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FR. FRANK REPORTS...

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Priests for Life helps organize Forum of Catholic Inspired Non-Governmental Organizations at the Vatican

Priests for Life was pleased to take an active part in both organizing and participating in the Forum of Catholic Inspired Non-Governmental Organizations (CINGO - ForumInternational.org) Plenary Meeting held in Rome.

The meeting took place December 5 - 7 and the theme was "Moving Towards a More Inclusive Society."



Janet Morana and Bob Lalonde of Priests for Life with Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican Secretary of State (no. 2 man in the Church).

In the two years since the last meeting, which our fulltime associate Evangelist Alveda King attended (and led the opening prayer), Priests for Life was involved through our team member Marie Smith. She founded and directs the Parliamentary Network for Critical Issues, and served as the co-chair of CINGO's Human Rights Thematic Group which met several times, and Bob Lalonde, as a member of the Thematic Group and Priests for Life's main representative to the United Nations. Other Priests for Life team members also help behind the scenes to organize the conference.



It was in the Human Rights Thematic Group that the right to life statement supporting "conception to natural death" was articulated. While Marie was unable to attend the Rome meeting, the preparation work had already been completed and both Janet Morana, executive director of Priests for Life and co-founder of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign, and Bob were able to participate and further the effort in the Human Rights Thematic Group.

Priests for Life has long been a CINGO supporter and is a recognized collaborating member in furtherance of our international outreach work to end abortion. Our CINGO association is an extension of our work at



Janet Morana greets Pope Francis

the United Nations, where we have been active since 2003 as an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

The Forum hosted the three-day meeting of more than 110 collaborating organizations from around the world. The meeting involved numerous exchanges with representatives of the Vatican's Secretariat of State, dicasteries and academies, Holy See Missions at various intergovernmental bodies, and of major International Catholic-inspired organizations.

Some of the key participants included Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State; Archbishop Ivan Jurkovič, papal representative to the Holy See Mission in Geneva; Archbishop Alain Paul Lebeauvin, papal representative to the Holy See Mission at the European Union; Gabriella Gambino, under-secretary, Dicastery of Laity, Family and Life, and Monsignor Bruno Marie Duffe, secretary, Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

In addition to the Human Rights Group, the Forum had six other thematic groups - Development, Education, Family, Health, Migration and Youth. "Moving Towards a More Inclusive Society" offered a connecting point to global policies, rooted in the social teachings of the Catholic Church and built on the expertise and analysis of Forum participants.

The two-year preparation produced a 60-page working document that was the focus of the three-days of deliberations and will be published soon.

The Forum concluded with an address from the Holy Father and a personal audience, during which Janet Morana and Bob Lalonde from our team presented the 2019 Annual Report of Priests for Life to the Pope.

In his remarks, Pope Francis said "Many of you are concerned to be present in the places where discussions are taking place about human rights, people's living conditions, habitat, education and development, and other social problems. In this way, you demonstrate what the Second Vatican Council referred to as "the presence of the Church in the world, and her life and activity there."

The full address of the Holy Father can be found at www.PriestsForLife.org/international.

New Prayer Booklet: In the Heart of His Mercy - Prayers to Heal the Wounds of Abortion

If all abortions stopped tomorrow, the work of healing the wounds will have only just begun. Nothing is more destructive of the family than abortion, which destroys everyone and everything it touches. Many carry the wounds of abortion but despair of being healed; others work every day to heal those wounds, and still others do not yet realize that abortion was the cause of their wounds.

The Good News is that we have a Savior, who forgives and heals, and whose name is Jesus Christ. The Gospel of Life is the Gospel of Mercy, and the pro-life movement is extending that mercy every day, through numerous healing programs, the largest of which is Rachel's Vineyard (RachelsVineyard.org), a ministry of Priests for Life.

Moreover, so many of those who have found healing want to share their stories so that others who are wounded may have new hope. The Silent No More Awareness Campaign (SilentNoMore.com -- a joint project of Anglicans for Life and Priests for Life) is the largest mobilization of such individuals - moms, dads, grandparents, siblings, relatives, friends, and former abortion workers - who share their testimonies publicly.

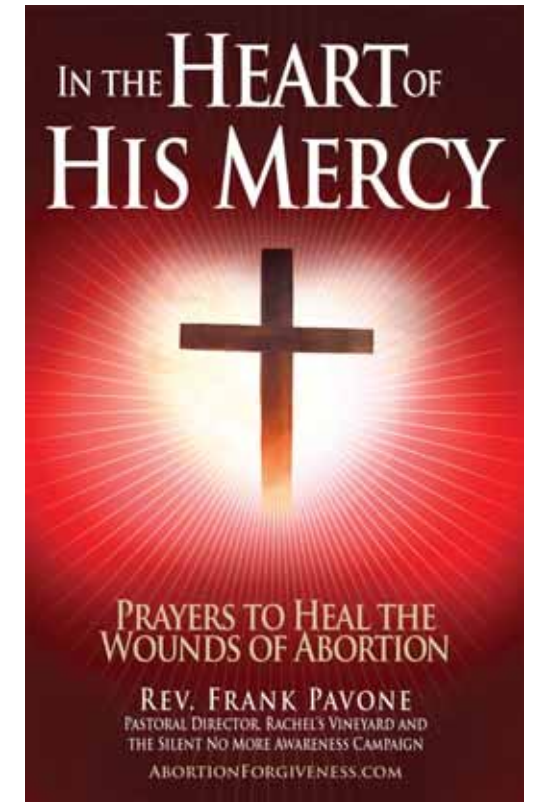
In my role as Pastoral Director of both Rachel's Vineyard and Silent No More, I have composed a new prayer booklet called *In the Heart of His Mercy*. It is based on the truth that are all wounded by abortion, whether we realize it or not (see AbortionShockwaves.com). Some of the prayers in the booklet are for us to say for various people who are wounded by abortion in different ways; other prayers here are meant to be said by those specific groups of people for themselves.

Prayer changes things. It is not a substitute for the hard work of grieving and reconciliation that God gives us to do, but grace and healing do come on the wings of prayer. It is my hope that this booklet will be a blessing for you and many others. Order it below or at ProLifeProducts.org.

Political ramifications of Evangelium Vitae

Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director

One of the most striking, bold, and sobering paragraphs ever written about the impact of abortion on the common good is the 20th paragraph of Pope John Paul II's encyclical



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Evangelium Vitae (The Gospel of Life) - a document whose 25th anniversary, March 25th, is fast approaching.

The document is a great antidote for the thinking that says we can elect a "pro-choice" candidate because "their other positions are good." It's easy to start counting the positions we think a candidate has "right" and see what candidate has the greater "sum" of right answers or "Catholic" answers.

But that's a very superficial and flawed way of doing moral analysis. It's like saying to a supporter of terrorism, "I disagree with you on the one issue of terrorism, but what's your health care plan?"

Paragraph 20 of *Evangelium Vitae* starts by showing the radical and practical impossibility of living with the implications of "pro-choice." The same illusion that separates "choice" from the demands of respect for life is the illusion that makes us think we can separate other "rights" from the right to life. But human rights are integrally interconnected. Take away the basis for respecting life and you've taken away the basis for all human rights. As the Pope says, "At that point, everything is negotiable, everything is open to bargaining."

The Pope then takes aim at the idea that if abortion has been legalized according to proper democratic procedures, then that's all that matters. He says, *"The appearance of the strictest respect for legality is maintained Really, what we have here is only the tragic caricature of legality; the democratic ideal, which is only truly such when it acknowledges and safeguards the dignity of every human person, is betrayed in its very foundations: How is it still possible to speak of the dignity of every human person when the killing of the weakest and most innocent is permitted?"*

Along with this, he has some of the strongest words ever written about what happens when the state legalizes abortion: *"In this way democracy, contradicting its own principles, effectively moves towards a form of totalitarianism. The State is no longer the 'common home' where all can live together on the basis of principles of fundamental equality, but is transformed into a tyrant State, which arrogates to itself the right to dispose of the life of the weakest and most defenseless members ... When this happens, the process leading to the breakdown of a genuinely human co-existence and the disintegration of the State itself has already begun. To claim the right to abortion, infanticide and euthanasia, and to recognize that right in law, means to attribute to human freedom a perverse and evil significance: that of an absolute power over others and against others. This is the death of true freedom."*

"The disintegration of the State itself...totalitarianism...the death of true freedom." In other words, no "common good" can co-exist with legal abortion. The very foundations of civilization break down. It sure sounds like abortion is more than just one issue among many.

For more information on how you can bring the Gospel of Life into the political arena, visit our election website www.ProLifeVote.com.

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In Ljubljana, Slovenia, Dr. Theresa Burke of Priests for Life joins members of a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Team as they hold copies of Theresa's book, "Forbidden Grief," which has just been translated into the Slovene language.

Trip to Slovenia was like "coming home" for Dr. Theresa Burke

Dr. Theresa Burke, pastoral associate of Priests for Life and founder of Rachel's Vineyard (the world's largest ministry for healing after abortion) led a conference for the ministry's leaders in Eastern Europe during a two-week visit to Slovenia in November of 2019.

The nation was part of Yugoslavia during most of the 20th century and became independent following the dissolution of Yugoslavia in 1991. Its most famous native is First Lady Melania Trump.

Abortion through the 10th week of pregnancy has been legal in Slovenia since 1977. Many women from neighboring Croatia currently travel to Slovenia for abortion because a high percentage of doctors in Croatia refuse to perform the procedure.

In Ljubljana, the nation's capital, Theresa met with Archbishop Stanislav Zore, O.F.M., the Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Ljubljana and president of the Slovenian Bishops' Conference.

In Dravljje, she met Dr. Arturo Sosa, SJ, General Superior of the Jesuit order, and in Graz, she met with Bishop Wilhelm Krautwashul and Mother Superior Marianne Schuh. "It's always a joy to be with those teams who run our retreats," Theresa said. "It's kind of like coming home in some ways because there are always familiar faces from past European retreats and conferences, and we share in a powerful ministry. There is a remarkable sense of fellowship and family, filled with joy and passion for a work we love."

While in Ljubljana, Theresa held a press conference to launch her book, "Forbidden Grief" in the Slovene language.

"It's pretty awesome that a book I wrote many years ago is finally available in a small

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country with a high abortion rates and scant literature on how abortion hurts individuals and families," she said. "What may seem like common knowledge here in the USA is now being considered and spoken of publicly to inform and educate those who are suffering, as well as those who promote abortion."

On a personal note, Theresa said she has a fondness for the area because her paternal grandparents emigrated from Poland and the former Yugoslavia.

Healing programs can help "pro-life first responders"

Showing the film "Unplanned" to pro-life audiences equips and inspires them and the movie contains an important message to "pro-life first responders."

The movie, which depicts the pro-life journey of Abby Johnson, a former Planned Parenthood director from Texas whom Fr. Frank helped to find healing, was shown in early December at Sacred Heart Parish in Bath, Pennsylvania.

Karen Brynildsen, the leader of Sacred Heart's pro-life committee, invited Rachel's Vineyard co-founder Kevin Burke, LSW, to address parishioners and guests after the screening.

Kevin shared information on Rachel's Vineyard ministries and gave a brief overview of its weekend retreat program. Given the number of pro-life advocates in attendance and the content of the film, Kevin touched on how pro-life advocates on the front lines are "pro-life first responders."

While their outreach many times saves innocent lives, like other first responders (firefighters, police officers, emergency medical technicians) sometimes they are unable to save a child -- or their parents -- from the tragedy of abortion.

This painful reality is dramatized during several powerful scenes in the film, as pro-life advocates on the other side of the fence surrounding the abortion business plead with women to save the lives of their children.

Kevin shared how emotional and spiritual healing can benefit these pro-lifers who are intimately touched by the loss of a child as the shockwaves of abortion reach every person who was involved in the abortion - even those advocating against it.

"It is a great personal blessing, and a blessing to your ministry, to make that journey of grief and healing in the Lord," Kevin said.

To book Kevin or our other team members to come and speak in your Church or community, go to www.PriestsForLife.org/Speakers.

For information about healing resources, see our special website www.AbortionForgiveness.com, and to get your own DVD of the movie "Unplanned," go to www.ProLife.Video.

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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. Please make sure you're following him there!



ORDER FORM for "In the Heart of His Mercy"

Fr. Frank Pavone has composed a new prayer booklet called In the Heart of His Mercy. It is based on the truth that are all wounded by abortion, whether we realize it or not (see AbortionShockwaves.com). See article on page 3.

Order at ProLifeProducts.org or use this order form and mail in the enclosed envelope to:

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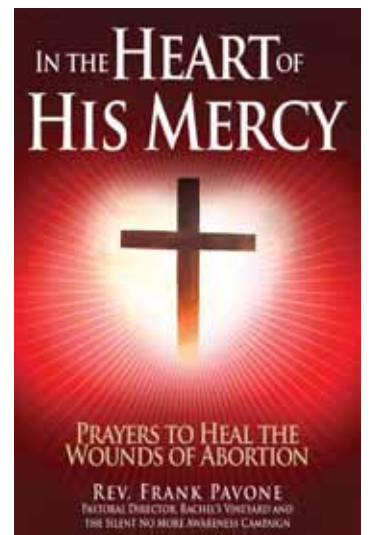
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You can also sign up to be a monthly donor, which helps us plan future events more effectively! See the options on our website, or call **321-500-1000** for assistance!

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!**

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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:

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-  [Twitter: @janetmorana](https://twitter.com/janetmorana)
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