

END OF YEAR REPORT 2023

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January began on a poignant note with the funeral of Fr Frank's father, Joseph. This already atop the shock to all and especially his dear mother, Marion, after the publicity days before of Fr Frank's appalling "laicization" by the Vatican. The representative turnout at the Mass in Port Chester was a magnificent vignette of pro-life colleagues, people well-known and some behind the scenes but steadily effective. I had the honor of offering the Liturgy and delivering the homily.

The late January March for Life in Washington is always preceded by Priests For Life sponsored Prayer Service for the Unborn at Constitution Hall at which I concelebrated Mass for Catholics preceding the service.

Through the year I have been receiving requests from our benefactors for prayer and Mass intentions, of which I keep a log and I read before each of my private Masses. When I receive their contacts I sometimes call, more frequently email or send an encouraging message, or condolence as the case may warrant. We have gotten some gracious responses from this project. It is a small way to hold up the importance of the spiritual basis for our work as well as to recognize their sacrifices and contributions to the cause of the beleaguered preborn.

Several short op-ed type articles I wrote have been broadcast online from Catholic Culture and other online publications.

I was privileged to be spiritual director for three pilgrimages this year.

First I joined with 27 pilgrims in Amman Jordan in late May-early June to retrace Old Testament sites before crossing to Israel. It was a pleasure to offer Holy Mass at sites such as Annunciation Church in Nazareth, Transfiguration church in Mt Tabor, the excavations of the Capernaum synogogue and most precious, the recognized Tomb of the Lord in Jerusalem.

The second was "Jordan and Holy Land" late May – early June; the second was with a group from Christ the King Parish, Towson MD. The full bus carried 48 of us to EWTN studios and then to Hanceville's beautiful Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament and to the Benedictine Abbey of St Bernard in Cullman, AL. Each day we joined together for a liturgy I celebrated in Knoxville, Johnson City, TN as well as the pilgrim points in Alabama.

Finally late Sept to early October brought me and a smaller contingent to Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Milan and Turin, Italy. So many outstanding points to pick up on there, but it was special to connect in person again with Dr Gianna Emanuela Molla, the daughter of Saint Gianna Molla. She offered a full half hour to our group at the tombs of her father and canonized mother. I had met the daughter at Priests For Life office in Staten Island and again at Our Lady of Czestochowa US national shrine in Doylestown, PA. Another precious moment was my celebrating Mass for the folks at our

Augustinian church in Pavia (Ara caeli in ciel d'oro) at the very tomb of Saint Augustine (of Hippo), and about the same hour as one of our midwest Augustinians became a cardinal in Rome.

Through the year I have been bringing the pro-life message and our Priests For Life specifics to people at weekend Masses, and several presentations in Pennsylvania and Maryland, besides of course in my references overseas. The message always brings the baby into central focus, to counter the selfish "rights" issue which Roe left as an unfortunate cultural legacy. The overturn of this most horrendous aberration of God's loving commands had produced the fruit of a number of states' banning the killings in those territories, and it allows the people to get a better grasp that civil law must reflect God's plan. On the other hand deception and mega donor money reinforced the already cleverly ("as serpents") operatives in place on the pro-death side to falsify or sweeten the poison of referenda in other states. Finally it is not the vote but the heart that must change; yet the overturn of a legal "fixation" – two generations worth in the case of Roe – is a monumental start, but does not sugar coat the work of recapturing the language and aggressively pulling back a "people who have walked in darkness" to attest and wisely follow the "Light" ever before those who want to see.