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Frank Pavone **REPORTS...**

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Taking Coerced Abortions to Court: Silent No More Sounds the Alarm on Behalf of Women's Freedom

Note: To follow this case and get links to detailed information about it, go to PriestsForLife.org/Legal.

Contrary to the "reproductive freedom" narrative, most abortions in America are coerced abortions, and it's time to take that to court.

Priests for Life and our Silent No More Campaign stand with pro-life advocates who filed a lawsuit the week of December 3 in federal court in Minnesota to show that the state's abortion laws violate the 14th amendment of the U.S. Constitution by allowing abortions for mothers who were coerced into the procedure.

"The voices of the women of Silent No More back up the claims made in the suit," said Janet Morana, executive director of Priests for Life and co-founder of Silent No More. "Many, if not most women felt pressured by husbands, boyfriends, parents, employers or even abortionists to abort babies whom they did not want to kill."

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On December 13-14, Frank Pavone spoke to the National Association of Christian Lawmakers national conference in Scottsdale, AZ. Frank is an advisor for the group. He is pictured here with Charlie Kirk who also spoke at the banquet. When they greeted each other just before this photo, they both exclaimed in a celebratory way, "We did it!" The whole night was a celebration of the election victories and a commitment to build on them.

Essay Contest Entrants Demonstrate Deep Knowledge of Pro-life Movement

By Leslie Palma-Simoncek

I was one of three judges for the pro-life essay contest sponsored by Stand True, the youth outreach of Priests for Life. To say I was impressed with the talent, knowledge and pro-life commitment of these young people is a serious understatement.

The three-level contest was open to students in

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The Eucharist and the Unborn

As parishes and dioceses promote Eucharistic revival, learn how the Eucharist brings prolific revival! See EucharistAndProLife.org for resources and online courses.



The 2024 Priests for Life photo with much of our staff (but not all) from our December gathering.

Taking Coerced Abortions to Court - Continued from pg 1

Priests for Life National Director Frank Pavone said his organization has become involved in the case by providing statements from women whose abortions were coerced.

Carol Seidenberg, a Silent No More regional coordinator in San Diego, had two abortions.

"Neither abortion was the result of my exercising my 'choice' from a position of power, confidence or strength," she said. "Rather my first abortion was suggested to me as the only 'reasonable' solution to the situation I was in, and for my second abortion, I was strong-armed into the decision by my doctor and fiancé."

Elaine in Oklahoma, whose testimony can be found on the Silent No More website AbortionTestimonies.com, wrote that "I had my two abortions when I was in the military in 1981 and 1982 at a private doctor's office in Boise, ID. During my first pregnancy, I went to the medical clinic on base. I found out that I was pregnant from a pregnancy test. Afterward, the OB doctor handed me a list of abortion doctors to contact for an abortion, and I was not given another choice ... I did not want to have an abortion, but I thought I did not have another choice."

Pavone pointed out that a 2023 study revealed that some 60% of women who have had abortions describe the procedure as being inconsistent with their own values and preferences. One of four women say they were forced to end the lives of their children.

"Women have a constitutional right to continue their pregnancies," Pavone said. "People will be hearing many more voices of women who were forced into abortion as this lawsuit continues."

The lawsuit was filed by longtime pro-life advocate and attorney Harold Cassidy on behalf of Women's Life Care Center, National Institute of Family and Life Advocates, Dakota Hope Clinic, two doctors and three mothers. The defendants include Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, Gov. Tim Walz, Department of Human Services Commissioner Jodi Harpstead and Planned Parenthood.

Minnesota has one of the worst abortion policies, with no limits on how late into a pregnancy an unborn child can be killed. But this lawsuit will certainly have many implications nationwide, both in terms of law and public opinion.

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Essay Contest Entrants Demonstrate Deep Knowledge of Pro-life Movement - Continued from pg 1

junior high, high school and college. The topic for junior high and high school students was "Be My Vote for the Unborn," which invited writers to explore the ways even those too young to vote, or brand-new voters, can help influence an election.

The topic for college students, "The Duty to Vote Pro-life," asked entrants to convey persuasive reasons why pro-life people need to vote and how the abortion issue affects their vote.

As judges, we were instructed to narrow our choices to three potential winners and then to see if any of them overlapped. But winnowing down these persuasive, well-written and heartfelt essays was one of the hardest things I have ever been asked to do.

Many of these passionate young people have been involved in pro-life since early childhood and have deep knowledge of the political, cultural and religious aspects of the issue.

"It is vital for me and others my age to stay informed," a home-schooled 10th grader wrote, "and know what I believe and why I believe what I do, so that when the world tries to shake me, I will not be swayed."

Some writers highlighted the important contributions pro-lifers made to the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Others noted the value of sharing the stories of those impacted by abortion. "Personal stories can demonstrate the negative effects of abortion on individuals and society, prompting voters to reconsider their own beliefs and the candidates they support," wrote a high school student.

Many of the essays noted both the importance of prayer in the battle to end abortion, and the vital role played by public pro-life demonstrations like the March for Life and Walk for Life. More than one writer noted they have been marching for life since they could walk. Some essays were so heavily researched they included footnotes!

Wow.

I've been writing professionally for more decades than I would like to admit, and I was truly humbled by the talent, passion and altruism of every one of our entrants. The future of the pro-life movement is in their hands; they are more than up to the task.

Ultimately my fellow judges and I chose the following winners:

Mary Grover, a sixth grader from Owings, Maryland, titled her essay, "Voteless, Not Voiceless," and wrote: "Sharing your values is important, especially for young people. Speaking to others about the value of all human life at all stages can help promote better understanding. It is especially important to share your opinions on abortion because innocent human life is at stake."

Charlotte Swannack, a homeschooled high school junior from Cary, N.C. won the high school division with her essay titled "Stand for the Unborn." She concluded her essay with the assertion, "Changing our society to a culture of life is not going to be an easy task, but we must take comfort knowing that God is in control, and that through Him abortion will become illegal and unthinkable."

Grace Walker-Ros, a junior at the University of Wisconsin Whitewater, won the college competition with her piece titled, "A Civic Duty to Defend Life." In it, the resident of Wheeling, Illinois, vowed, "I will always vote pro-life and will also work to help cultivate future leaders and politicians who will use the power of their offices to be the voice for the voiceless

The winner in the college-level competition was awarded \$1,000 and the winning essay is published in this issue of our travelogue. The high school category carried a \$500 cash prize and the junior high winner received a \$300 prize. All the winning essays can be seen online at StandTrue.com/EssayContest.

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All three were announced at the National Prayer Service we hold in Washington DC on the day of the March for Life, and all three were featured on a broadcast on EndAbortion.TV, Priests for Life's streaming platform.

A Civic Duty to Defend Life

By Grace Walker -Ros, winner of the Priests for Life Essay Contest, College category

President Ronald Reagan once said, "America is too great for small dreams." The mere idea of an American dream is enough for people to leave their homes, families, belongings - everything - in its pursuit. That's why I choose to have enormous dreams - like the dream that one day, all human life will be valued, respected, protected and cherished. It is also why I am in college to lay the foundation to help make that dream a reality.

As a Political Science major, I am learning how to work within the political and legal systems to create laws that defend the preborn. Ultimately, my dream is for a personhood amendment that protects life in the womb.

I have been pro-life for my entire life. In fact, I've been marching for life since I could walk. As a child, I was a founding member (along with my mother) of a local group called Northwest Families for Life. As a high school senior, that organization presented me with their "Just Like Joe" award in honor of the late Joe Scheidler and the work I was doing to carry on his legacy. I was a Crusader for Life from age 13-19 through my parish, founded the pro-life club at my Catholic High School, worked for Coalition Life as a sidewalk counselor in the "abortion safe haven" city of Carbondale, IL, and I am currently the vice president of the pro-life student organization at my university, Life on Campus. I'm also the president of Turning Point USA at my university. Through all of these pro-life activities, I have seen both the enormous power of prayer and also how our duties as pro-lifers are lived.

Of course, we have a duty to pray for the babies and their mothers, and we also have a civic duty to defend them. This means calling and talking with our politicians to educate them about policies and the impact of their votes on legislation and also asking them to represent us by voting for life. In addition, we have to get out to vote during all elections to be the voice for the voiceless and help ensure people of good will take office.

The politics in my home state of Illinois have provided me with numerous examples of how much voting matters and the impact it has on the issue of abortion. Today, we have elected officials fighting for the most extreme and egregious abortions at the local, state and federal levels, but it was not always this way. Illinois was once pro-life, with men like former Rep. Henry Hyde in office. In the 1970's, Rep Hyde presented an amendment to ban government funding of abortion. It didn't actually become law right away until after it went through three separate Supreme Court rulings. His willingness to fight for the cause changed the abortion debate. It forced every member of Congress to take a stand on the issue.

By the people of Illinois voting for this champion of life, Rep. Hyde was able to open the discussion in Congress about the beginnings of human life and the need to protect the preborn. His efforts seem to have been the catalyst for respect for life becoming an important issue in our elections and in our political system today.

Tragically, Illinois has become an "abortion safe haven" for those seeking abortions from other states. Our elected officials at all levels push a pro-abortion agenda and have removed any type of oversight. Abortion facilities do not have to be inspected. There are no longer parental notification requirements.

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A Civic Duty to Defend Life - Continued from pg 4

There is no need to show a mother an ultrasound of her child before she aborts her baby. Chemical abortion pills are given out like candy, without proper medical care for the mothers, so if a mother who has an ectopic pregnancy takes mifepristone and misoprostol abortion pills, she WILL die, and our elected officials don't seem to care. It has gotten so extreme that they have knocked down Rep. Hyde's amazing legacy, allowing taxpayer dollars to fund abortions here.

Our votes matter! What a painful change to go from being a pro-life state to being one where human life is disregarded. I will do my part to bring change and defend the preborn and their mothers. I will always vote pro-life and will also work to help cultivate future leaders and politicians who will use the power of their offices to be the voice for the voiceless.



On January 22, flowers were placed in front of the Supreme Court representing the victims of Roe v. Wade.

Governors, Pro-life Activists Honored at National Prayer Service

Governors in three states that defeated pro-abortion ballot amendments were honored with the National Pro-Life Recognition Award at the National Prayer Service on Jan. 24 in Washington, D.C.

During the 30th annual National Memorial for the Preborn and Their Mothers and Fathers at Constitution Hall, South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem, Nebraska Gov. Jim Pillen and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis were cited for their work in combating the amendments. Also recognized were pro-life advocates in all 10 states who worked tirelessly to defeat pro-abortion ballot amendments, as well as those in Minnesota and Arkansas who successfully kept the amendments off the ballot.

Likewise, we honored the work of the pro-life communities in the states that had abortion-related ballot measures over the last two years, namely, Ohio, Michigan, Kansas, Kentucky, California and Vermont. The pro-life leaders and groups in those places deserved recognition for their hard work as well.

"No matter the outcome, the work that was done in these battles to educate and mobilize our fellow citizens has lasting value," said Priests for Life National Director Frank Pavone. "We celebrate the victories and we will commit ourselves to undo the amendments that unfortunately did pass. They will not stand."

Joining Priests for Life to co-sponsor the service this year are a number of pro-life organizations, including National Right to Life Committee; National Institute of Family and Life Advocates; Population Research Institute; Faith & Freedom Coalition; Wallbuilders; American Values; Douglass Leadership Institute; Bott Radio Network; Timothy Plan; American Principles Project; AFA Action; American Target Advertising; Mills Family Foundation; The Salt & Light Council; America's Frontline Doctors (Free Speech Foundation), Florida Voice for the Unborn; Bukas Loob sa Diyos Covenant Community, and Mike Hill.

This Black History Month let's shine a spotlight on fatherlessness and saving Black babies

By Dr. Alveda King

Black History Month presents an opportunity to highlight two of the most pressing issues facing America's Black community today: Abortion and fatherlessness.

In our nation today:

- There are 24 million fatherless children, about 1 in 3 of all American children.
- Nearly 70% of all Black babies are born to unmarried mothers
- Almost 64% of all Black children grow up in a single-parent home

Fatherlessness strongly correlates with negative outcomes in nearly every aspect of a child's life, including poverty, substance abuse and juvenile crime.

Abortion and fatherlessness are closely linked, as one of every three pregnancies in a fatherlessness home end in abortion. Women raised in fatherless homes account for approximately 70% of all teen pregnancies.

Equally tragic is the impact abortion has on the Black community:

- Of the roughly 930,000 abortions performed in 2020, about 39% were performed on Black women.
- In one year, more than 350,000 Black babies, or almost 1,000 per day, are aborted.
- 1 million Black babies are killed in the womb every three years.

The rampant fatherlessness and shocking rates of abortion in the Black community should be stunning to all Americans of good faith. These intertwined issues are among the biggest civil rights battles of our time.

Who was St. Valentine?

Little is reliably known about St. Valentine, the saint whose Feb. 14 feast day is celebrated in the secular world with hearts, chocolate, flowers and diamonds.

According to Catholic Online, St. Valentine was a third century Roman who most likely was martyred for refusing to renounce his Christianity, or for secretly marrying Christian couples, or assisting Christians who were being persecuted by Emperor Claudius. He died on February 14th, though the year, in the late third century, is disputed.

"Other depictions of St. Valentine's arrests tell that he secretly married couples so husbands wouldn't have to go to war," reports Catholic Online. "Another variation of the legend of St. Valentine says he refused to sacrifice to pagan gods, was imprisoned and while imprisoned he healed the jailer's blind daughter. On the day of his execution, he left the girl a note signed, Your Valentine."

Historians believe Valentine's Day likely was created to overpower the pagan holiday Lupercalia.

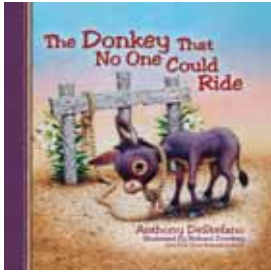
Whatever the truth, St. Valentine is the patron saint of engaged couples, bee keepers, epilepsy, fainting, greetings, happy marriages, love, lovers, plague, travelers, and young people. That's a pretty big portfolio but it does serve to give lots of different groups reason to celebrate.

PrayerIntentions.org and ProLifePrayers.com

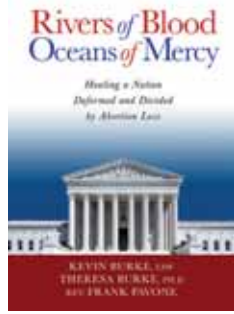
Leave us your prayer intentions as often as you like at PrayerIntentions.org and we will remember you in our prayers and Masses! Visit ProLifePrayers.com for prayers and resources.

February intention: For the protection of the free-speech rights of pro-life groups and individuals.

Frank Pavone *REPORTS...* Featured Products



(A)



(B)



(C)



(D)



(E)

(A) **The Donkey That No One Could Ride** by Anthony DeStefano, tells the tale of a weak and useless donkey whose life is transformed after meeting Jesus.

(B) **Rivers of Blood | Oceans of Mercy** by Dr. Theresa Burke, Kevin Burke and Frank Pavone, lifts the veil on reproductive rights, and reveals how the fallout from more than 60 million abortions extends far beyond the private sphere of a woman's personal healthcare decisions; the impact is dynamic, and far-reaching.

(C) **Six Prayer Booklet Set in a Gift Bag** This prayer booklet series by Frank Pavone leaves readers with a sense of wholeness in the journey called life and how our Faith can bring peace and joy to all those we come across including ourselves.

(D) **The Bible's Teaching Against Abortion** This brochure points out where in scripture we find our opposition to abortion and is a great tool for pro-life apologetics.

(E) **Lime 5** This is Mark Crutcher's compelling 320-page expose' of the American abortion industry. A unique and uncensored look at our nation's most wrenching social issue.

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Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Pro-Life Social Media

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

ProLifeSocialMedia.com

you will find a multitude of platforms that Priests for Life manages. Follow us, friend us, and like and comment on our posts. This engagement from you is the main thing that grows our audience! Among our largest platforms are the following:

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