

SEVEN SIMPLE STEPS

Help Your Pastor End Abortion

Rev. Frank Pavone

National Director, Priests for Life

WWW.PROLIFE.CHURCH

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“I never hear any sermons in my church about abortion.” “We don’t get much leadership or encouragement for the pro-life activities we suggest in our parish. Our clergy don’t seem to be very interested in speaking up for the unborn.”

Many good people voice such concerns across the country. While some may have unrealistic expectations, we nonetheless rightfully look to our pastors for moral leadership on this and every other issue. As Paul declared, “I did not shrink from proclaiming to you the entire plan of God” (Acts 20:27).

Abortion is not only a religious issue; it is a human rights issue. Indeed, as Paul said, “Ever since the creation of the world, his invisible attributes of eternal power and divinity have been able to be understood and perceived in what he has made. As a result, they have no excuse” (Rom. 1:20). The Church’s arguments against abortion invoke human reason and science. But God’s Word also has a lot to say about protecting the unborn. Faith enlightens our reason, plays a key role in the lives of most Americans, and provides the graces needed to battle the forces of death. The vast majority of pro-life activists are motivated by their relationship with Christ.

That’s why people need to hear from their spiritual leaders about abortion. And thank God, there are many courageous and even heroic pastors who have been doing their duty.

But if it hasn’t been happening enough, there are things that you can do about it. You’ve probably tried before, but don’t stop now. The babies and their families need us more than ever! Following are some practical steps you can take to help your pastors become stronger advocates for the unborn.

SEVEN SIMPLE STEPS

ONE

Priests for Life reaches pastors throughout the country with training seminars, newsletters, emails, books, visits and other resources that help them fight abortion.

Our book, *Proclaiming the Message of Life*, provides extensive Biblical commentary to help the preacher talk about abortion in the light of God's Word. It has commentary on all the Sunday readings of the lectionary.

We also have numerous prayer resources, suggested activities, and training in every area, whether it be educational messages, counseling for those tempted to abort, healing after abortion, lobbying, voter education, prayer vigils at abortion facilities, and more!

As we reach the clergy with online calls, seminars and other events, they are able to share with their peers their successes, obstacles, questions, fears, and encouragement in these areas. Some fear criticism or hurting those who have had abortions. Some don't want to be seen as "political" or "divisive." Some have prejudices against the pro-life movement. We can help the clergy overcome all these obstacles.

Visit www.ProLife.Church to find out more, to order the books and other resources mentioned above, and to sign up your pastor to receive our communications.

TWO

Clergy are human, too. They are affected by praise and criticism. Whenever your pastors speak up for life, let them know you are behind them. Tell them to keep it up, and write a note of thanks!

THREE

Appeal to your pastors on behalf of those who are wounded by abortion, and show them the many ways to lead such people to healing. Our interdenominational Rachel's Vineyard ministry is the largest outreach in the world serving those who have had abortions. Based in the Word of God and solid psychological research, it leads thousands of people a year to the peace of Christ. AbortionForgiveness.com puts people in touch with this and many other such ministries.

Also, our Silent No More Campaign is a big help to the clergy, because it brings to them the testimonies of those who have had abortions. These stories show the "shockwaves" of grief shared not just by the parents, but also by the wider family and friends, and even abortionists. (See AbortionTestimonies.com and AbortionShockwaves.com). Many moms say, "If only I had encouragement from my Church not to have an abortion, I could have avoided this pain."

FOUR

Approach other key leaders in the church about what they can do for the unborn. Youth ministers, educators, those who prepare the church bulletin and website, and many others on staff can benefit from the encouragement and resources you can offer them.

FIVE

Request an appointment with your pastor and bring one or two other active, well-informed, pro-lifers of the church. Use a humble approach that seeks to educate rather than criticize. Do not take the approach "You're not doing your job." Rather, tell the pastor you value his/her leadership, and explain what motivates your own pro-life involvement. Seek to understand your leaders. Listen to their thoughts about pro-life issues, and help them find the best "point of entry" to address abortion. Bring them up to date on the movement, and on practical possibilities for action. Mention several possible activities, not just one, and then leave it in their hands to choose one of them or to come up with their own. Even if they do neither, you have educated them a little more on the issue. Stress that people like you are ready to do the work involved in any project. Perhaps the easiest project to begin with is promoting our interdenominational prayer campaigns at PrayerCampaign.org.

SIX

Have realistic expectations about what your pastor can do. Understand the demands and limitations he/she faces in caring for the entire congregation.

SEVEN

Pray for all clergy!

Remember, Dr. Bernard Nathanson, a key architect of the abortion industry in America, became pro-life and in speaking to the clergy about the efforts he and his colleagues undertook, said, "We would never have gotten away with what we did, if you had been united, purposeful and strong."

Let's not miss what the other side has known from the beginning: the biggest obstacle to the culture of death is the Church, the Body of Christ, against which the gates of hell will not prevail (cf. Mt. 16:18). If we rise to the occasion now, the proponents of abortion will not get away with what they are still trying to do.



Rev. Frank Pavone and clergy from numerous denominations gather at the annual National Prayer Service on the morning of the March for Life in Washington, DC.

“Dear Father Frank,

I am a Protestant minister who became acquainted with Priests for Life. I have been a faithful listener to your programs and I have followed many of your suggestions. I have been amazed at the doors that have opened.”

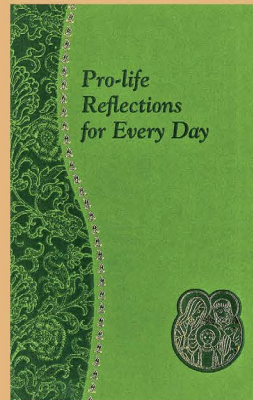
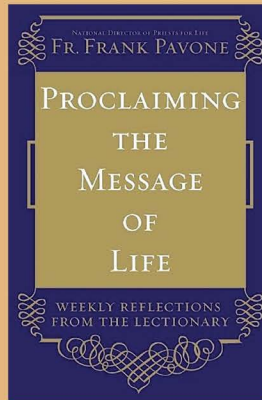
– Rev. Ed

“Father Frank Pavone

is a man who is passionately committed to the defense of preborn children, and to the sanctity of human life from conception to the grave. I have found him to be an articulate and intelligent promoter of this cause internationally. It has been my privilege to have Father Pavone as a guest on Focus on the Family, where he was warmly received by our listeners.”

– Dr. James Dobson,
*Ph.D, Founder,
Focus on the Family*

RESOURCES FOR YOUR PASTOR



*To order these and other resources
visit our online store at:*

WWW.PROLIFEPRODUCTS.ORG

Priests for Life, one of the largest and most visible pro-life organizations in the world, is a family of ministries aimed at fully activating and equipping God's people to end abortion. The efforts of Priests for Life include training of the clergy and laity in pro-life spirituality, provision of healing after abortion, fostering political responsibility, conducting outreach to youth, Hispanics, and African-Americans, equipping lawmakers throughout the world, and much more. Priests for Life coordinates the worldwide work of Rachel's Vineyard and co-sponsors the Silent No More Awareness Campaign.

Rev. Frank Pavone is National Director of Priests for Life and also serves as President of the National Pro-life Religious Council, a coalition of many Christian denominations working to end abortion. See www.NPRCouncil.org.

Priests for Life

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