Moving Forward from the Elections

Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director, Priests for Life
President, National Pro-life Religious Council

For people concerned about the protection of the unborn, the elections of 2012 were a disappointment. And it’s OK to be disappointed, because it demonstrates that we care.

But it’s not OK to become disengaged. The great thing about American politics is that nothing is permanent. One election undoes another. It remains the Christian calling to bring the Gospel into the public arena, including the voting booth, and to do so with more skill and savvy than ever. We need to begin now working on the elections of 2014, with particular attention to the Congress and the gains we can make there for the cause of life.

Moreover, let nobody think this election was about an American repudiation of the values that motivate us, starting with the right to life. This election was not about such things. If anything, it shows a country deeply divided, and quite winnable for the cause of life. Along with continuing our work on the federal level, more opportunity than ever exists to work with state legislators and the 33 pro-life governors in our country to continue to pass state laws that slow down the killing and educate the public about the unborn.

There is also a tremendous opportunity right in front of us to keep the pro-life issue in full view, namely, the occasion of the 40th year since Roe vs. Wade. In January, and throughout 2013, the pro-life movement will focus on this important milestone, and use it to raise awareness about the unborn and the need to protect them. Keep informed of special initiatives at RoeWade40.com.

Thank you for your fidelity!

Religious Leaders Stand Up Enthusiastically for Life

40th Anniversary of Roe Energizes Pro-Life Movement

By Ernest Ohlhoff, Director of Outreach, National Right to Life

Hymns, Scripture readings, and inspirational sermons echoed in historic Constitution Hall on the morning of January 25th in memory of the 55 million pre-born babies killed by abortion during the past 40 years.

Eighty two Bishops, Pastors, and Clergy representing dozens of different denominations participated in the 19th Annual Memorial for the Pre-Born.

Twenty five choir members raised their voices filling the hall with spirit filled songs and hymns. The event was attended by more than a thousand pro-life marchers from every corner of America. They represented every denomination, race, ethnicity, and color. And in spite of the political setbacks in the November elections their spirit was not dampened. They were energized and displayed a new level of commitment and determination. They were filled with a willingness to get to work and restore legal protection for all innocent human life.

In his sermon, Fr. Frank Pavone, President of the National Pro-Life Religious Council (NPRC), brought the crowd to its feet when he told the attendees that the fundamental responsibility of government is to protect life saying, “We must recall the government to its fundamental role: to protect the rights God has given us, not to be God over us. We must recall public servants to their fundamental duties. We need public servants who know the difference between serving the public and killing the public. And if they don’t, they do not belong in public office.”

During the service, numerous inspirational prayers and Scripture passages were read by the clergy participating in the Memorial. There was no question that all were united in their commitment to work enthusiastically for restoring legal protection for all innocent human life.

NPRC presented a special award to Reggie Littlejohn, President of Women’s Rights Without Frontiers, for her tireless efforts to end the one-child and forced abortion policies in China and for her efforts to end sex selection abortion which is ramped in Eastern cultures.

Michael Schwartz also received an award from NPRC, as well as the Cardinal John J. O’Connor Award presented by Legatus, for his 40 years of dedicated and selfless service to the pro-life movement. Michael served in many capacities with numerous pro-life organizations. Most recently he served as Chief of Staff to Senator Tom Coburn. Sadly, Michael Schwartz has since then passed away, may he rest in peace.

The Memorial’s organizing committee consisted of leaders from: the National Pro-Life Religious Council; Priests for Life; the National Clergy Council; the National Pro-Life Center; Anglicans for Life; and National Right to Life.
India’s Missing Girls

India has joined China and several other Asian countries in having enormous numbers of sex selection abortions. ABC News recently aired a story on the practice of sex-selective abortions in India. It is estimated that 50 thousand girls are aborted every month. And thousands more are killed after they are born. According to ABC News, “Since 1980 an estimated 40 million girls are missing through sex-selective abortion, neglect, or murder.”

These numbers caused reporter Elizabeth Vargas to travel to India to learn the details. Once there, she was greeted with the sight of a mostly male population. “Everywhere we looked, we saw boys, young men, old men, but very, very few women. It was unsettling, especially because we knew this was not some freak of nature, but a result of the deliberate extermination of girls.”

The following is a quote from the story: “This is not some freak of nature, but a result of the deliberate extermination of girls. If the woman looks, we see boys, young men, old men, but very, very few girls.”

Pastor Sheldon passed away peacefully at his home in Elverson, Pennsylvania, surrounded by his loving family.

Pastor Sheldon was a dedicated pro-life leader who served and led many pro-life organizations including Presbyterians Pro-Life in which he served in numerous capacities including president. He was also a founding member, past president, and executive director of the National Pro-Life Religious Council.

Pastor Sheldon was also a co-presenter at a National Right to Life Prayer Breakfast. He also worked tirelessly to make his Presbyterian denomination adopt a culture of life philosophy by working with other pro-life pastors and attending many national Presbyterian conferences.

Pastor Ben, as many called him, led with compassion, love, thoughtfulness, and gentle humor. He never wavered from his commitment to truth and biblical principles.

Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on Oct. 31, 1928, to a family with Jewish traditions, he was converted to Christianity at the age of 16. Pastor Sheldon earned a master’s of divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary and served as a missionary to South Korea from 1953 to 1964.

Upon returning to the United States he pastured numerous churches including Washington D.C., Pikeville, Ky., Havertown and Glenmoore, Pennsylvania. He was also active in Messianic Jewish ministry.

Pastor Sheldon is survived by Amy, this beloved wife of 57 years. The Sheldon family includes seven children, 37 grandchildren, and 4 great grandchildren.

The expense dowries required to marry off their daughters for mistreating of the girl after she is married. The dowry is not paid or is too small, it is often an excuse for mistreating of the girl after she is married.

This systematic elimination of Indian girls is creating an alarming gender gap. And although many Indian families are aware of the problem and see the need for girls, they all would rather it be another family that actually raises them.

Elizer “Elie” Wiesel was a Holocaust survivor who was imprisoned in Auschwitz, Buna, and Buchenwald. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986; and is the author of 57 books. Eli Wiesel experienced firsthand the horrors of religious persecution and was one of the few survivors of the Holocaust.

“...to remain silent is the greatest sin of all.”

Eli Wiesel

The National Pro-Life Religious Council joins the rest of the pro-life community in mourning the loss of pro-life activist, Nellie Gray. At 88 years old, Nellie Gray was forced to end her life’s work of defending the unborn.

Best known for her work in founding and maintaining the annual March for Life in Washington, DC, Nellie Gray will be greatly missed. The March began on the first anniversary of the Supreme Court’s tragic decision, it is now every year that the March for Life will continue on without Nellie Gray, but remains her greatest legacy.

The National Pro-Life Religious Council (NPRC) attended National Right to Life’s 42nd Annual Convention. Each year the board members from the NPRC give well-attended talks at the Convention, and this year was no different.

Their most popular talk was the “We are the Sheep, Where are the Shepherds?” workshop, which discusses what individuals can do in their churches to encourage their pastors to be more outspoken on life issues. The talk is a panel which is lead by NPRC’s board members.

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Frank Pavone (Priests for Life) began the workshop by discussing how the fight over religious freedom can provide an opportunity to activate our pastors more effectively for the cause of life. Rev. Kirk van der Swaag (Conservative Congregational Christian Conference) talked about how to help pastors deal with the issue of abortion in their congregations. Continuing on that theme, Rev. John Brown (United Church of Christ) talked about how to approach pastors and get them to do more regarding abortion. Vera Faith Lord, drawing from her own experiences addresses the issue of pastors being too afraid to talk about abortion thinking that they might hurt those who have had abortions. Georgette Forney (Anglicans for Life) talked about how the Silent No More Awareness Campaign can help encourage and activate pastors.

Rest in Peace Nellie Gray

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Associate Membership Application

Yes, I would like to become an Associate Member of the National Pro-Life Religious Council, Inc.

Enclosed is my fee of $25.00 for membership: _______________________

I would like to make a tax deductible donation of $________ to help NPRC with its important work.

Mail to: NPRC c/o Development Office, PO Box 61838, Staten Island, NY 10306-9811

Contact Person ________________________

Church or Group ________________________

Address ___________________________________________

City____________________ State_______  Zip_________

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