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## Abortion and Mother's Day messages at church

*By Theresa and Kevin Burke, Pastoral Associates, Priests for Life*

Ashley shares an experience of Mother's Day in her faith community:

"At the close of our Sunday service, the pastor asked all mothers to stand for a special Mother's Day blessing for all moms in the congregation. I wanted to run out of the church, or cry out in pain. But I sat there in silence and shame. See, many years earlier, I aborted two of my children."

Because of the physical damage caused by those procedures, Ashley was left infertile. She went on to share what a blessing it would have been to hear a Mother's Day message from the pastor that also acknowledged the motherhood of those who lost children to abortion or other pregnancy loss - and an invitation to a deeper emotional and spiritual healing of that experience.

Susan Swander, an abortion recovery leader in Oregon, shares:

"Yes, Mother's Day can be a hard day for women with past abortions. But it can also be a day for those women to celebrate being mothers. So many women who have had abortions never thought of themselves as mothers. After my Rachel's Vineyard healing retreat, Mother's Day became a day for me to honor and celebrate my three aborted children & one miscarried."

When mothers like Susan go through an abortion recovery program they come to understand, and more importantly, intimately experience a new reality.

As they progress through the steps of spiritual and emotional reconciliation and healing, they are set free to fully open their hearts, and souls to the mercy and forgiveness of the Lord. They can now develop an emotional reconnection as mother with their child (or children) lost to abortion, and nurture a spiritual relationship with their children, entrusted to the Lord of Life.



## "Trump effect" visible at UN's Commission on the Status of Women

*By Janet Morana*

The 69th Commission on the Status of Women took place in March and I was thrilled to attend with Bob Lalonde, Priests for Life's representative to the United Nations.

Recognizing that Priests for Life needed representation at the UN, in 2003 National Director Frank Pavone worked with Cardinal Renato Martino, then the Vatican representative to the international body, to set up our status as a non-governmental organization, or NGO.

Being an NGO gives Priests for Life "a seat at the table," Lalonde said, with the ability to sit in on committee meetings, submit formal

*The flags of member nations fly outside the United Nations in Midtown Manhattan, where Janet Morana, our Executive Director, is present with her credentials as a representative of Priests for Life.*

statements, to be heard and to register "some strong points for life."

Three annual meetings of particular interest to Priests for Life are the Commission on Social Development, the Commission on Population Development and the Commission on the Status

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This newsletter and other pro-life information and inspiration is available by email. Subscribe free of charge at [subscribe@priestsforlife.org](mailto:subscribe@priestsforlife.org).

## A Long-Time Cardinal Advisor



Janet Morana and Fr. Frank Pavone with Cardinal Christoph Schönborn during his visit to Priests for Life headquarters in New York.

Priests for Life congratulates His Eminence Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, Archbishop of Vienna, who has been a long time friend and formal advisor to Priests for Life. The Cardinal recently reached 80 years of age and retired from his role as shepherd of his Archdiocese. Over the years, we were blessed with many visits with the Cardinal, including at our Priests for Life headquarters, and interviews with him on our programs. He welcomed members of our team to speak to his priests, celebrate Mass in his Cathedral, and make presentations at the International Catholic Legislators' Network in Rome – an initiative which he founded. The Cardinal established a chapter of Priests for Life in Austria and appointed one of his priests to coordinate it.

The Cardinal wrote, *"Priests for Life and its entire ministry is such a blessing for the Church, because it is able to bring together in a remarkable way the three key elements needed to promote a culture of life: bringing out into the open the facts of abortion and its consequences, showing the mercy of Christ through healing and reconciliation, and giving public witness to both the tragedy of abortion and the power of healing."*

## Turning out for the unborn in Arizona

By Bryan Kemper

With an Arizona law protecting babies from abortion at 15 weeks permanently blocked, Planned Parenthood recently announced it is looking into other state laws to target for legal challenges.

But thousands of people who turned out for the third annual Arizona March for Life in Phoenix in March had a vastly different message.

"We want to counteract the culture that says abortion is somehow good and that it's healthcare," said Garrett Riley, executive director of the Arizona Life Coalition.

I attended the March as a representative of Priests for Life, and I was accompanied by several people from the Silent No More Awareness Campaign. Elaine Webster, the regional coordinator for Silent No More in Saskatchewan, Canada, spends winters in Arizona and makes sure to attend the March each year with her "I Regret My Abortion" sign held high.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Haywood Robinson, a former abortionist who is now a passionate advocate for life, and a longtime friend of Priests for Life.

Dr. Robinson also spoke at a 40 Days for Life Rally outside a Phoenix abortion mill, where he had high praise for our work at Priests for Life and recalled how National Director Frank Pavone helped launch 40 Days for Life in 2007.

I was invited to give a short testimony about my journey to pro-life activism.

Being present at state marches has always been important, but with states now able to decide their own abortion policies, it is vital for pro-lifers to turn out to proclaim the message that life is the only choice.

In Arizona, now in Planned Parenthood's crosshairs, it's a matter of life and death.

*Bryan Kemper is the youth outreach and street activism director for Priests for Life. This article originally appeared in LifeNews.com.*

## PrayerIntentions.org and ProLifePrayers.com

Leave us your prayer intentions as often as you like at [PrayerIntentions.org](http://PrayerIntentions.org) and we will remember you in our prayers and Masses! Visit [ProLifePrayers.com](http://ProLifePrayers.com) for prayers and resources.

May 3 - May 11: Mother's Day Novena ([PrayerCampaign.org/MothersDay](http://PrayerCampaign.org/MothersDay))







May intention: That the unborn be remembered at graduation ceremonies nationwide.

## Pro-Life Social Media

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Connect with us on social media so we can exchange encouragement and information. At [ProLifeSocialMedia.com](http://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:

 X (Twitter): @FrFrankPavone  
X (Twitter): @JanetMorana  
 GETTR.com/user/FrFrankPavone  
GETTR.com/user/JanetMorana  
 Rumble.com/user/FrFrankPavone  
Rumble.com/c/EndAbortionTV  
 Youtube.com/FrFrankPavone  
 Facebook.com/FatherFrankPavone  
Facebook.com/SilentNoMoreJanet

 Truth Social @FrFrankPavone  
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Instagram.com/JanetMorana  
 Soundcloud.com/Priests-For-Life  
 Tiktok.com/@FrFrankPavone  
 Pinterest.com/PriestsForLife  
 Threads.net/@frfrankpavone

View our daily broadcasts at [EndAbortion.TV](http://EndAbortion.TV).

## “Trump effect” visible at UN’s Commission on the Status of Women *continued from Page 1*

of Women. As the co-founder of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign and a Hope Alive counselor for women who have had abortions, I am particularly interested in the latter.

This year’s meetings were dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and in a formal statement Priests for Life submitted to the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, we emphasized the importance of eliminating violence against women and girls, including those in the womb who, in some nations, are aborted simply because they are female.

“Advances in the empowerment of all women and girls need to recognize and act to end this first act of gender-based violence,” the statement read. “Priests for Life is deeply concerned that thirty years after adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action there is a global failure to recognize the innate value of girls in the womb.”

Though there is clearly more work to be done, it was encouraging that while 1995’s Beijing Declaration was full of references to “reproductive rights,” the Political Declaration adopted during this meeting does not mention abortion, or its euphemisms.

Representatives of pro-life NGOs like ours were optimistic during the meetings, with good reason. When a pro-abortion Democrat is in the White House, the US aligns with the factions trying to establish abortion as an international right. When a pro-lifer is in the White House, things are very different. At this series of meetings, “the Trump effect was visible throughout,” Lalonde said.

Just days after moving back into the Oval Office in January, President

Trump rejoined the Geneva Consensus Declaration, a 2020 initiative that brought together a coalition of nations that support pro-life, pro-woman policies. The US was among the original group of 34 nations to sign, but we withdrew from the declaration once Biden was inaugurated.

Now, we’re back.

American pro-lifers are not the only ones happy with Trump back in the White House. I had the privilege of meeting and interacting with delegates from Liberia and Nigeria and many of the women thanked me for President Trump!

During the Biden years, aid sent from the US to other countries often came with pro-abortion strings attached, while nations like Nigeria, where Lalonde spent time a few years ago, are looking for basic aid, basic care for women and their unborn children, care for the first 1,000 days of life.

“They’re looking for something very different than what we’re pushing on them,” he said. Now there’s hope that our funding priorities will emphasize life.

My week in New York was fascinating, though over too quickly. I enjoyed touring the Midtown Manhattan plaza, recording videos for our streaming channels, listening in to the sessions and even having a chance to mail postcards from the UN to my grandchildren.

Lalonde judged my visit a successful one.

“You were seen everywhere,” he said. “By everyone.”

*This article was originally published in LifeNews.com.*



*Priests for Life participated in the March conference of the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates (NIFLA) in Williamsburg, Va. Frank Pavone and Tom Glessner, president of NIFLA, presented a session together, discussing pro-life strategy. See ProLifeStrategy.org. Rico Cairme, resource manager for Priests for Life, ran the Priests for Life booth. Pictured at the Priests for Life booth are Frank Pavone and Rev. John Brown, board member of the National Pro-Life Religious Council, of which Frank Pavone is the president.*

## Abortion and Mother’s Day messages at church

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Make sure to share this article with your clergy/minister or pastoral associate in your faith community.

The Silent No More Awareness Campaign through its Shockwaves Initiative has created a special section of prayers and preaching aids that can help churches share a message of hope and healing at this time of year. See [AbortionShockwaves.com](http://AbortionShockwaves.com).

## Praise for our Work

*“Dear Janet [Morana], I just wanted to shout a big thank you for that interview [for the Just ask Janet show]. Your enthusiasm was boundless and your comments and questions made the interview come alive. We are so fortunate to have an ally in you. Your faith in this project is deeply appreciated.”*

– Marc Aramian, Producer, He Named Him Adam

*“Even though I’m not Catholic, I’m very impressed with what I’m reading about your efforts to save all children in their mothers’ wombs. Please keep up the good work.”*

– Randell W.

*“I use your reflections book for scriptural meditations for our church bulletin. They have been effective.”*

– Christine S.

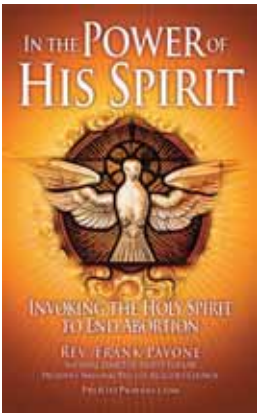
*“Comments on Scripture broadcast of Mar. 23, 2025: You never hear this much explanation to the Scriptures during a Catholic Mass.”*

– Tex Freedom

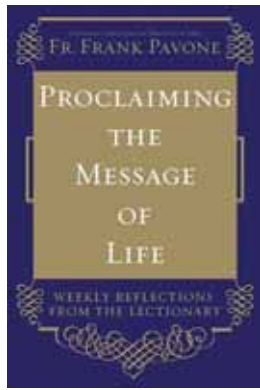
*“Fr. Frank, this is the best homily I have ever heard. Thank you.”*

– Cyn Cin, AZ

## Featured Products



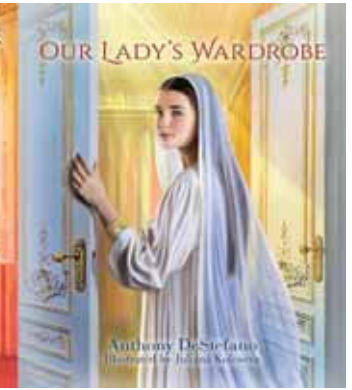
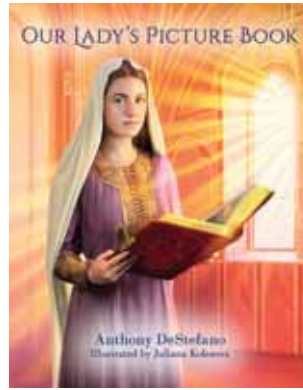
(A)



(B)



(C)



(D)

**(A) In The Power Of His Spirit Prayer Booklet:** Prayers that invoke the Holy Spirit, according to his many roles and gifts in our lives and in the world, to end abortion and equip God's people to protect the children in the womb.

**(B) Proclaiming The Message of Life:** Frank Pavone shows clergy and laity alike the pro-life themes found in the Sunday readings for each week of the year, in all three cycles of the lectionary.

**(C) Patriotic Unborn Baby Pin:** By wearing this pin, you are saying to America: 'I stand for the life of the pre-born child.'

**(D) Our Lady's Children's Book Bundle:** Our Lady's Wardrobe is a delightful rhyming book introduces Catholic children to the Blessed Virgin Mary through her clothes! And the charming sequel, Our Lady's Picture Book introduces Catholic children to more well-known images of the Blessed Virgin Mary by giving kids a peek into her own personal picture book.

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Send \_\_\_ **In the Power of His Spirit** (#4432) \$3.50 for 1; \$3.25 each for 12+; \$3 each for 25+; \$2.75 each for 50+; \$2.50 each for 75+ or \$2.25 each for 100+. Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Order now as a Father's Day gift for your Clergy**

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Send \_\_\_ **Patriotic Unborn Baby Pin** (#4688) at \$5 each. Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send \_\_\_ **Our Lady's Children's Book Bundle** (#3952) at \$25 each. Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send \_\_\_ **Our Lady's Picture Book** (#3924) at \$15 each. Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send \_\_\_ **Our Lady's Wardrobe** (#3896) at \$15 each. Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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