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FR. FRANK REPORTS...

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Rachel's Vineyard in China

By Dr. Theresa Burke, Ph.D.

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Rachel's Vineyard is a ministry that facilitates recovery after abortion. As a ministry of Priests for Life, our weekend retreats have spread throughout the world. They are available in 48 states, over 50 countries and are offered in 22 languages.

We have learned that grief after the loss of a child is universal as we address the emotional and spiritual dimensions of abortion and miscarriage through our weekend retreats that integrate psychological and spiritual rituals that help people mourn their loss, share their stories, and acknowledge any unresolved feelings of anger and pain.

As the founders of Rachel's Vineyard, and pastoral associates of Priests for Life, my husband Kevin, a licensed social worker, and I have made it our mission to help spread the healing work of Rachel's Vineyard to the far corners of the earth.

We ask for your special prayers for a new retreat site in the Macua Diocese, a special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China. I was honored to give them the rights to translate and publish the Retreat Manual into Cantonese. This language is also widely used throughout Canada in Chinese communities, so there are plans to share this new work with Chinese communities in other parts of the world. Because our retreat manuals have the *imprimatur* (an official green light from the Church to publish them), it will be usable for Catholic churches in Taiwan and Hong Kong as well. We also have interdenominational Rachel's Vineyard Retreats that have been going on in the Mandarin Chinese language in Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan. We are excited to have a second Chinese language available.

Macau is the most densely populated region of world. It is also home to a vast and extraordinarily deep-rooted Catholic heritage. In fact, 2026 will mark the anniversary of 450 years of Catholic history in the region, which has served as a mustard seed for the Asian church.

The area of Macau was settled by the Portuguese centuries ago and they built many Catholic churches, convents and schools. It has remained the cultural center for Catholicism in Asia to this day. Macau draws people from all over China who wish to seek the truth and light of Jesus.

Bishop Stephen Lee of the Diocese of Macau has approved a new Rachel's Vineyard retreat team to translate the Rachel's Vineyard Manual into Chinese using traditional Chinese characters in Cantonese. Once the manual is complete, he has given his full blessing for

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a team to organize and conduct Rachel's Vineyard retreat weekends in the diocese.

The coordinator for the Committee for Life shares that her goal with this new site is to reach all of those who have been hurting and suffering in silence after pregnancy loss in China to finally have a place to go to seek solace, understanding and most importantly, healing from the pain of their abortions.

Ms. Chen met Father Frank Pavone at the Regina Apostolorum Pontifical University in Rome where he was teaching some classes. As a result of that encounter, she translated his book *Pro-Life Reflections for Every Day* into Chinese. She shares that its messages of life are spread through Facebook and social media and that it is widely shared.

Ms. Chen asks that we entrust this mission to Our Lady of Guadalupe and Mother Teresa for their intercession as they complete the translations and begin training to become facilitators.

We would like to thank Bishop Stephen Lee, the Bishop of Macau for being a beacon of light for the pro-life ministries in Macua and beyond.

We are grateful to all the volunteers, supporters, outreach organizations, mental health professionals, pastoral care workers, clergy, and pregnancy centers, ministries from so many denominations, and Catholic diocese that collaborate with us. Thank you for being a lifeboat for rescue, recovery and redemption!

Special recognition for firebombed family home of Alveda King

Evangelist Alveda King's childhood home, which was firebombed in May 1963 with her family inside, has been added to the African American Civil Rights Network. No one has ever been charged in the Birmingham, Alabama, crime that targeted civil rights leader Rev. A.D. King, Alveda's father and the brother of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Twelve-year-old Alveda, her four siblings and her parents were all in the home at 721 12th Street in the Ensley section of Birmingham when two explosions rocked the house, which served as the parsonage for the First Baptist Church of Ensley, where her father was the pastor.

"It was a Saturday night," she recalled. "My father was in the bedroom working on his sermon for the next day and my mother, Naomi Barber King, had just finished setting the table for Mother's Day the next day. My brother was in the den watching a movie and the rest of us, my three siblings and I, were all in bed when the first bomb went off. It was a small bomb that only cracked



The family home of Evangelist Alveda King in Birmingham, AL, after it was bombed in 1963.

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the picture window at the front of the house."

A.D. ran to the front of the house, where Naomi was standing by the window. He told her, "come on, it's too quiet out there," grabbing her hand and hurrying her to the back of the house.

Seconds later, "the whole front of the house exploded," Alveda said. "The only thing that was left unbroken in the debris was a picture of Jesus." When a crowd gathered after the explosions, Alveda said, her father climbed up on a car to ask people not to respond to violence with more violence, but to go home and pray.

Now a full-time Pastoral Associate of Priests for Life, where she directs "Civil Rights for the Unborn," Alveda once visited the home with Father Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life, and Janet Morana, executive director.

"I have discussed with Alveda many times the memories and lessons we can learn from it," Father Frank said.

"The message of nonviolence is one that we are proud to carry forward and apply to our times."

The house was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2008 in recognition of Rev. A.D. King's civil rights activism. On Sept. 24, the house was officially included in the Civil Rights Network to ensure the history of the home and the legacy of its occupants are never forgotten. Alveda was in attendance with her mother and brother.

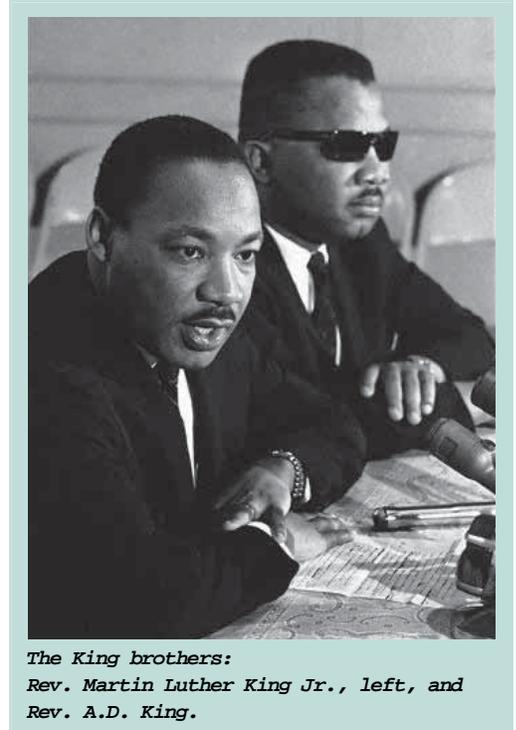
"My father not only worked alongside my Uncle Martin, but was a leader in his own right," she said. "When we moved to Kentucky for my father to take over Mount Zion Church in Louisville, his office was bombed."

Her father's death in 1969, falsely attributed to suicide and later to accidental drowning, was another assassination in the King family, his daughter said.

For more information about Alveda's work with Priests for Life, visit CivilRightsForTheUnborn.com.

Priests for Life International Update

PFL International Outreach has been defending the civil rights of the unborn at recent intergovernmental meetings including the recent World Health Organization's Ministerial Meeting on Universal Health Coverage: Measuring progress, challenges and opportunities in the context of COVID-19 and at the



*The King brothers:
Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., left, and
Rev. A.D. King.*

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Organization of American States (OAS) 50th regular session of the General Assembly held October 20 and 21.

We were also pleased to participate in a panel on a zoom call with Ave Maria School of Law on October 8 with great questions from over 20 law students, and an international meeting of Catholic Inspired Non-Governmental Organizations on October 12 regarding the 2020 - 2022 program of activities.

What the Shepherds Understood

By Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director

Scripture tells us that on the first Christmas, when the shepherds arrived in Bethlehem and saw the baby in the manger, they understood what had been told to them by the angels who appeared to them in the middle of the night to announce the birth of Christ.

Why was it at the moment they arrived at the manger that they understood the message?

Perhaps it is because a baby is so *approachable*. After all, the angels said that the Savior was born for *all people*. Nobody, no matter how poor or lowly, should be afraid to approach him. And what better way for God to become approachable than by becoming a little baby?

Many people believe in God, but are scared of him. Who is he, they wonder, does he like me, and is he on my side? Seeing God as a baby answers all these questions and reassures us beyond words.

It is like what happened with the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. At the time she appeared to Juan Diego in 1531 in Mexico, the Aztec peoples were practicing human sacrifice. As a result of the image's presence among the people, their hearts were converted to the true God and the practice of human sacrifice was abolished. A key theological dynamic operating here is that Our Lady turned the Aztecs from a worldview of despair to one of hope, from a conviction that the gods were against them to a conviction that God was so much for them that He became one of them, present in Mary's womb!

In this framework, human beings no longer play a *small part* in the universe. On the contrary, as the Second Vatican Council proclaimed, "By his incarnation the Son of God has united himself in some fashion with every human being" (Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the *Modern World Gaudium et Spes*, 22). The result of that is the promise of Revelation 3:21, "I will give the victor the right to sit with me on my throne."

The universe into which Our Lady of Guadalupe invites us is no longer an unstable universe. God clearly reveals Himself as the only God, who is and *shares* both love and life. This truth brings hope. There is no longer need for human sacrifice, whether on pagan altars or in abortion clinics, because both the present and the future are in the hands of a God who is "God with us."

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Abortion is a sin against both life and *hope*. Those who abort their children do not do so out of choice, but out of despair. As author Frederica Mathewes-Green famously said, a woman does not choose an abortion like she chooses a Porsche or an ice-cream -- rather, she chooses it like an animal caught in a trap chooses to gnaw off its own leg.

But the God in the womb, and his mother who says "Yes," give new courage and hope. God continues to reveal himself in the tiny babies yet in the womb. He invites us to see him in them, and to love him in them! Christmas gives us the strength to say "Yes" to life! See ChristmasForTheUnborn.com for more Advent and Christmas reflections.

Emerging from a pandemic cocoon for a pro-life conference

By Janet Morana

Like the rest of the world, the Priests for Life Pastoral Team was grounded during the coronavirus lockdown. Thank heavens for Zoom and EndAbortion.TV because we were able to keep in touch with like-minded people all over the globe and continue to work on our life-saving projects.

But there's nothing like networking in person, so when I learned Care Net was holding its 2020 conference an hour away from home, I jumped at the chance to attend.

Founded in 1975, Care Net supports a network of 1,100 pregnancy help centers throughout North America, operates the Pregnancy Decision hotline - 866-604-4017 - and equips churches and pro-life individuals with the tools they need to help women and couples choose life.

Priests for Life always has a presence at the conference because we want to ensure that the leaders of all the pregnancy help centers affiliated with Care Net know about the resources we have available for moms and their families adjusting to the unexpected blessing of pregnancy, particularly those who may have chosen abortion in the past. We want them to know healing is available through Rachel's Vineyard and that there's a way for them, once healed, to join the Silent No More Awareness Campaign to help others avoid making that same deadly choice.

We also want to make sure we reach the clergy who serve pregnancy centers with the many resources we have specifically for them, whatever their denomination may be.

So in the Fall, Priests for Life Executive Manager Theresa Watson and I headed for the Swan and Dolphin Resort in Orlando for the organization's 45th annual



Janet Morana and Theresa Watson at Care Net

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conference. Our Resource Department manager, Rico Cairme, also drove up to help us set up our Priests for Life booth in the exhibition center.

It was a very different experience, by necessity. We wore masks at all times, as did just about everyone we encountered, and observed all the social distancing requirements.

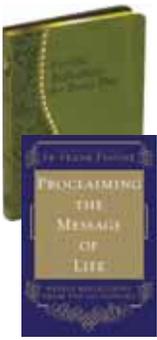
Despite the awkwardness of the restrictions, it was really great to be out and about with people again, even if there were fewer than usual and we had to maintain a distance between us. Saving babies is too important to put off.



Flags of many lands enhance Zoom call.

People from 11 countries spread over five continents and many time zones attended, via Zoom, the annual board meeting of the International Hope Alive Counselors Association. Priests for Life Executive Director Janet Morana was re-elected secretary of the board, while Paul Moynan from Belgium, was re-elected president. Dr. Philip Ney, a Canadian psychiatrist who founded the organization, serves as president emeritus. Hope Alive trains people to counsel those who have suffered pregnancy loss, particularly through abortion, and those victimized by child abuse or neglect. See www.Messengers2.com for more information.

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Featured Products



Proclaiming the Message of Life
by Fr. Frank Pavone
 Explore the pro-life themes found in the Sunday readings for each week of the year, in all three cycles of the lectionary.

Pro-Life Reflections for Every Day
by Fr. Frank Pavone
 Enrich your daily prayer life with new vigor to stand up for the unborn!



Little Star
by Anthony DeStefano
 A touching retelling of the nativity story and a modern Christmas classic for children.

Grumpy Old Ox
by Anthony DeStefano
 A mean-spirited, prideful old ox has lost his sight - both physically and spiritually - but experiences the transformative power of God's grace after he witnesses the birth of Jesus.



Wonder of Life Book Set
 Five adult gift books by Anthony DeStefano in a Wonder of Life sleeve: All This and Heaven Too; I Just Can't Take It Anymore; The Love Book; Why am I Here Anyway?; and Ok, I Admit It, I'm Afraid.

Order at **ProLifeProducts.org** or use this order form and mail in the enclosed envelope to: **Priests for Life • PO Box 236695 • Cocoa, FL 32923**

We would appreciate an extra donation to cover the costs of shipping and handling. Thank you.

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- Send _____ Little Star and Grumpy Old Ox book bundle (#3916) at \$20 for a total of \$ _____
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- I made my check payable to: Priests for Life.
- Please charge my contribution to my credit card:
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Praise for our Work

"Your daily Mass with such spirited homilies have meant so much to me as I am older and have mobility problems." - Judith

"Your offering of daily mass and your homilies always peel away another layer of ignorance and feed my soul especially in these times." - Charlotte

"Thank you so much Father for a beautiful Mass and homily each day. You are very reverent and we are blessed to have you." - Lynn

Join Fr. Frank Pavone's live daily Masses at 10 am ET on www.EndAbortion.TV and all of the social media platforms listed on that page (Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, and more).

www.ProLifeDonation.org

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, or sending a check made out to "**Priests for Life**" to:

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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 or call **(321) 500-1000**.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

ProLifeSocialMedia.com

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

At 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
-  facebook.com/SilentNoMoreJanet
-  parler.com/FrFrankPavone
-  parler.com/JanetMorana
-  Twitter: @frfrankpavone
-  Twitter: @janetmorana
-  instagram.com/frfrankpavone
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