

End of Year Report for Priests for Life

January – December, 2021

Fr. Denis Wilde, OSA

In many ways 2021 was characterized by a relative **opening up of venues**, including, of course, churches which from state to state had varied Covid restrictions imposed and then significantly lifted. Couple that with the technical advances in social media and the developing programming of Priests for Life's home site *EndAbortion.TV* studio, Priests for Life accelerated our outreach to an ever increasing flock of at home recipients, shepherded in the fields of their living rooms via webinars and Father Frank's daily messages and frequent interviews across the spectrum, and especially the daily Mass broadcast at 10am. Beyond this, Janet's "Just Ask Janet" program and constant uploading of new material recorded from Pastoral Associates and articles all have made more and more comprehensive our mission as an ever-growing outreach well beyond pro-life and Catholic only recipients.

In addition travel was resumed with opportunities both far and near to advance the faithful's awareness and call to action in defense of the unborn through parish celebrations and preaching.

On the local scene I have been helping out **parishes in Delaware County** – seven of them – for both weekend and daily Masses; and Joseph in the Hills Retreat Center, in addition to convents and specifically prolife vigils (St Agnes in West Chester, several monthly celebrations over the year), but weekly at St Rose of Lima in Eddystone, PA. One can easily draw from the scriptural reading of any Mass relevant references to pro-life concerns and blessings. Some of my homilies can be found uploaded on our website, and specifically at www.priestsforlife.org/frwilde.

I was asked to celebrate the (Covid) postponed memorial Mass for Dee Becker, Delaware Right to Life founder, Vice-President of the national March for Life, and long friend of Priests for Life on August 14, and joined in concelebrating several Vigil Masses for the unborn at the Cathedral of Sts Peter and Paul, Philadelphia, followed by procession through the city to Planned Parenthood. I was involved as speaker, and carried the Blessed Sacrament in procession at Forty Days for Life vigils at PP in Wilmington (opening and closing of Spring and Fall events).



I represented Priests for Life at the 50th Heartbeat International conference in Columbus, Ohio (April 27-30) in lieu of Father Frank, who was preparing for his surgery two weeks later. I heard confessions and offered Holy Mass daily for the participants, drawing their attention to the Columbus Ohio national shrine of St Margaret of Costello (pro-life patron) who had just been canonized by Pope Francis the weekend before.

PHOTO: Fr Denis at Heartbeat Columbus OH conference Priests For Life display table

Since 2020, we have inaugurated a process whereby our donors, who have already been leaving with their financial contributions **requests for prayer intentions and Masses** to be offered for their health, or other personal needs and remembrances, now can have their requests sent to me to include those intentions in daily Mass and prayer. I periodically add new ones and daily look at the list I keep in the sanctuary of our monastery private chapel. The communication I initiated with some of the Priests for Life family requesting these has reciprocated with letters and calls as well. There is always a welcomed, heartfelt appreciation expressed for Priests for Life in these replies for Father Frank and the organization's ongoing efforts, something these generous members of our family want to hold on to, when family and health difficulties discourage them otherwise. It has been a privilege and pleasure to offer prayer and, when appropriate, encouragement and advice.



I was interviewed on several "Just Ask Janet" and Alveda King televised episodes, and with Bonnie Finnerty, media outreach for PA ProLife Federation, in preparation for the federation's September 22 dinner at which I was honored with their **2021 Lifetime Achievement Award** in Camp Hill (Harrisburg), Pennsylvania.

That was an honor I hold as a highlight of the year and then some! Kevin Burke and Katie D'Annunzio joined my parents and a number of other PA, DE, NJ and NY colleagues. Susan Rogacs presented the award.

PHOTO: Michael Ciccocioppo, Fr Denis, Susan Rogacs of PA Prolife Federation in presentation of Lifetime Achievement award.

November 30 was **Jack Ames' 80th birthday** in Towson MD and it was a treat to concelebrate and offer the homily on the valor of St Andrew (feast day) for the assembly, but what inspired me the most was the testimony after testimony spontaneously given after the luncheon by some 20 "faith friends" of this lifetime valiant activist. Jack, of course, is a close collaborator with Priests for Life and has featured our literature for decades. Jack, a native Pennsylvanian and my fellow concurrent alumnus of Villanova University has, more than any other, a handle on the history and activist knowhow of the pro-life defense in the Maryland area since before Roe v Wade.

Advent wraps thing up, back to and for the Baby enlivening and reflecting Himself in every baby. The year has been a gift of life and lifesaving, and with all the warm collaboration we have shared, it is always the Baby Who gives the impetus to commit to saving lives of those babies that have no voice nor choice. After 23 years as the grandpa of the great family that is Priests for Life, I thank God I have the vitality and love for moving along to a new chapter in 2022. For all and for Life - *ad multos annos*.

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