

PRIESTS FOR LIFE

Gospel of Life Ministries

Activating the Church to End Abortion



www.priestsforlife.org

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Vol.26

Number 1

Pope Francis to Pro-life Activists

“Never tire of working to protect the most vulnerable people, who have the right to be born...”

– From his speech to the Italian Convention of Pro-Life Movements, November 6, 2015

SUPREME COURT GRANTS REVIEW IN PRIESTS FOR LIFE CASE AGAINST HHS MANDATE, ALONG WITH SIX OTHER CASES



Janet Morana, Fr. Frank Pavone, David Yerushalmi (one of our lead attorneys) and Dr Alveda King at the National Press Club after the announcement that the Supreme Court had accepted the Priests for Life Case against the HHS Mandate.

In November, Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director of Priests for Life, announced that the US Supreme Court has accepted the Priests for Life case against HHS mandate.

Six other cases were also granted review by the Court, and they are listed below.

“This is a great moment in our battle for religious freedom against the culture of death, which wants us to participate in the spread of abortion. We will not do so, and we look forward to making our case at the Supreme Court,” Fr. Pavone said.

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PRIESTS FOR LIFE OBSERVES 25TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2016!

In this New Year, Priests for Life celebrates its 25th anniversary! Over these years, we have become the largest apostolate in the Catholic Church devoted exclusively to ending abortion. In this newsletter, then, we begin a series of short articles to share with you some of the history of this organization.

Some day we will need to write a more in-depth history of the marvelous ways that God’s Providence has allowed Priests for Life as a ministry to come into existence, grow and diversify, and to be protected in the midst of many battles both with church and state, not to mention the pro-abortion forces. And, of course, a big part of that history would be the marvelous people whom our team has met and continues to meet on our constant travels, and who have, at various times, worked with us on our staff.

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PRIESTS FOR LIFE SUPPORTS CONGRESSIONAL PANEL ON INFANT LIVES

The US House of Representatives has created the “Select Panel on Infant Lives,” which will continue to look into the practices of Planned Parenthood and the abortion industry. Priests for Life has thanked Congress for this initiative, and will work hard to support the activities of the panel.

Fr. Frank Pavone stated, “The creation of this select panel is another sign that Congress takes seriously the evidence that Planned Parenthood is breaking federal law and committing atrocities that should not be tolerated.

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ELECTIONS 2016

Priests for Life begins the New Year with a press conference at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. on January 6.

At this press conference, we announce our election plans for 2016, which involve activating grassroots volunteers across the country, who will help to educate and motivate voters, and then help them get to the polls. An important focus of this effort will be to encourage *early voting*, which more and more voters are using.

As the U.S. Bishops have recently reiterated in their document on faithful citizenship, ...

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

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Priests for Life Observes 25th Anniversary in 2016!

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By understanding our history, whether as individual organizations or as the pro-life movement generally, we better understand where we are today and where we are going.

People often ask me if I am in the “founder” of Priests for Life. I do not use that title, because it was a group of priests in San Francisco who originally got it off the ground in 1991. But I found out about that after I had thought of doing the same, and that idea came to me because of something Cardinal John O’Connor did in that same year. He was Archbishop of New York, and ordained me to the priesthood. He was a fervent pro-life advocate and the key leader at that time among the hierarchy as a voice for the unborn and for the priority of the abortion issue. He announced that he was forming the “Sisters of Life,” a religious community dedicated to fostering the sanctity of life. I thought it was marvelous, and I immediately thought, *“There should be something like this for priests.”* I saw for myself the fruits in my own parish of preaching clearly, compassionately, and frequently on abortion.

So I joined Priests for Life. That was 1992.

By the next year, I experienced a profound call of conscience. In a letter I wrote to the Director of Priest Personnel for the New York Archdiocese on June 30, 1993, I stated the following:

“Because of the nature and extent of the abortion/ euthanasia



October 24 was a National Day of Remembrance for the babies killed by Kermit Gosnell. Here, Fr. Frank Pavone blesses the grave of those babies located at Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia

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problem, I feel at this time that I cannot proceed with my life ‘business as usual,’ but rather must address these issues with all the strength and resources at my disposal. In other words, I am being drawn not by a mere preference or interest, but by a strong demand of conscience.”

And so it began. Cardinal O’Connor granted me permission to devote all my time and energy to fighting abortion. Moreover, between the time I requested the meeting with him to ask permission, and the time I had the meeting, I was asked by the founders of Priests for Life if I would become its new President! My desire now had an opportunity for fulfillment,

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and I became the first full-time director of Priests for Life on September 1, 1993.

Since then, many priests, seminarians and lay people have come to me, sharing that same burning desire to devote their time and energy -- in many cases, *all of it* -- to the defense of the unborn.

Over these 25 years, we have grown and diversified into an entire family of ministries. Priests for Life encompasses also Deacons for Life, Seminarians for Life, Missionaries of the Gospel of Life, African-American Outreach, Hispanic Outreach, Stand True Youth Outreach, PoliticalResponsibility.com, PrayerCampaign.org, Rachel’s Vineyard, the Silent No More Awareness Campaign, Gospel of Life Ministries, the Parliamentary Network for Critical Issues, and much more! All this growth has been by our deliberate choice to diversify in order to respond to the needs of the pro-life movement and opportunities to defend the unborn. This has been our top priority. We are driven by the need to fulfill our mission of ending abortion, even when what has to be done does not fit into neat legal or canonical categories.

We are not a religious community, association of the faithful, or other canonical entity. Rather, we function as a legal corporation inspired by Catholic principles. This is the same category, for instance, as the Knights of Columbus, who describe themselves on their website as “an independent, non-canonical organization,” but who, like us, are at the service of the Church.

Supreme Court Grants Review in Priests for Life Case Against HHS Mandate, along with Six Other Cases

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“This is great news that the Court has granted cert in our case against the HHS mandate,” said Robert Muise of the American Freedom Law Center, which represents Priests for Life. “Along with the other cases that have been consolidated along with ours, it is particularly appropriate that Priests for Life has been fighting this mandate, since the very purpose of the organization is to oppose the very activities that the mandate supports, particularly abortion.”

Priests for Life held a press conference in Washington, D.C. shortly after the announcement. Joining Priests for Life and American Freedom Law Center attorney David Yerushalmi were Janet Morana, Alveda King and Fr. Frank, who, together with Priests for Life as an organization, are personal plaintiffs in this case. The reason for this is that as executives of the organization, they would have to take actions that violate their own conscience if Priests for Life were to follow what the government is demanding (which we will not).

Priests for Life is also leading a prayer campaign, urging Churches, families, and individuals to say a prayer for success at the Supreme Court. See www.PrayerCampaign.org for the text of the card, or to order copies.

On the day of the oral arguments at the Supreme Court, Priests for Life will lead a major prayer rally with various national speakers at the steps of the Court.

The cases which the Supreme Court accepted against the HHS mandate and consolidated together are as follows:

CERTIORARI GRANTED

14-1418 ZUBIK, DAVID A. ET AL. V. BURWELL, SEC. OF H&HS, ET AL.

14-1453 PRIESTS FOR LIFE, ET AL. V. DEPT. OF H&HS, ET AL.

14-1505 ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP V. BURWELL, SEC. OF H&HS, ET AL.

15-35 E. TX BAPTIST UNIV., ET AL. V. BURWELL, SEC. OF H&HS

15-105 LITTLE SISTERS, ET AL. V. BURWELL, SEC. OF H&HS, ET AL.

15-119 SOUTHERN NAZARENE UNIV., ET AL. V. BURWELL, SEC. OF H&HS, ET AL.

15-191 GENEVA COLLEGE V. BURWELL, SEC. OF H&HS, ET AL.

For more details visit IStandWithPFL.com.

Priests for Life Supports Congressional Panel on Infant Lives

Pray with us for Life

PrayerCampaign.org is our prayer website. Visit there often for prayer campaigns, intentions, and resources.

January intention: That the faithful more deeply study the words and actions of Christ, to know how to care for the least of our brothers and sisters.

February intention: That God may bless and strengthen the pro-life efforts of college students.

January 14-22, 2016: Novena of Reparation for Roe v. Wade

February 10-March 24, 2016: Lenten Prayer for Life

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“The Democrats in Congress who claim these investigations are a waste of time or a partisan witch-hunt should stop the nonsense and admit the fact that Congress has a responsibility – and the taxpayers have a right – to know how federal funds are being used, especially when there is reason to think that they are being used contrary to the law.

“Those who claim there is no wrongdoing here should not be afraid of an investigation, but rather should welcome it as a way of clearing the air.”

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Priests for Life invites you also to express your support for the activities of this committee.

Please visit www.BabyBodyParts.com for details.

Elections 2016

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...Priests for Life will teach -- as we do throughout the year -- that our foundational right is *to life itself*, and that abortion attacks that foundation. Because the purpose of government is the protection of human rights, the protection of this first right is the primary consideration in evaluating candidates and parties. If a politician cannot respect the life of a little baby,

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how can he/she respect your life?

A key tool in our educational efforts this election season will be Fr. Frank Pavone's new book, *Abolishing Abortion* (Thomas Nelson, 2015). At the January press conference, Fr. Frank is joined by some of the attorneys who have assisted Priests for Life in navigating what non-profit religious organizations can do in elections, and who have helped him articulate in his new book the call for Churches to stop censoring themselves in this arena. Churches and non-profit organizations can do much more than they think they can when it comes to elections.

For details about our election-related teachings and activities, stay tuned to www.PoliticalResponsibility.com.

PRAYPP

Priests for Life continues to lead a coalition of organizations praying for an end to the evils of Planned Parenthood. Working with these organizations, we have planned a major national prayer rally and protest against Planned Parenthood, to take place on Thursday, January 21, starting at 9 a.m. at Planned Parenthood's new location in Washington, D.C.

You can find special prayers at www.PrayerCampaign.org and are also encouraged to use the hashtag #PrayPP to promote this on a continuous basis.

PRIESTS FOR LIFE MEDICAL ADVISOR TESTIFIES BEFORE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE

When testifying before the House Judiciary Committee, Priests for Life medical advisor Dr. Anthony Levatino succeeded in introducing into the Congressional record a covertly recorded video about third-trimester abortion. It created quite a stir among committee members.

The House committee is looking into Planned Parenthood and the possibility that it is profiting illegally from the sale of baby body parts. Dr. Levatino, who has testified before Congress numerous times, decided he wanted to describe exactly how a late-term abortion is performed and to show panel members, and the American people, how women are treated during the procedure.

Of the five minutes he was allotted, Dr. Levatino spent half describing a dismemberment abortion that literally tears a baby apart. This type of abortion is used for most second-trimester abortions, and Planned Parenthood CEO Cecile Richards admitted in her prior testimony before the committee that Planned Parenthood aborts babies up until the point of viability.

The second half of Dr. Levatino's testimony was spent showing a shortened version of a Live Action video of an interaction between a woman who is 27 weeks pregnant and Southwest Women's Options, an Albuquerque abortion clinic that aborts children up until their due date. During a telephone call, a clinic worker and an abortionist calmly tell the woman that an abortion at 25 weeks is \$8,000, and the cost goes up \$1,000

every week past that. They explain that the baby will be killed in the clinic by being stabbed with poison, after which labor will be induced.

The clinic worker then tells the woman what to do if she goes into labor while she is in her hotel room: Unlock the door, call the clinic, and sit on the toilet. "You don't gotta look down," she is told.

Dr. Levatino said several things in the video were illustrative. "At \$8,000, and \$1,000 a week for every week after 25, most of the money made from that abortion is profit," he said. "There's a striking difference between standard OB care costs for a pre-term delivery and what they're charging. In reality, women are paying extra for a dead baby."

The second thing that struck Dr. Levatino is that women can be "left to labor in hotel rooms with no medical intervention. This is not medical care."

Dr. Levatino said Democrats on the panel were determined not to allow it into the official record of the hearing and because there were not enough Republicans in the room when a vote was taken, they succeeded in having it withdrawn. But a second vote taken when Republicans had returned allowed the video to be entered.

"There was a lot of yelling," Dr. Levatino said. "I think the Democrats found it embarrassing. They bark about a woman's right to choose but so many people don't know exactly what these women are choosing. They sure as heck didn't want that kind of video in an official record."

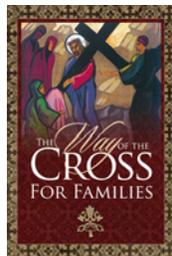
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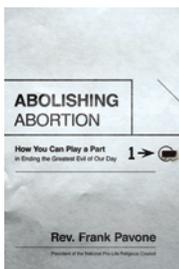
The Cross and the People of Life 2 CD set
This 2 CD set is Fr. Frank Pavone preaching the Seven Last Words, weaving the themes of the Passion and the pro-life cause. Also includes his homily from the Liturgy of the Passion.

The Way of the Cross for Families

This is a collaborative effort of Priests for Life and the Vatican's Pontifical Council for the Family. It is a special gift and blessing for families, because there is a deep connection between the mysteries of Our Lord's Passion and the mystery of the family.



Abolishing Abortion



Abolishing Abortion is Fr. Frank's third book and is a manifesto for the pro-life movement, laying out both principles and strategies. It challenges both Church and State to end the abortion holocaust, and in particular shows why our Church institutions need to stop censoring themselves when it comes to politics and elections. We can do and say far more than we think we can.



The Bible's Teaching Against Abortion Brochure

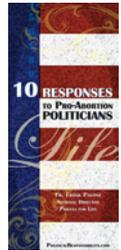
New Design

Journey through the Old and New Testaments to see that the Bible condemns abortion in many ways and calls us to love and protect all human life, including the unborn.

10 Responses to Pro-Abortion Politicians Brochure

New Design

If you've ever written to a pro-abortion politician about the right to life, you've probably received a form letter that utilizes one of the several worn-out arguments. This brochure reviews how to answer them.



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

Order at ProLifeProducts.org or use this order form and mail in the enclosed envelope to **Priests for Life, PO Box 141172, Staten Island, NY 10314**

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____

Send ____ Bible's Teaching Against Abortion (#65) at \$20.00 for a pack of 100 for a total of \$ _____

Send ____ 10 Responses to Pro-Abortion Politicians (#1659) at \$20.00 for a pack of 100 for a total of _____

Send ____ The Cross and the People of Life 2 CD set (#2029) at \$15.00 each for a total of \$ _____

Send ____ Way of the Cross for Families (#1372) at \$6.00 each for a total of _____

Send ____ Abolishing Abortion (#3573) for \$20.00 each for a total of _____

Additional Donation \$ _____ **Total Donation** \$ _____

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| \$25.01 to \$50 ... \$12.95 | \$200.01 ++... \$34.95 |