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REPORTS...

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Janet Morana, Alveda King visit Jamaica to help pro-lifers push back against abortion legalization effort

Jamaica is a tourist destination for Americans looking for reef-lined beaches, Caribbean breezes and all-inclusive resorts.

But the Jamaica that our Priests for Life associates Janet Morana and Alveda King toured during a recent visit was a different island than the ones most tourists see.

They were invited to Jamaica by Father Richard Ho Lung, founder of the Missionaries of the Poor, to visit the order's facilities in Kingston and to help pastors and pro-life island residents push back against an effort to decriminalize abortion.

Accompanied by Brother Ronel Katigbak, Father Ho Lung and at times by Archbishop Kenneth Richards, bishop of the Diocese of Kingston, they visited Bethlehem House, a home for abandoned children and the severely disabled; Jacob's Well, a home for people living with HIV or Down syndrome; Holy Innocents, a maternity home for pregnant women and their children run by the Sisters of the Missionaries of the Poor, and the Fort Augusta Correctional Institute.

"I cherished the visits to the homeless children and the women in prison," Alveda said. "I went to minister to them but they ministered to me as well." Traveling with Alveda and Janet was Mike Manhardt, a longtime friend of Priests for Life and producer of the movie "Unplanned." The film was screened for more than 2,000 Jamaicans, who were very receptive to its message.

Janet said she realized that watching the film with an audience much less familiar with abortion was a very different experience than watching it in the States, where almost everyone knows someone who has been impacted by abortion.



Janet Morana and Alveda King with Father Richard Ho Lung, MOP at Bethlehem House run by the Missionaries of the Poor. Many of the children are severely handicapped and abandoned.

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"The audience understood what's at stake and they were very interested in the scenes that show an abortion, and in the scene where the actress playing American pro-lifer Abby Johnson is successful in getting a woman to change her mind," Janet said.

Alveda was grateful for the chance to worship with Jamaican pastors, and to be able to show "Unplanned" at Celebration Church. Both she and Janet also were invited to present on a panel discussion titled "Resolve for Life: Confronting the Issues of Pro-life or Pro-Choice."

Alveda's visit was the second time she had been to the island nation. She was invited by pro-lifers in 2008 and said the blessing of this trip was to see "pro-life leaders expanding their reach with strong pro-life men. The men and women of Jamaica understand the sanctity of life."

Jamaican media kept up with the Americans' visit. They were interviewed on Smile Jamaica TV and CVM TV. The newspapers The Gleaner and The Loop also reported on the activities of the pro-lifers from the United States.

"The spirit was released on the visit of Alveda King, Janet Morana and Mike Manhardt," said Father Ho Lung. "It served as a great opportunity for the gathering of pro-life people who are deeply concerned with the possible legalization of abortion in Jamaica early next year.

"Pro-lifers were fully appreciative of the presence of the team. Alveda was effective in sharing her life as a woman and her struggle to become a passionate pro-lifer. Janet gave much valuable information on abortion, and the struggles of pro-life against abortion."



Janet Morana being interviewed by Fr. Richard Ho Lung, MOP for his series on EWTN.

Grateful for the 300 pounds of Priests for Life materials Janet brought with her, Father Ho Lung said, "We hope we will be supported with information, and speakers in the future. We really want to stop the legalization of abortion. The press and governmental figures seem to be pushing for it. Please support us in this movement towards life."

A passenger on Alveda's flight home to Atlanta was Father Ho Lung, who invited her to sing a song at a fund-raising concert he had planned in her hometown.

"That was an unexpected blessing," she said. "And a pleasure."

Father Denis Wilde reaches an international audience without leaving the US

Recent travels for Father Denis Wilde, OSA, associate director of Priests for Life, have taken him from Utah to Brooklyn and close to home in Philadelphia.

Father Denis celebrated three Masses and led a parish mission at St. George Church in St. George, Utah. The pastor, Father Oscar Martin Picos, is from Mexico, and the parochial vicar, Rev. Sébastien Sasa Nganomo Babisayone, hails from the Congo. Many parishioners had moved from California to Utah, where most people belong to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, also known as the Mormon church. After the mission, a Mormon participant approached Father Denis, expressing interest in learning about Catholicism. Father Denis has kept in touch with her.

The mission talks - whose theme was "We Need God's GPS for Eternity" - were based on St. Augustine's concept of restless hearts. In the four nights he spoke about the "road to heaven," including Scripture and the sacraments. The third night was dedicated to the pro-life message.

Before leaving Utah, Father Denis had time for a short hike in Zion National Park.

Closer to home, Father Denis took part in a rally outside Planned Parenthood in Philadelphia that was a protest of the bullying tactics of a Pennsylvania state legislator.

Brian Sims, a Democrat, filmed himself berating a woman who was praying outside the abortion facility. He posted the diatribe on Facebook, along with another broadcast of him hounding teenage girls.

About 1,000 people turned out to protest his antics, and the continued murder of the innocents of the Planned Parenthood at 12th and Locust. Among the speakers was Ashley Garecht, the mother of two of the girls - 13 and 15 years old - whom Sims had targeted.

"The mom said she has always been pro-life but that now she plans to roll up her sleeves and get active," Father Denis said. "Out of evil, good can come."

Father Denis's next trip was to Brooklyn, to



On May 7, 2019, Georgia Governor Brian Kemp signed a law protecting children after six weeks of development, when doctors can usually start detecting a fetal heartbeat. Evangelist Alveda King, Director, Civil Rights for the Unborn, was in attendance. Above from l to r: Alveda King, Governor Kemp and Catherine Davis and Dean Nelson from Human Coalition.

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the Immaculate Heart of Mary, a parish in Prospect Heights that includes many Catholics from Pakistan.

"There were moments you could hear a pin drop; the audience was that attentive," he said of his homily that included mention of the recent abortion expansion in New York State. "Hopefully we made an inroad."

Five Points for Pro-life People to Keep in Mind about Elections 2020

Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director, Priests for Life

Once again, it's true to say that the upcoming Presidential and Congressional elections are as consequential and important as they have ever been.

With that in mind, I offer five points that we in the pro-life movement need to keep uppermost in mind and pass along to those who work with us to defend the unborn:

1. The Elections of 2020 are now. It seems like the time between political seasons in America has shrunk to nothing. To have an impact, we have to keep up with that reality, like it or not. The 2020 election is underway *right now*, not later. And we have to be fully engaged in it right now as a top priority.

2. Utilize the 2019 elections. There are a number of states that have crucial 2019 elections. North Carolina, for instance, has two special US House elections. Since we have to take back the House, these are crucially important and can make all the difference. Kentucky has a key Governor's race. Other states have legislative races. The more we can register and turn out voters where there are 2019 races, the more ready we will be for 2020.

3. All the Democrat candidates are ultimately the same. We have to think of the elections as a battle of power between two parties, with two opposite worldviews, and two diametrically opposed positions on the overriding matter of abortion. No matter how 'good' or 'better than the other' we think a Democrat candidate might be, we cannot let the House, the Senate or the White House fall under the control of that party, because if they do, it is the *radical agenda of the party* that takes over, not the individual man or woman who was elected. Do we really think, for example, that any of the judges appointed by any of the Democrat Presidential hopefuls would be better than any of the others? In the end, they are all the same, because they all represent the same radical, extreme, pro-abortion party.

4. Define the issues now. At this point in the race, we have to clearly define for the American public the national issues that are at stake, and

motivate them by these issues. All politics is actually *not* "local." This is about the direction of America and the very survival of the principles on which it was founded. And the top two motivating issues for people who follow our movement, and many others, are ***judges*** and ***late-term abortion/infanticide***. The President and the Republican Senate have already placed 112 excellent judges on the federal courts; many more are to come. Imagine what can be accomplished with a second term! And as for late term abortion and infanticide, we win on this issue even among people who call themselves "prochoice" and "Democrat."

5. We were never more free to speak. Many not-for-profit organizations, and certainly most Churches, have been very afraid to speak about elections and candidates. These fears were never justified, and this year they are less justified than ever. The Trump Administration has weakened the "Johnson Amendment" and has made it clear that all Americans, including pastors, are free to speak their mind without fear of punishment or discrimination by federal agencies. Let's speak, therefore, with clarity and courage!

For more information on what you can do to make a difference in the elections, visit www.ProLifeVote.com.

Originally published at LifeNews.com.

Priests for Life at White House Screening of Gosnell Movie

Priests for Life was represented by our Washington DC staff at a screening of the Gosnell movie at the White House on Friday, April 12, 2019. In attendance were pro-life leaders, White House Staff and the producers of the film, Phelim McAleer and Ann McElhinney.

This was another sign of the pro-life stance of the Trump Administration. The movie features the true story of the conviction of Philadelphia abortionist Kermit Gosnell, who killed children before and after birth, and killed their mothers as well. He is now in prison for life.

On Ascension Thursday, May 9, 2013, a simple ceremony was held in the chapel at the headquarters of Priests for Life where we heard the Word of God, prayed for the babies, their families, and those who participated in their deaths. And we then named them. Fr. Frank Pavone has known and collaborated with Phelim and Ann, the creators of the film, from the beginning of the project. See more at PriestsForLife.org/Gosnell.

Priests for Life defends the unborn at two key UN conferences

Priests for Life has been active in recent United Nations meetings, including the 57th Session of the *Commission on the Status of Women* and the 63rd Session of the *Commission on Population Development*. Bob Lalonde, our key representative at the UN, was in New York City and Marie Smith, Director of the Parliamentary Network for Critical Issues (part of our Priests for Life ministry) prepared formal statements that were published by the UN in English, French and Spanish.

Our *Status of Women* statement focused on protecting unborn baby girls from sex selection abortion. Our concern was echoed by Ambassador Cherith Norman Chalet, Representative, US Mission to the UN, who said "The United States is also committed to protecting the precious gift of life, including the protection of baby girls who would have been aborted, merely because they are female."

Our *Population Development* statement focused on groups most excluded in today's world: The unborn, disabled and elderly. "These groups span the life cycle beginning with the child, alive but still inside the womb, who as the Convention on the Rights of the Child reminds us needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth. The laws and policies of a majority of Member States oppose broad access to the violence of abortion and protect the child before birth."

Both statements are available at PriestsForLife.org/UnitedNations.

During both conferences Priests for Life took part in several side events sponsored by the Holy See Mission and others, including *Social Protections For Those With Down Syndrome* and the *Importance of a Full Anthropology of Woman*.

Rachel's Vineyard founder addresses Institute on Religious Life

Dr. Theresa Burke, full-time pastoral associate of Priests for Life, presented at the Institute on Religious Life's (IRL) 2019 National Meeting in April. Consecrated men and women throughout the USA and Canada attended. The Institute has clergy and laity working together for the growth and renewal of the consecrated life. The conference theme was "Forming Apostles for Today."

A highlight of the weekend was the presentation of the *Pro Fidelitate et Virtute Award* to the Little Sisters of the Poor. The Apostolic Nuncio, Most Rev. Christophe Pierre, presented the award.

"It's always a joy to be with this group because they represent a network of religious orders, and there are many who host Rachel's Vineyard retreats

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at their monasteries and retreat houses," Theresa said. "I always feel like I'm among family, not just in our communion of faith, but also through many years of shared friendships connected to our apostolate, Rachel's Vineyard."

The keynote was presented by IRL President Bishop Robert Vasa. His love of the liturgical life of the Church was evident in his reflections. He is a strong advocate for life and was one of the first bishops to attend a Rachel's Vineyard retreat.

IRL National Director Father Thomas Nelson, a Norbertine Priest of St. Michael's Abbey in California, has worked closely with Theresa to provide opportunities for religious to heal from their own grief related to life's challenges or past traumatic experiences. Theresa has given a number of talks to religious communities and has provided overviews of the Rachel's Vineyard Retreats and a newer healing model named Grief to Grace: Healing the wounds of abuse. Many religious have found the Grief to Grace Retreats to be an extraordinary program that integrates psychological and spiritual realities for a deep and transforming experience, which they describe as "life changing." This program is being used in many dioceses to heal all forms of abuse, including the scourge of the sexual abuse of children by clergy.

Current plans are in the works to train a team of sisters and priests who could serve as a traveling team to provide this retreat privately for religious communities.

Tweets!

Follow Fr. Frank on Instagram and Twitter @frfrankpavone

Here's one of his recent, far-reaching Tweets that pointed out the absurdity of Hillary Clinton's claim about the Democrats and the Constitution.

"Priests for Life 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."
- Congregation for the Clergy, Vatican City



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:

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 or call **(321) 500-1000**. **Thank you in advance for your generosity!**

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