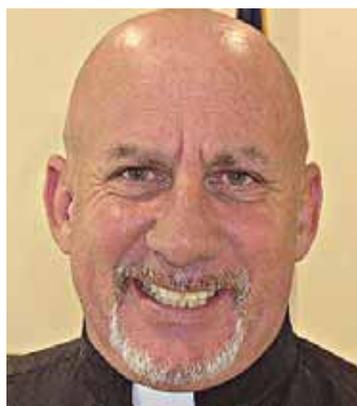


### Priests for Life Welcomes Additional Full-time Priest

*Fr. Stephen Imbarrato will work with Fr. Frank Pavone and the Priests for Life Pastoral Team starting June 12.*

*Leslie Palma, Communications Director*



*Fr. Stephen Imbarrato joined the Priests for Life team full-time as of June 12.*

After working full-time in pro-life, Father Stephen Imbarrato wasn't sure he really wanted to become a priest when he enrolled in Holy Apostles, a Connecticut seminary designed for men discerning a vocation later in life. But Father Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life, mentored him during a retreat at Franciscan University in Steubenville. Later, at Holy Apostles, he met a priest who was in Connecticut looking for

someone to organize pro-life ministry in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe.

Father Stephen had his answer. After leading Seminarians for Life, an outreach of Priests for Life, for three years, he was ordained in 2005 and headed west.

Now, after 10 years in parish ministry, his bishop has released him to do full-time pro-life work with Priests for Life.

"I hope it came about by the hand of God," he said. "I feel like this is the right time to take a break from parish work and do full-time pro-life work."

Father Stephen will continue to live in Albuquerque, the late-term abortion hub where he founded two pro-life organizations, Project Defending Life and Protest ABQ. He has since handed over the reins of those organizations and now, as a full-time member of the Priests for Life Pastoral Team, he will travel and speak at events on behalf of the New York-based ministry, and attend monthly meetings at its Staten Island headquarters.

Father Frank said Father Stephen will be a "powerful addition to an already powerful Priests for Life team," which includes Fr. Denis Wilde, OSA, Fr. Walter Quinn, OSA, Janet Morana,  
*Continued on page 2*

### Priests for Life pushes for Pain-Capable Bill

"It will be a multi-Congress effort, just as passing the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban was," explains Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director Priests for Life in reference to the Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which has been passed by the US House of Representatives and enacted in many states. This bill is focused on the pain that children feel when they are torn apart in the womb by abortion. Scientific evidence about the pain felt by unborn children continues to increase; the bill protects children from 20 weeks forward, because the evidence for their ability to feel pain is so strong at that point that it is difficult to deny.

Of course, President Obama would veto such legislation, and most Democrats oppose it. But that doesn't mean that it should not be introduced and voted on. The debates have to be held, positions and arguments have to be developed, legislators have to go on record, the public has to be educated, and more. Moreover, a legislator's position on such a bill should be an election issue if he or she is running for office.

From a moral dimension, every abortion is equally wrong, though the wrongness of every abortion is not equally evident to the public. However, the vast majority of the public, even

*Continued on page 2*



*Fr. Frank was invited by Governor Sam Brownback to join him for a bill-signing ceremony in Kansas in April. The Governor became the first to sign into law a measure protecting children in the womb from dismemberment abortion. Fr. Frank and Priests for Life have been advocating for this type of law since the late 1990's.*

## Priests for Life Welcomes Additional Full-time Priest

*Continued from page 1*

Dr. Alveda King, Bryan Kemper, Dr. Theresa Burke, Kevin Burke, and Marie Smith.

“The growth of this diverse team of leaders over the years has been organic,” Father Frank said. “Leaders have come onto the team after years of collaboration with us and the development of a relationship of communication and trust. The case of Father Stephen is no exception. I have known him and worked with him in the pro-life trenches from before he entered the seminary. He thinks clearly about the tragedy of abortion and responds courageously to it.

“I am very grateful to Archbishop Michael Sheehan for permitting Father Imbarrato to pursue that aspect of his vocation that impels him to devote himself entirely to the protection of our youngest, weakest, and most defenseless brothers and sisters, namely, the children in the womb. This is a calling that many people, both clergy and laity, experience. It is only natural and logical that while living in the midst of a holocaust, a significant number of people would feel impelled to make the ending of that holocaust the top priority of their activities.”

Father Stephen’s new ministry will bring him much closer to his north Jersey roots and his family, which includes a daughter-in-law and four grandchildren. Unlike the vast majority of Catholic priests, Father Stephen is not only an ordained priest; he is also a father, grandfather and a post-abortive dad. And along with the joys of having a family, Father Stephen also knows first-hand about the heartache. His adopted son, John Imbarrato, took his own life in August 2014. The following month his 17-year-old granddaughter was diagnosed with kidney cancer. She has since undergone treatment and the family is awaiting word that the cancer is in remission.

When he was still a teenager and his girlfriend became pregnant, Father Stephen said he did not try to stop the abortion. He later learned the young woman had been carrying twins. As a seminarian and an ordained deacon, he became the first post-abortive man to share his testimony as part of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign.

*We welcome Fr. Stephen to the Priests for Life team. Find out more about him at [PriestsforLife.org](http://PriestsforLife.org).*

## Priests for Life pushes for Pain-Capable Bill

*Continued from page 1*

if they identify themselves as pro-choice, would agree that children in the womb should be protected after 20 weeks of development. That is why legislation like this mobilizes not only pro-life people, but also pro-choice people.

Our goal is to protect every child, but if the legislative will is not present to protect all the children now, it is not only morally permissible but morally *obligatory* to do everything we can to protect the children that the legislative body is willing to protect at the present time. Some people mistakenly think

that because this law does not protect every child now, that we should not be in favor of it. They mistakenly think we are guilty for not doing what we *cannot do*. But in reality, we are guilty when we *do not do* what we *can do*, and this bill, when it becomes law, will in fact save many lives.

## Rachel’s Vineyard, Pope Francis, and the Jubilee of Mercy

*Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director*

It is time for the doors of mercy to open even wider for the People of God. Jesus Christ himself *is* the mercy of God. To believe in him is to believe in mercy, to witness to him is to witness to mercy. And the Church wants us to become experts in this.



*In a private encounter, Pope Francis tells Fr. Frank: “Rachel’s Vineyard is a very good work. It is excellent! Go forward with that!”*

That is why Pope Francis has declared an *Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy*, to be observed from December 8, 2015 through November 20, 2016.

On April 11, 2015, the Vigil of Divine Mercy Sunday, the Pope issued the document explaining the purpose and vision of this special Holy Year. (You can find the text of this document, and other reflections, at [JubileeOfMercy.net](http://JubileeOfMercy.net).) The Pope’s document intersects perfectly with our commitment to rescue children from the violence of abortion.

Pope Francis points out that mercy is seen in God’s actions, and must be seen in ours. He points out that Psalm 146 “attests to the concrete signs of his mercy: ‘He secures justice for the oppressed; he gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.’... In short, the mercy of God is not an abstract idea, but a concrete reality through which he reveals his love as that of a father or a mother, moved to the very depths out of love for their child” (n.6).

Later in the document, naturally, the Pope points out how this is fulfilled in Jesus’ own description of his ministry as one that will “proclaim liberty to the captives.”

If we are to live out mercy, therefore, the Pope explains that we are to “look forward to the experience of opening our hearts to those living on the outermost fringes of society: fringes modern society itself creates. How many uncertain and painful situations

*there are in the world today! How many are the wounds borne by the flesh of those who have no voice because their cry is muffled and drowned out . . . Let us open our eyes and see the misery of the world, the wounds of our brothers and sisters who are denied their dignity, and let us recognize that we are compelled to heed their cry for help!"* (n. 15)

As he had pointed out in *Evangelii Gaudium*, the most defenseless of all are unborn children. Certainly they live in "fringes modern society itself creates" by its false and destructive declaration that they are not persons, that they do not deserve the protection of the law.

Living mercy means seeing their misery and speaking up for them. Death is a result of sin. Mercy not only forgives our sin, it rescues us from death. The Holy Year, the Pope writes, is "to proclaim liberty to those bound by new forms of slavery in modern society. . . to restore dignity to all those from whom it has been robbed" (n. 16). Let us practice mercy for the children in the womb, speaking up for them and rescuing them from death!

Likewise, the Year of Mercy enables us to extend mercy ever more effectively to those who have been wounded by abortion. The Priests for Life Family of Ministries includes *Rachel's Vineyard*, the largest ministry in the world for healing after abortion. In Fr. Frank's second conversation with Pope Francis about Priests for Life, the Pope said, "Rachel's Vineyard is a very good work. It is excellent! Go forward with that!" That is exactly what we intend to do, as we continue to grow the effectiveness of this healing retreat in the many dioceses and other organizations that use it in the United States and beyond.

### Pray with us for Life

PrayerCampaign.org is our prayer website.

Visit there often for prayer campaigns, intentions, and resources,

**July intention: For the advance of pro-life policies at the United Nations and internationally.**

**August intention: That God may give eternal rest to the women who died from abortion.**

Likewise under the Priests for Life umbrella is the *Silent No More Awareness Campaign*, whereby those wounded by abortion, starting with the Moms and Dads, speak publicly of their pain and healing. This year, the Campaign has launched the initiative called *Healing the Shockwaves of Abortion*, which brings to light that abortion wounds the entire family and our whole society. Each month we focus on a different group of people who are wounded and must be healed: *mothers, dads, grandparents, siblings, other family members, friends, abortionists and their staff, pro-life advocates, minority communities, and more.*

As we approach the Year of Mercy, we will be offering a unique opportunity for those who have worked as abortionists or their staff to find the profound healing that they need. We offer this in collaboration with The Society of Centurions, founded in the mid-1990s by psychiatrist Dr. Philip Ney. The gathering will be held from August 7-15 in Canada and details may be found at [societyofcenturions.com](http://societyofcenturions.com).

In the revelations of Divine Mercy to St. Faustina, abortion was the primary sin for which God asked us to cry out for his mercy. St. Faustina, in fact, was allowed by our Lord to experience severe abdominal pains and he told her that this experience represented the many women who were aborting their children.

We have set up a special website, [JubileeofMercy.net](http://JubileeofMercy.net), at which you can find more reflections and resources to prepare yourself and your church community for this special observance. Let us indeed recommit ourselves to deeds of mercy towards the children in the womb and towards those who have been involved in killing them.

### World Meeting of Families

As one of the officially approved events of the upcoming World Meeting of Families, Priests for Life has organized, in conjunction with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, a special Pro-life Symposium on the evening of Wednesday, September 23 from 6 to 7:45 p.m. at the Philadelphia Convention Center. Pro-life groups may exhibit at the event.

At its conclusion, pro-life leaders will have a private reception (ticket required). If you will be in Philadelphia, please join us on the 23rd, and whether you can be there or not, please help spread the word!

See [ProLifeWorldEvent.com](http://ProLifeWorldEvent.com) for more details.

### National Day of Remembrance

Once again this year, on the second Saturday of September (September 12, 2015), Priests for Life will join with Pro-Life Action League and Citizens for a Pro-Life Society in co-sponsoring the National Day of Remembrance. On this day, simultaneous memorial services are held across our country at the gravesites of aborted children. There are dozens of such gravesites, some of them holding as many as 16,000 bodies. This common act of prayer witnesses to our society that we are truly living amidst a holocaust, and that the abortion debate is not simply about beliefs but about bloodshed, not simply about viewpoints but about victims.

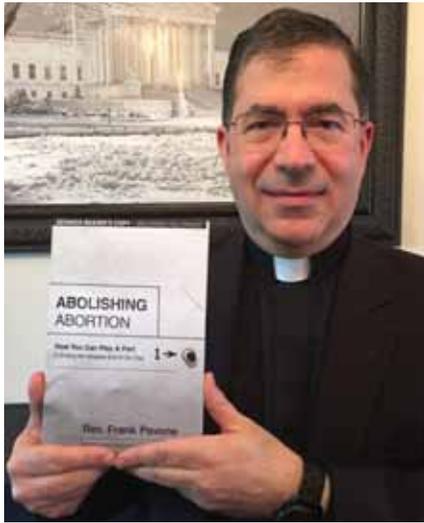
To find services near you, visit [AbortionMemorials.com](http://AbortionMemorials.com). If you are not close to one of the burial sites, you may nevertheless have at your church, or be close to a church that has a memorial stone for the unborn. In those cases we encourage you to have a prayer service there on the same day.

### Fr. Frank's New Book: *Abolishing Abortion, Takes Church and State to Task!*

This is not a book for the faint of heart, or those who are looking for an easy way to fight abortion. This is not a book for those who will look to speak up for the unborn, but at the same time to cover themselves either politically or personally. Rather, Fr. Frank Pavone has published a book that is for those who are ready and willing to sacrifice everything to rise up to the most urgent, top priority moral challenge of our day: To end the holocaust of our unborn brothers and sisters being killed by abortion.

The book is endorsed by such people as Gov. Mike Huckabee,

Gov. Sam Brownback, Sen. Rick Santorum, and others. The book challenges the state to stop pretending that it has any less duty than to protect all these children from being killed. The book challenges the church to stop making excuses for its inactivity, particularly the excuse that it cannot get involved in politics because it risks losing its tax exemption. The book shatters the mythology behind these excuses. Do not miss this book, which is really a manifesto for the pro-life movement and both asserts principle and advances practical strategies.



Fr. Frank holds his new book, *Abolishing Abortion*, a pro-life manifesto.

The release date of *Abolishing Abortion*, published by Thomas Nelson/HarperCollins, is August 18. You may find out how to order your books at [www.AbolishingAbortion.com](http://www.AbolishingAbortion.com).

### Featured Products

Pro-Life T-Shirts from Stand True, Priests for Life's Youth Outreach



Go to [ProLifeProducts.org](http://ProLifeProducts.org) to order your Pro-Life T-Shirt.

### Priests for Life Summer reading



**Summer book bundle for adults**  
A \$40 value for \$30 plus shipping

**Recall Abortion-** Janet Morana delves deeply into abortion as a bad product that should be recalled by our government, and explores what women who have had abortions recall about the experience.

**King Rules-** Dr. Alveda King reminds us again that the real legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and in fact the King family, is spiritual more than political.

**Ending Abortion; Not Just Fighting It-** In this collection of stirring and informative pro-life essays, Fr. Pavone convincingly portrays the negative ramifications that the abuse of freedom and the right to choose have unleashed on our society since abortion was legalized.

### Summer book bundle for children

A \$50 value for \$40 plus shipping

#### A Travel Guide to Heaven for Kids-

Best-selling author Anthony DeStefano wrote this fun-filled, action story about a little boy named Joey who gets to take a whirlwind tour of heaven with his guardian angel, Gabby.



**The Donkey That No One Could Ride-** 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 and learning that all things are possible if only he believes.

**This Little Prayer of Mine-** A children's book by Anthony DeStefano that will help even the youngest children develop a rich prayer life that will sustain them as they grow older and face the tough challenges of life.

**The Sheep That No One Could Find-** Best-selling author Anthony DeStefano weaves the heart of the parable of the lost sheep into an exciting adventure story for children ages three and older.



Find more great Pro Life products at [ProLifeProducts.org!](http://ProLifeProducts.org)

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