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FR. FRANK REPORTS...

Volume 4

Issue 3 June 2019

Unplanned protagonist: "Father Frank is the reason I am where I am today"

When the movie *Unplanned* opened this spring, Father Frank Pavone played a critical role.

The powerhouse film chronicles the pro-life journey of former Planned Parenthood director Abby Johnson, who gave up her job after seeing the truth about abortion on an ultrasound screen and now helps others find their way out of the abortion industry.

What many people don't realize is how instrumental Father Frank has been in Abby's journey from abortion provider to pro-life advocate.

Even while she was still working at Planned Parenthood in College Station, Texas, Abby would tune in to EWTN to watch Father Frank on his *Defending Life* show. And when she saw Father Frank praying outside her Planned Parenthood facility, she wanted to go outside to meet him. But her colleagues dissuaded her.

Abby did meet with Father Frank after leaving the abortion industry because of his key role in national pro-life leadership and his work since the mid-1990 in helping ex-abortionists and clinic workers to find healing through the *Society of Centurions* (www.SocietyOfCenturions.com). As others followed her out of the industry, Abby worked with Father Frank to bring them to healing retreats.

Father Frank has assisted many people who have left the abortion industry, including the "Jane Roe" of *Roe v. Wade*, Norma McCovey, whom he received into the Catholic Church.

Father Pavone also wrote the forward for Abby's book *Unplanned*, upon which the film is based, and is the godfather to her second child.

Unplanned also tells the story of the birth of the *40 Days for Life* ministry, which Father Frank helped move from a local organization to the worldwide stage.



Fr. Frank Pavone with Abby Johnson at the March for Life

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Father Frank is the pastoral director of the world's largest ministry for healing after abortion, Rachel's Vineyard, and helped the film's producers identify follow-up resources for audiences who will view *Unplanned* and may be impacted by its honest portrayal of the brutality of abortion.

In a letter Abby wrote about Father Frank in 2011, she said: "Father Frank is the reason I am where I am today...emotionally and spiritually. He has given me guidance and direction that I couldn't find from anyone else. I am not a particularly emotional person. The first time I heard Father Frank speak at an event about clinic workers, I wept. How could he see inside my heart? How did he know my thoughts? Because this is his life. He isn't just in this for the children; he is in this for people like me, too...the wounded, the broken, the angry, and the scarred."

Janet Morana returns to Mexico City for conference on post-abortion healing

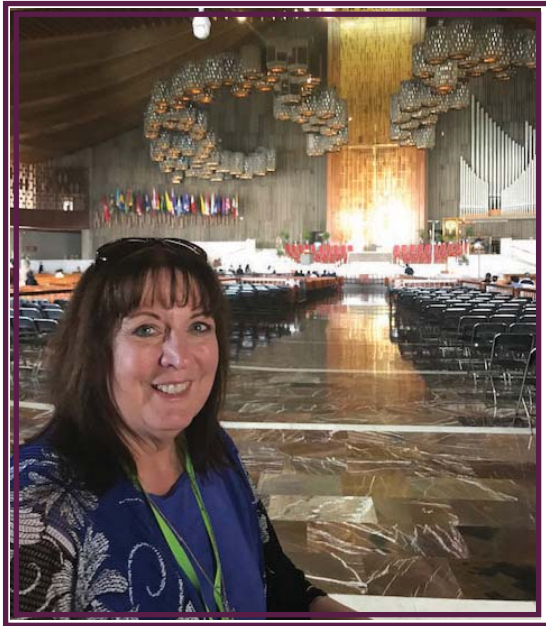
Janet Morana's frequent travels took her to Mexico City in April to speak at a conference on healing after abortion, and the best way to minister to those who have lost children to abortion. Janet had an opportunity to speak about the mission of Priests for Life, Rachel's Vineyard and the Silent No More Awareness Campaign, and to distribute Spanish-language brochures on each. While she and Dan Zeidler of the Latin American Family Alliance were the only English-as-a-first-language speakers among the 125 people in attendance, Janet was assisted by Alejandra Ortiz Monasterio during her presentation and for those that followed during the four-day event. A total of 17 nations were represented.



Janet speaking at the conference with the translator, Alejandra Ortiz Monasterio

Language also proved no barrier at one of lunches, when Janet was able to tell a priest from Chile, who spoke some English, about the See Baby Pregnancy Guide smart phone app, and the "Baby Chris" project launched by a coalition of American pro-life groups organized by Priests for Life. That priest then told the person next to him about the project, which is tracking the development of "Baby Chris" from the Feast of the Annunciation until Christmas Day. (See BabyChris.org for more information).

A few nights later, Janet was able to present the app to the whole group and teach them how to download the app's Spanish-language version.



Janet at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Conference participants stayed in a retreat house in a northern suburb of Mexico City called Cuautitlan Izcalli. The name comes from an Aztec language and translates to "your house among the trees."

A highlight of the trip, Janet said, was a visit to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the pro-life movement. The Basilica houses the cloak containing the image of the Blessed Mother miraculously imprinted on the inside of the cloak of St. Juan Diego in 1531. The current basilica, the national shrine of Mexico, replaces one constructed in the 17th century.

Janet attended Mass at the basilica and brought to Our Lady and her missionary image the intentions of all our Priests for Life supporters. (You can always give us your prayer intentions at www.PrayerIntentions.org.)

This was Janet's second trip to Mexico City. In 2007, when the city was on the verge of legalizing abortion in the first 12 weeks, she traveled with Latina members of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign to speak out against the new policy. Abortion on request was decriminalized that same year in Mexico City, though it remains illegal in most instances in the rest of Mexico.

Crossing time zones and continents with Evangelist Alveda King

Evangelist Alveda King has been a busy emissary for the unborn. From April till June, she traveled to events in five states - Virginia, California, Florida, New York and Tennessee - as well as visiting the District of Columbia, Rome and Jamaica.

Her trips included opportunities to cook with the hosts of Fox and Friends; serve as a spiritual adviser for the Shin Dae-Young Global Peace Institute; speak at a Promise Keepers gathering; attend the Council for National Policy; deliver the keynote speech for the 50th anniversary of Birthright in Atlanta, and address Parliament in Jamaica about keeping abortion out of the Caribbean.

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Alveda also attended the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) annual convention, where the first public screening of "Roe v. Wade" took place. Alveda is a producer of the film and plays a small part on screen. Alveda also did 17 radio interviews while at NRB!

After Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam blithely discussed on a radio show how a proposed bill in his state would allow a mother to decide what to do with her newborn who survived abortion, Alveda was in attendance at both a protest rally at the state capital in Richmond and later, outside the Governor's Mansion, where he was called on to resign.



Alveda King with radio host Eric Metaxas

"I thank God," Alveda says, "for all these opportunities to be a voice for the unborn."

Happily, there's a little bit of vacation time on Alveda's travel schedule in July!

Priests for Life at the United Nations' Commission on Population and Development

The United Nation's 52nd session of the Commission on Population and Development went from April 1-5, 2019. Bob Lalonde, Priests for Life's main representative to the UN, participated in the session and Marie Smith, Director of Parliamentary Network for Critical Issues (PNCI) and a Priests for Life representative to the UN, prepared our formal submission statement. The Priests for Life statement was one of just 16 NGO statements that were published on the **CPD website** as the UN recognizes the 25th anniversary of the meeting in Cairo and adoption of the ICPD Programme of Action during which attempts were unsuccessfully made to advance an international right to abortion.

Other NGO statements appearing on the site included those from global abortion industry giants Planned Parenthood and Marie Stopes International. The Priests for Life statement addressed the theme of the world that the United Nations seeks to achieve through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and stated that Priests for Life believes "that if the pledge of Agenda 2030 to leave no one behind is to be achieved and if all human beings as the most important resource of a nation are to achieve their potential as stated in the ICPD Programme of Action, groups most excluded in today's world urgently need protection."

"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. Other groups in need of protection include the disabled and elderly who are most at risk from euthanasia”.

“Priests for Life believes that life, in its most fragile state, is no less sacred than when it is in its healthiest and it is during life’s most fragile state that legal protection is most needed to ensure that no one is excluded and left behind as we move towards 2030.”

The United States, in a statement explaining its position on the controversial **Political Declaration** that emerged on the first day of the meeting, affirmed its pro-life position. Ambassador Cherith Norman Chalet **declared**,

“And with respect to the ICPD Programme of Action, my government fully supports maternal and child health and informed and voluntary access to family planning. We have stated clearly and on many occasions, consistent with the 1994 ICPD Programme of Action and its report, as adopted by the General Assembly, that we do not recognize abortion as a method of family planning, nor do we support provision, promotion, or referral for abortion in our global health assistance.”

The Priests for Life statement can be read at www.PriestsForLife.org/19-04-UN-Statement.pdf.

California’s Concern for ‘Innocent Humans’ Excludes the Unborn

By Janet Morana, Executive Director

California is on the right track where the death penalty is concerned. Gov. Gavin Newsom’s recent announcement that there will be a moratorium on executions was certainly good news for the 737 people currently on death row in the state.

It was also good news for the U.S., the only Western nation that still sanctions execution. We no longer need to kill criminals in order to keep society safe. Life in a maximum security prison with no chance of parole is a much more just way to punish criminals, even those guilty of the most heinous crimes.



Pastoral Associate and co-founder of Rachel’s Vineyard, Kevin Burke, was invited by Cheryl Riley, Director of the Respect Life Office for the Archdiocese of Newark to offer a presentation at the annual Mass and re-union in April 2019 of past retreat participants and team members of the Rachel’s Vineyard Ministry of the Archdiocese.

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In announcing the moratorium, Newsom said he was not sure that society is any more justified in taking the life of a convicted criminal than the criminal was justified in committing his or her crime in the first place.

"I know people think eye for eye, but if you rape, we don't rape," he said. "And I think if someone kills, we don't kill. We're better than that."

But Newsom also said something that struck a chord with those of us devoting our lives to ending abortion.

"I cannot sign off on executing hundreds and hundreds of human beings," the governor said, "knowing - knowing - that among them will be innocent human beings."

So while I applaud his decision to save the lives of those guilty of terrible crimes, I wonder why he does not extend that same protection to the most innocent among us - the children in the womb.

According to the pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute, 157,350 unborn children were aborted in California in 2014, representing 17 percent of all abortions in the United States.

California, which legalized abortion four years before the Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision, does not have a mandatory waiting period before abortion. Underage girls don't need the consent of a parent, nor do they even have to notify them. Since 2013, non-physicians, including nurse practitioners, certified nurse-midwives and physicians' assistants, have been able to legally perform abortions. Taxpayers in the state foot the bill for many abortions.

California's devotion to abortion led it to mandate that pregnancy resource centers had to post signs notifying clients where they could obtain abortions paid for by the state. These pro-life facilities, many of them faith-based, exist to make it possible for mothers in even the most dire circumstances choose life for their babies.

That law was challenged all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court in *NIFLA vs. Becerra*. Last year, the pregnancy centers won on the grounds that the law violated the First Amendment right to free speech.

Also last year, the California legislature passed a bill that would have required health centers at the state's two public university systems - California State University and the University of California - to offer chemical abortions on campus. The former governor, Jerry Brown, vetoed that measure, noting that abortion is already widely available in the Golden State.

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More recently, a state assemblyman proposed a bill that would mandate the inclusion of a Planned Parenthood hotline number on every middle school, high school and college student's ID. The state is also one of 20 state planning to sue the Trump administration for its decision to divert Title X funding away from health-care providers that perform abortion.

It does not seem that a moratorium on abortion in California will be announced any time soon. Voters in the state have the means to vote pro-abortion politicians out of office, but those of us watching from afar can only pray.

As we fall to our knees, let's consider this statement by Los Angeles Archbishop Jose H. Gomez, and pray that someday the state's lawmakers will understand that the innocent also deserve to be protected from an unjust death.

"... The most important reasons for ending the death penalty are moral," the archbishop said. "Every human life is precious and sacred in the eyes of God and every person has a dignity that comes from God. This is true for the innocent and it is true for the guilty."

Janet Morana is the author of ***Recall Abortion: Ending the Abortion Industry's Exploitation of Women, and Shockwaves: Abortion's Wider Circle of Victims.***

This article was originally published in the National Catholic Register on March 19, 2019.

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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:

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-  facebook.com/SilentNoMoreJanet
-  [Twitter: @frfrankpavone](https://twitter.com/frfrankpavone)
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