the body. She finds it hard to properly mourn. The discovery of these bodies, therefore, and a subsequent funeral and burial, can be a profound moment of healing, even if the baby is not your own.

As someone who works every day with moms, dads, and grandparents of aborted children, I know that as this story unfolds, they will be able to take a further step in grieving their lost baby, whose body they never saw.

Ironically, news of the Klopfer discovery spread on the same day as the National Day of Remembrance, which I co-founded and which consists of simultaneous memorial services nationwide at the graves of aborted babies.

*(Continued on Page 5)*



Fr. Frank Pavone attended and led a panel presentation at the 2019 National Right to Life Convention. Here Fr. Frank is pictured with Ashley Bratcher who starred in "Unplanned" and with Melissa Coles, the birth mother featured in the film "I Lived on Parker Avenue."

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4. America will not reject abortion until America sees abortion. Once all the proper steps have been taken in the Klopfer investigation, the bodies should not only be buried, but should be viewed. We have to confront, face to face, the evil of abortion in our nation. And if it's too difficult for us to look at, maybe we shouldn't be tolerating it.

We all, furthermore, should take part in the process of *re-humanizing* these babies and ourselves. One way we can do this is to *help name* the children. At [www.Preborn.Life](http://www.Preborn.Life), we have set up a way for you to name one or more of the babies whose bodies were discovered in Klopfer's home.

5. In the final years of his life, abortionist Klopfer was actually visiting the Life Center next door to his South Bend clinic, and talking with the pro-life people. A bond of friendship was even developed with some of them. I saw tears, in fact, on the faces of some of these pro-life people who recounted their interactions with Klopfer as I met with them on Friday.

While Klopfer, like Buttigieg his mayor, used to say that a baby's life didn't begin until the first breath (a scientifically backward position to hold), he began saying more recently that the life began at viability (still outdated, but a step better). He even prayed with the pro-life people that God's will would be accomplished in his life.

I have accompanied many such doctors and clinic workers on their journey out of the abortion industry. I have seen the same pattern many times. He was certainly on a journey.

And so are we all. Let's hope this incident brings America closer to ending abortion.

*(This article was originally published as one of Fr. Frank's regular columns for Newsmax.com. Reprinted with permission.)*

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## A Prayer for our Nation as we Prepare to Elect our Leaders

In preparation for Election Day, Priests for Life calls upon believers to say this prayer each day. You can find this interdenominational, nonpartisan prayer in English and Spanish at [ElectionPrayer.com](http://ElectionPrayer.com). You can also order prayer cards in English.

Please invite your Church, school or group to sign up on that page to participate in or co-sponsor this national prayer campaign!

*O God, we acknowledge you today as Lord, Not only of individuals, but of nations and governments.*

*We thank you for the privilege Of being able to organize ourselves politically And of knowing that political loyalty Does not have to mean disloyalty to you.*

*We thank you for your law, Which our Founding Fathers acknowledged And recognized as higher than any human law.*

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*We thank you for the opportunity that this election year puts before us, To exercise our solemn duty not only to vote, But to influence countless others to vote, And to vote correctly.*

*Lord, we pray that your people may be awakened. Let them realize that while politics is not their salvation, Their response to you requires that they be politically active.*

*Awaken your people to know that they are not called to be a sect fleeing the world But rather a community of faith renewing the world.*

*Awaken them that the same hands lifted up to you in prayer Are the hands that pull the lever in the voting booth; That the same eyes that read your Word Are the eyes that read the names on the ballot, And that they do not cease to be Christians When they enter the voting booth.*

*Awaken your people to a commitment to justice To the sanctity of marriage and the family, To the dignity of each individual human life, And to the truth that human rights begin when human lives begin, And not one moment later.*

*Lord, we rejoice today That we are citizens of your kingdom.*

*May that make us all the more committed To being faithful citizens on earth.*

*We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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## Advent: Season of the Two Comings

*Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director, Priests for Life*

*(This article is part of Fr. Frank's ebook, "Christmas for the Unborn," available at [ChristmasForTheUnborn.com](http://ChristmasForTheUnborn.com)).*

Advent is upon us. The word means "coming" and the season focuses first on Christ's second coming at the end of time, and then on the historical reality of his first coming and his birth at Christmas.

When the year 1000 was about to dawn, people were fleeing to mountains, in anticipation that the return of Christ to earth was imminent. At the dawn of the year 2000, those expectations took a more technological twist, with fears of major computer, electrical -- and hence societal -- breakdowns.

Neither happened. Yet both moments in history remind us of something deeper, the lesson of Advent.

The Lord wants us to anticipate and prepare for His coming, not as something that we hinge on a particular date or identify with a particular calamity, but as an ordinary aspect of our daily Christian living. On the one hand, we know He is coming; on the other, we don't know when. Yet every moment is an opportunity to make that coming more central to our lives.

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We know He is coming. "For the Lord himself will descend from heaven, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call, and with the sound of the trumpet of God" (1 Thess. 4:16). His return in glory is professed in the Creed: "He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead." This will be the culmination of human history.

We do not know the year, day, or hour of His coming. "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority" (Acts 1:7). As the Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "This eschatological coming could be accomplished at any moment" (CCC, 673).

Awaiting and preparing for that coming is an ordinary, foundational aspect of Christian life. At each Mass we are reminded of this when, after the Our Father, the celebrant prays the words "we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ." Our "waiting" is filled with joy, because when Christ returns, our salvation is fulfilled and all evil is conquered. Our waiting is filled with hope, because Christ embodies all we long for. Our waiting is active, not passive, because the fruits of our efforts at building a world of justice, love, and peace will not be lost when Christ returns. Rather, "we will find them once again, cleansed this time from stain of sin, illuminated and transfigured" (Second Vatican Council, *Gaudium et Spes*, n.39).

A key way to celebrate Advent, therefore, is to focus on how our daily activity can increase these fruits of justice and peace in the world. The Lord wants to find us active upon His return, active in establishing the Kingdom which He comes to fulfill. The work of defending human life is central to that Kingdom. Advent is a perfect time to re-dedicate ourselves to proclaim, celebrate, and serve the Gospel of Life. It is a perfect time for parishes to start or strengthen respect life committees, or to have public commissioning of such groups.

Lord, at your coming, may you find us already welcoming you in our daily welcome of the most vulnerable brothers and sisters!

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## Follow Fr. Frank Pavone on Twitter

Priests for Life is a leading force for prolife social media. Here is one of the recent tweets on Fr. Frank's Twitter account, [@frfrankpavone](https://twitter.com/frfrankpavone). Please make sure you're following him there!

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## Praise for our Work

**"Please know of my appreciation for your leadership in the promotion of the Gospel of Life throughout the United States of America."**

- Most Rev. Alfred A Schlert

Bishop of Allentown, PA  
August 27, 2019



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**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.ProLifeDonation.org](http://www.ProLifeDonation.org), or sending a check made out to "**Priests for Life**" to:

**Priests for Life, PO Box 236695, Cocoa, FL 32923.**

You can also sign up to be a monthly donor, which helps us plan future events more effectively! See the options on our website, or call **321-500-1000** for assistance!

And you can remember us in your will and other forms of planned giving. Find out more about joining our Priests for Life Legacy Family at [www.PriestsForLifeLegacy.com](http://www.PriestsForLifeLegacy.com) or call (321) 500-1000. **Thank you in advance for your generosity!**

## [ProLifeSocialMedia.com](http://ProLifeSocialMedia.com)

Connect with us on social media so we can exchange encouragement and information.

At [www.ProLifeSocialMedia.com](http://www.ProLifeSocialMedia.com), you will find a multitude of platforms that Priests for Life manages.

Follow us, friend us, like us, and communicate with us. Among our largest platforms are the following:

-  [facebook.com/fatherfrankpavone](https://facebook.com/fatherfrankpavone)
-  [facebook.com/SilentNoMoreJanet](https://facebook.com/SilentNoMoreJanet)
-  [Twitter: @frfrankpavone](https://twitter.com/frfrankpavone)
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### **Priests for Life**

PO Box 236695  
Cocoa, FL 32923  
321-500-1000

Toll Free: 888-735-3448

E-mail: [mail@priestsforlife.org](mailto:mail@priestsforlife.org)

[www.EndAbortion.US](http://www.EndAbortion.US)