

SEVEN SIMPLE STEPS

Help Your Priests and Deacons End Abortion

Fr. Frank Pavone

National Director, Priests for Life



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Priests for Life*

“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 priests and deacons for moral leadership on this issue. “The threat of abortion remains our preeminent priority,” the US bishops declared in 2019 (Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship).

Abortion is not only a religious issue; it is a human rights issue. Indeed, 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 strengthens our reason, plays a key role in the lives of most Americans, and provides the graces needed to battle the culture 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 church leaders 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 priests and deacons become stronger advocates for the unborn.

SEVEN SIMPLE STEPS

ONE

Priests for Life, the largest Catholic-inspired pro-life group, reaches priests and deacons 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 commentary on all the Sunday readings for all three years of the lectionary, so that the preacher can address abortion at any time.

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 Priests for Life and Deacons for Life 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 PriestsForLife.org/Clergy to find out more, to order the books and other resources mentioned above, and to sign up your priest or deacon to receive our communications.

TWO

Clergy are human, too. They are affected by praise and criticism. Whenever your priest or deacon speaks up for life, let him know you are behind him! Tell him to keep it up, and write a note of thanks!

THREE

Give your priest or deacon our "Good Shepherd Project" brochure (found at PriestsForLife.org/Clergy). This will be a good start, appealing to his pastoral care for those wounded by abortion, and showing him the many ways to lead such people to healing.

Our Silent No More Campaign is a big help to the clergy, because they hear 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 parish about what they can do for the unborn. Youth ministers, educators, those who prepare the parish 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 priest/deacon and bring one or two other active, well-informed, pro-lifers of the parish. 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 clergy you value their 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 prayer campaigns at PrayerCampaign.org.

SIX

Have realistic expectations about what your priest or deacon can do. Understand the demands and limitations they face in caring for the entire parish.

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, and if we rise to the occasion now, the proponents of abortion will not get away with what they are still trying to do.



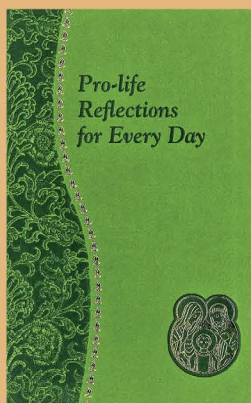
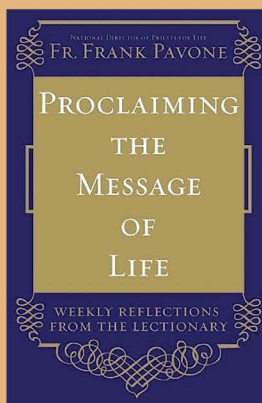
*“I have had
the great
privilege*

*of personally knowing several
members of the Priests for Life
network for over 30 years...*

*As a seminarian, I heard Fr. Pavone
and Fr. Wilde give inspiring Pro
Life homilies and as a priest, I have
happily made use of the readily
made available pro life homily helps
for Priests and Deacons to give
inspiring homilies.”*

– Bishop Joseph Coffey
*Auxiliary Bishop,
Archdiocese for the Military
Services, USA*

RESOURCES FOR YOUR CLERGY



*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.



Priests for Life

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