



# PRIESTS FOR LIFE

## Gospel of Life Ministries

Assisting God's people to respond to the evils of abortion and euthanasia

March - April 2008 Vol. 18

[www.priestsforlife.org](http://www.priestsforlife.org)

Number 2

### Priests for Life is Supported Only by You!

Priests for Life is not subsidized by dioceses, the Bishops' Conference, or the Vatican. We rely completely on donations from individuals like you!

All contributions are tax-deductible, and may be designated for specific projects if you so choose.

You may donate at [www.priestsforlife.org/donate](http://www.priestsforlife.org/donate), or by making a check payable to "Priests for Life" and sending it to PO Box 141172, Staten Island, NY 10314. You can indicate your donation on the form on page 4 and send that in as well.

If you wish to support us with a monthly donation, you may sign up online or call us at 718-980-4400, ext. 232, and we will arrange to charge your credit card automatically, in the amount you designate and for the time period you designate.

### Priests for Life Names Director of Hispanic Outreach

Fr. Victor Salomon, Priest-Associate of Priests for Life, has been named Director of Hispanic Outreach. In that capacity, he will preach in Spanish-speaking parishes, represent Priests for Life at Hispanic conferences, expand the range of materials that Priests for Life publishes in Spanish, and produce television and radio programs in Spanish. We are grateful for Fr. Victor's commitment to the pro-life cause and the mission of Priests for Life!

### JOIN OUR 2008 NOVENAS

At [www.PrayerCampaign.org](http://www.PrayerCampaign.org), Priests for Life provides a daily ongoing Novena to End Abortion, as well as special novenas that correspond to particular liturgical seasons and feasts of the year.

The remainder of this year's novenas and/or special seasonal prayers include the following:

**Novena starting on Terri's Day:** (Mar. 31) to April 8

**Pentecost Novena for Life:** May 3-11

**Independence Day Novena:** June 26-July 4

**Novena for the 40th Anniversary of Humanae Vitae:** July 17-25

**Assumption Novena for Life:** August 7-15

**Novena to Blessed Mother Teresa:** August 28 - Sept 5

**Novena to St. Gerard Majella (Patron Saint of Pregnancy and Childbirth):** October 8-16

**Novena for Priests, leading to Priesthood Sunday:** October 18-26

**Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena:** December 4-12

**Election Novena:** Nine weeks of prayer starting September 1, Labor Day, and ending on Election Day, November 4.

We invite you to participate in and promote these prayer opportunities on your websites and newsletters.

### Self-Sacrifice in the Defense of Life

*Fr. Peter West; Priest-Associate, Priests for Life*



*Fr. Peter West*

On Palm Sunday, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. Though he was God he humbled himself to come among us as an embryo. He was born in a stable, worked as a humble carpenter and now he rides into Jerusalem on a donkey knowing he will be betrayed, rejected and crucified.

Christ's Passion reminds us of how great his love is for us. He humbled himself and willingly submitted to such tremendous suffering for us. The Passion should remind us of our dignity and the dignity of each and every human being created in the likeness of God.

Cardinal John Henry Newman points out that even if you were the only sinner in the world, Jesus would have undergone his Passion just for you. We are made in the image and likeness of

*(Continued on page 2)*



*Priests on the Pastoral team include Fr. Walter Quinn, OSA (l.), Fr. Frank Pavone, Fr. Peter West, Fr. Denis Wilde, OSA, and Fr. Victor Salomon.*

### IN THIS ISSUE:

Priests for Life Reaching our Nation's Youth.....	2
Priests' 40 Days for Life .....	2
Priests for Life Participates in Vatican Conference .....	3
Clergy to Gather for National Briefing.....	3
"Terry's Day" March 31 .....	3
Voter Registration Sunday .....	3
Product Offers.....	4

This newsletter is available by email, along with a bi-weekly column written by Fr. Frank. Subscribe free of charge at [subscribe@priestsforlife.org](mailto:subscribe@priestsforlife.org).

## Self-Sacrifice in Defense...

*(Continued from page 1)*

God, redeemed by His blood. Our destiny is to share everlasting happiness with him in heaven. This dignity belongs to every human being from the moment of conception to natural death.

If we fail to appreciate our dignity in the eyes of God or out of sinful pride reject God in His commandments, then we will begin to evaluate others falsely by wealth, health, prestige, outward appearance, size, stage of development.

Many live as if there was no God or they make themselves like gods or claim rights that belong to God alone - who lives, who dies, interfering with God's plan for procreation through contraception, in-vitro fertilization, abortion, cloning and experimenting on human embryos, euthanasia or physician assisted suicide.

We can be tempted to separate ourselves from others, caring only about ourselves and our families alone, with little thought given to eternal life or correcting injustices. But Jesus taught us that we must imitate his humble service. He taught us the way to salvation was to take up our own cross and follow him.

A true follower of Christ will not be afraid to make sacrifices and even face death. By his death and resurrection Jesus has taken away the sting of death. Shortly before his own death Pope John Paul II said "We must get used to thinking confidently about the mystery of death so that the definitive encounter with God occurs in a climate of interior peace."

Christians don't fear death, but nor do they cause death. When the early Christians embraced the faith they rejected abortion and infanticide that were common at that time. The Second Vatican Council called abortion and euthanasia infamies that poison human society. It said they do more harm to those who practice them than to those who suffer the injury. Sin always hurts the sinner more than anyone. Judas and Pontius Pilate did more to harm themselves than they did to hurt Jesus.

A woman who had an abortion once said to me about her abortion "The baby dies once, but the woman dies a little bit every day." But the good news is that Christ died for sinners. Through Rachel's Vineyard retreats and other post abortion ministries we promote a message of forgiveness and hope.

The Society of Centurions is a group of former abortionists who have now repented. They are named after the Roman centurion spoken of in the Gospel of St. Luke who repented of his role in the crucifixion, glorified God and said "This man was innocent, beyond doubt." (Luke 23, 47)

All of us called by Christ to serve; to spread His Gospel of mercy and life. What kind of disciples will we be? Will we be like the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. John the Apostle and St. Mary Magdalene who stood faithfully at the foot of the Cross or will we be like Peter who denied Jesus, Judas who betrayed him, Pontius Pilate who condemned an innocent man or the crowd who called out for Barabbas?

Blessed Franz Jagerstatter, an Austrian, was beheaded by the Nazis in 1943 when he refused to join the army. In the spring of 1938 he voted against the annexation of Austria by Germany. Afterwards many citizens were arrested, tortured and killed. In response

Blessed Franz said "I believe what happened that Holy Thursday 1,900 years ago when the crowd was given a free choice between the innocent Savior and the criminal Barabbas."

Sometimes when we vote, we are given a similar choice. Do we vote based on personality, party affiliation or self-interest and forget the unborn or do we vote for people we know will advance our values, starting with the defense of the most important human right – the right to life.

Ask God to help you recognize your dignity as a child of God who died for you. Pray that God will help you to protect the dignity of others, especially those most threatened. Through the Eucharist which Christ left us as a memorial of his suffering and death, may he give us the strength to build a culture of life.

---

## Priests for Life Reaching our Nation's Youth

At this time of the year we invite schools to plan to remember the unborn at their commencement ceremonies this year. We challenge each school to mention in the school yearbook and at the ceremony itself that there are many students who would have been graduating had they not been lost to abortion. Honor their memory, and at the same time assure those who have had abortions that the mercy of Christ and the Church are available to them.

Here is feedback we recently received.

*On behalf of Carroll High School, I'd like to say thanks for bringing Fr. Pavone to us today.*

*His approach was excellent. I liked how he focused on facts, and the respectful way that he approached the issue and the students.*

*I liked also how he tied in the abortion issue with all the other justice issues of our day, including poverty, war, capital punishment, euthanasia, etc....*

*We had initial fears that he might be a polarizing figure and create a defensive reaction among those who are unsure of their position on abortion. To the contrary, he spoke the truth about this issue in both a bold, yet respectful way. I feel confident that his approach probably knocked a few kids off the fence, to the pro-life side of course!*

*God Bless,*

*Dennis Brun, Campus Ministry Department  
Carroll High School, Dayton, Ohio*

---

## Priests' 40 Days for Life

*Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director*

I have prayed at abortion mills in every one of the 50 states. It's more than the First Amendment freedom of speech; it's a matter of intervening to save lives.

That's why I am rallying people to take part in the "40 Days for Life" campaign that is taking place during Lent and again in the Fall of 2008.

The "40 Days" effort is a time of repentance, prayer, activism, and presence at abortion facilities – in some places, around the clock. The campaign is based on the fact that abortion is a local

*(Continued on page 3)*

phenomenon, and needs to be ended community by community. This can happen even before laws change. Presence at the mills slows business down. The biggest fear within the industry is not that abortion will become illegal, but that while fully legal, there will be no clinics or doctors to provide it. And constant presence at those places hastens their closing.

The pastoral team of Priests for Life has been visiting the cities that are conducting this effort, leading them in prayer and encouraging their activities. Priests for Life has also provided many of the daily prayer devotionals that are used by 40 Days participants.

Moreover, Priests for Life is making a special call to clergy to preach on abortion, to mobilize people to come in prayer to the abortion mills, and to promote our daily prayer campaign ([www.PrayerCampaign.org](http://www.PrayerCampaign.org)). We have “matched” each existing abortion mill to a particular parish, so that each killing center has many parishes praying for it by name (see [www.priestsforlife.org/mills](http://www.priestsforlife.org/mills)).

## Priests for Life Participates in Vatican Conference



*Fr. Frank Pavone with Cardinal Renato Martino,  
President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.*

From November 22-24, 2007, Fr. Frank Pavone and Anthony DeStefano represented Priests for Life in Rome at the Second World Congress of the Ecclesial Organizations Working for Justice and Peace, sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. Fr. Frank was invited to take part in the conference by Cardinal Renato Martino, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, and member of the Advisory Board of Priests for Life.

## Clergy to Gather for National Briefing in Washington DC

Priests for Life, in conjunction with the Family Research Council, invites all deacons, priests and pastors of all denominations to come to Washington DC for the “Watchmen on the Wall” briefing to be held from Wednesday evening May 7 through Friday luncheon, May 9 at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill. It includes an unforgettable Spiritual Heritage Tour of the US Capitol, and talks by some of the top religious leaders of the day. Just \$99. See [www.WatchmenEvents.org](http://www.WatchmenEvents.org) for more info.

## “Terri’s Day” March 31

The Terri Schindler Schiavo Foundation ([www.TerrisFight.org](http://www.TerrisFight.org)), in collaboration with Priests for Life, has announced the “International Day of Prayer and Remembrance for Terri Schindler Schiavo, and All of Our Vulnerable Brothers and Sisters” (“Terri’s Day”) to be observed each year on March 31, the anniversary of her death.

We invite individuals to spend time on that day learning about Terri, and praying for all whose lives are threatened in the same way that hers was.

We invite Churches to hold memorial services and to educate their people on the dignity of every human life, despite disability or disease.

We invite educational institutions to help dispel the myths and inaccuracies about Terri’s life and death, and to contribute to a mature reflection on the ethical demands of caring for the weak and vulnerable.

We invite all people to use the resources on our website and to help us continue to draw good out of the sad and tragic way in which Terri was treated.

At [www.priestsforlife.org/terri](http://www.priestsforlife.org/terri), you will find prayers, outlines for memorial services, homily hints, and other suggested activities for this important observance.

## Voter Registration Sundays

Priests for Life has designated the following Sundays in 2008 as National Voter Registration Sundays: April 20, June 29, and September 7. We urge Churches of every denomination to give their congregations the opportunity to vote by having voter registration forms at Church.

*“This is not about partisan politics. This is about involvement as citizens in self-government and involvement as Christians in renewing the culture,” explained Fr. Frank Pavone. “It is completely legal and perfectly appropriate that in the very places where people hear the Word of God telling them to make the world a better place, they be given one of the simplest tools to do that. Unless the Church enables Christians to exercise their citizenship, the Church risks becoming marginalized and irrelevant.”*

Learn how to conduct Voter Registration Sundays at [www.priestsforlife.org/vote](http://www.priestsforlife.org/vote). See additional resources at [www.PoliticalResponsibility.org](http://www.PoliticalResponsibility.org).

## Prayer Intentions

*You are encouraged to remember the following intentions as you pray the Liturgy of the Hours:*

### MARCH INTENTION:

For pro-life organizations which are just starting.

### APRIL INTENTION:

That homilies on life issues will inspire listeners to effective action.

