



Activating God's People to End Abortion

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## END OF YEAR REVIEW OF 2019 ACTIVITIES

### Introduction

Priests for Life, the largest Catholic-inspired organization focused on ending abortion, is actually a family of interrelated projects and programs, including *Gospel of Life Ministries*, *Rachel's Vineyard*, *Deacons for Life*, *Seminarians for Life*, *Missionaries of the Gospel of Life*, *the Silent No More Awareness Campaign*, *Civil Rights for the Unborn*, *Hispanic Outreach*, *Stand True Youth Outreach*, *Political Responsibility*, *Prayer Campaign*, *Life on the Line Media Outreach*, and the *Parliamentary Network for Critical Issues*.

Our Pastoral Team includes Janet Morana (co-founder of the Silent No More Campaign), Evangelist Alveda King (niece of Martin Luther King, Jr.), Marie Smith (wife of Congressman Chris Smith), Dr. Theresa and Kevin Burke (co-founders of Rachel's Vineyard), Bryan Kemper (founder of Stand True), and others who work with the ministries that comprise the Priests for Life Family.

Fr. Frank Pavone serves fulltime as National Director and Fr. Denis Wilde, OSA serves fulltime as Associate Director. Various priests and deacons around the country serve in a part-time capacity.

The enclosed reports constitute a *partial* summary of our activities.

## **Overview of Activities: Our Family of Ministries**

### **Priests for Life (direct ministry to priests)**

Our priests offer clergy seminars in dioceses, training materials for preaching and counseling, and individual consultation for clergy on the pro-life dimensions of their ministry.

### **Deacons for Life**

Deacons often have opportunities not available to priests to promote the Gospel of Life. We train, encourage, and mobilize them, too.

### **Seminarians for Life**

Those who are training for the ministry need to know, from the beginning, the ways in which they can prepare to be effective advocates for life. We therefore reach out to seminarians and provide them the tools and the example by which they can proclaim, celebrate, and serve the Gospel of Life. This involves presentations in seminaries, online resources, and more.

### **Missionaries of the Gospel of Life (pro-life spirituality for clergy and laity)**

Being pro-life, and doing pro-life activities, is not a hobby or simply rooted in an ideology or political platform. It is a *spirituality*, and is rooted in our discipleship. We therefore teach both clergy and laity the spirituality of being a Missionary of the Gospel of Life, and how that spirituality shapes pro-life strategy and tactics.

### **Rachel's Vineyard**

Under the Priests for Life umbrella is the world's largest ministry for healing after abortion. Rachel's Vineyard holds hundreds of retreats each year for men and women who have lost children to abortion.

### **Silent No More Awareness Campaign**

A project of Priests for Life and Anglicans for Life, the Silent No More Awareness Campaign is the world's largest mobilization of men and women who have lost a child to abortion, have experienced healing, and now want to share their testimony. The Campaign promotes healing and a greater awareness of the wounds abortion causes.

### **Civil Rights for the Unborn**

Evangelist Alveda King, niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is the director of Civil Rights for the Unborn, which is the outreach program of Priests for Life to the African-American community and beyond, with the theme that the civil rights movement of today is the pro-life movement!

### **Hispanic Outreach**

Both in the US and around the world, we are assisting communities of Hispanic heritage to build the Culture of Life.

### **Gospel of Life Ministries**

Gospel of Life Ministries brings to an interdenominational audience the wide variety of pro-life work that Priests for Life does.

### **Youth Outreach**

Bryan Kemper, is the founder and president of Stand True Ministries, a Christ-centered pro-life outreach determined to awaken the youth of this country and share the message of life and the Gospel of Christ. He has spent years reaching out to youth and encouraging this generation to get involved, and now he continues that outreach with Stand True Ministries, which the youth outreach of Priests for Life.

### **Parliamentary Network for Critical Issues (PNCI)**

Marie Smith is the Director of the Parliamentary Network for Critical Issues (PNCI). PNCI equips and encourages legislators around the world to defend the unborn in their own countries. PNCI also provides a pro-life witness at the United Nations and in other international arenas, and educates the public on pro-life efforts internationally.

### **Life on the Line**

Life on the Line is our broadcast ministry (radio, television, internet, social media and podcasting), consisting of daily live and pre-recorded programs, interviews by the members of our pastoral team, and short spots provided to media outlets around the world, including EWTN, Bott Radio Network, Radio Maria, and many more.

### **Prayer Campaign**

All we do is rooted in prayer, which both undergirds and fosters productive action. At [PrayerCampaign.org](http://PrayerCampaign.org), we foster prayer campaigns throughout the year, corresponding to various liturgical and secular seasons and holidays.

### **Political Responsibility**

As both citizens of heaven and citizens of this world, we are called to exercise political responsibility to elect leaders who will defend life, and to sustain those leaders on the right path. We therefore teach and mobilize voters to make a difference in the voting booth.

### **Networking Leaders**

Priests for Life occupies a strategic place of unity in the pro-life movement. We foster relations between leaders, groups, and ministries. We facilitate strategic planning sessions on every level, as well as leadership retreats and seminars. Priests for Life coordinates the quarterly meetings of national pro-life leaders in the United States and periodic strategy summits whereby national pro-life leaders come together at our headquarters for several days.

## SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019 ACTIVITIES

### 1. Abortion Recovery Coalition

With the world's largest ministry of healing after abortion, Rachel's Vineyard, operating under Priests for Life, and with our Silent No More Awareness Campaign (a joint project of Priests for Life and Anglicans for Life), we have been well positioned to help coordinate the start of the "Abortion Recovery Coalition," which brings together leaders in this important arena of pro-life work and ministry, in order to work more effectively together. We are facilitating the participation of abortion recovery ministries in the national leadership meetings of the pro-life movement, and helping to foster the regular conference calls of these leaders.

### 2. Pro-life Leadership Coalition

In 2019, two major strategy summit meetings of national organizations in the pro-life movement spent three days at the Priests for Life headquarters mapping out strategy for ending abortion, learning from one another, and agreeing on areas of joint activity.

The meetings took place in February and August, and brought together about 70 national leaders for three days at a time. This effort is called the "Pro-life Leadership Coalition".

Meanwhile, Priests for Life continued its role in 2019 of facilitating the quarterly one-day meetings of national pro-life leaders.

### 3. State-Level Abortion Laws

The year 2019 started with the most radical abortion laws being passed in New York and proposed in various other states, with the Governor of Virginia making it clear that the bill introduced in his state would permit infanticide.

Since then, Vermont, Illinois and Rhode Island have enacted similarly egregious laws, and bills in other Democrat-controlled states were introduced.

Priests for Life has been at the forefront of educating people about what this means and helping them respond. As we've explained, these bills are not a sign of the strength of the abortion lobby, but of its weakness.

#### **4. State-Level Pro-life Laws**

Priests for Life has been encouraging and assisting our followers in states where strong pro-life measures have been passed (such as Georgia, Ohio, Alabama, Missouri) and has been educating the movement on what this means, and helping people understand the dynamics this introduces in the court system.

#### **5. United States Presidential and Congressional Election Preparation**

Just as the US bishops have prepared educational materials for the occasion of our 2020 national elections, so have we at Priests for Life. This involves extensive consultations and meetings, multimedia broadcasts and seminars on many platforms, and the development and updating of our educational brochures.

We have run our data list against the voter files to see who is and is not registered to vote and actually voting, and are communicating with our list accordingly.

Priests for Life has initiated extensive voter education activities so that voters are properly informed about what candidates and their parties are saying and doing.

Various members of our Priests for Life team are asked to provide direct information and advice on pro-life matters to those in the political arena.

Priests for Life also conducted various voter education and get-out-the-vote initiatives for the statewide and local elections of 2019.

#### **6. The Moral Outcry**

Priests for Life has played a leading role in "The Moral Outcry" project, coordinated by The Justice Foundation, through which hundreds of thousands of citizens have expressed to the Supreme Court that the time has come to reverse Roe vs. Wade,

because of multiple changes that have taken place in law, science, culture, and the moral awareness of many that abortion is a crime against humanity.

A scroll with the signatures of a quarter of a million citizens was unrolled in front of the Supreme Court as it began its new term in October, and Fr. Frank was one of the leaders who organized, prayed, and spoke at the event.

## **7. New Supreme Court Abortion Case**

For the first time in three years, the Supreme Court accepted an abortion-related case (*June Medical Services vs. Gee*), and Priests for Life is involved in preparing for it through friend of the court briefs, public education, a prayer campaign, and providing helpful information to the legal teams working to defend the pro-life law in Louisiana that is at the heart of the case.

## **6. Virtual Studio Productions**

Priests for Life has enhanced our TV production studio with the use of green screen technology, both taped and live. This allows for very high quality, impactful presentations that expand our audience.

We have also expanded the platforms on which we broadcast live each day, starting, for example, the first pro-life channel on ROKU, and a channel on Amazon Fire.

We have also increased the number of guests we interview.

## **7. EWTN Program Productions**

Priests for Life teams traveled twice to EWTN this year to produce twenty-six new episodes for two series – *Defending Life* and *The Catholic View for Women*.

*Defending Life* remains the longest-running, farthest reaching TV program on abortion, having been initiated in 1995 by the direct request of Mother Angelica to Fr. Frank Pavone.

## **8. Regular pro-life commentary**

Priests for Life team members continued to produce op-eds published regularly by outlets like Newsmax.com, Breitbart, LifeNews.com, Washington Examiner, National Catholic Register, Catholic Online, and many others.

## **9. National Prayer Service**

In January, Priests for Life once again organized and led the National Prayer Service on the morning of the March for Life. Marchers from all over the country, including groups of students, participated in the interdenominational service, at which the National Pro-life Recognition Awards were also presented.

## **10. Pennsylvania Pro-life Rally**

In the Spring of 2019, a PA state representative harassed peaceful pro-life women and teenage girls who were praying outside an abortion facility. This sparked national outrage as Priests for Life was among the first to sound the alarm about this incident, and brought it to the attention of numerous activists. This led to a national pro-life rally outside of that abortuary; Priests for Life provided live broadcast and commentary on the event.

## **11. Day of the Unborn Child and Anniversary of Evangelium Vitae**

Priests for Life brought special focus on the observance of the Day of the Unborn Child, as held in many countries on March 25th, which is also the anniversary of the encyclical Evangelium Vitae. We also undertook preparations throughout 2019 to observe the upcoming 25th anniversary of this great pro-life encyclical in 2020.

## **12. Baby Chris Project (Mar. 25 – Dec. 25)**

One of the action items of the pro-life leadership summit held at Priests for Life in February was the Baby Chris Project (BabyChris.org), in which dozens of national groups collaborated to take a walk through pregnancy, teaching the developmental facts of the unborn child from conception on March 25th to birth at Christmas. This project utilized the “My Baby Pregnancy Guide” (available on the App store) and the powerful imagery obtained through embryoscopy and fetoscopy.

### **13. Deacons for Life**

In 2019 we strengthened the outreach of Deacons for Life around the country, communicating with the deacons by mail, email, fax and online broadcasts to bring them resources for pro-life preaching and concrete ideas for parish activities.

### **14. National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children**

Fr. Frank co-founded the National Day of Remembrance several years ago, whereby on the second Saturday of September simultaneous memorial services are held across the country at the gravesites of aborted babies or at memorial stones in their honor. Once again, Fr. Frank led the service at the gravesite of the babies killed by abortionist Kermit Gosnell in Philadelphia, and other Priests for Life team members led services in other locations.

### **15. Remembering the Klopfer Victims**

In September, the nation was shocked when, after the death of abortionist Ulrich “George” Klopfer, the bodies of thousands of aborted babies were discovered in his home. Priests for Life helped to spread the word about this with a press conference days later at one of the abortionists’ killing centers, communications to state officials to assist with arrangements for the burial of these bodies, and a nationwide project in which people gave names to these children.

### **16. Born-Alive Abortion Survivors’ Protection Act**

This year has been marked by a drama on the national level whereby the Republican party has brought attention to the practice of infanticide in abortion clinics, where babies are killed after being born alive as a result of failed abortions. Meanwhile, Democrats have passed laws removing protection from such children in various states.

The lack of enforcement mechanisms on existing laws protecting these children has opened the need for the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors’ Protection Act. Democrats

prevented it from passing in the US Senate, where 60 votes are needed, and Democrats in the House are repeatedly refusing to permit any consideration of the measure in that chamber.

Nonetheless, various efforts are being used to press the matter, and Priests for Life is working with legislators and with the public to promote understanding of what is going on and to push the measure forward.

Priests for Life helped Congressional Republicans to hold a “minority hearing” in September at which various experts testified about infanticide and the need to protect these children. On that same day, Priests for Life led a lobbying effort in which dozens of people simultaneously, wearing special “End Infanticide” shirts, walked through the Halls of Congress to lobby Representatives to support the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.

## **15. Pro-Life Federal Executive Policies**

Priests for Life has played a key role both in encouraging the Trump Administration and educating the public regarding its executive actions on behalf of the unborn throughout 2019. These actions include but are not limited to strengthened conscience protections for those who refuse to participate in abortions, the protection of taxpayer money from being used for abortion in Title X grant programs, strengthening the moral boundaries around research involving human tissue, making it clear that the government will not fund research involving the bodies of aborted babies, and protecting the religious freedom of faith-based organizations involved in adoption and foster care initiatives.

## **18. Pro-life Movies**

Priests for Life has been at the forefront of various pro-life movies that have been released or are being produced in the United States in 2019. Fr. Frank Pavone has been a key part of the history of Abby Johnson and 40 Days for Life, which are portrayed in the film *Unplanned*. Priests for Life played a key role in the launch of the film and the preparation of the pro-life movement to respond to the needs of those who would seek healing once they saw it.

Priests for Life team members are playing a key role in the production of the film *Roe vs. Wade*, which tells the story behind that landmark decision that legalized abortion.

## **19. Pro-life Victory in Jamaica**

The pro-life movement and Church in Jamaica reached out to the Priests for Life team for assistance in holding back the advances of the abortion industry in Jamaica.

Through consultation, sharing of educational and pastoral materials, and a visit by our Executive Director Janet Morana and our team member Evangelist Alveda King, we worked to assist the efforts of the pro-life groups in Jamaica.

Those efforts were successful, as the efforts to advance abortion in Jamaica were tabled.