

January 18, 2006

Dear Friends,

As I send you this week's column (in English and Spanish), I am, like many of you, making preparations for Washington DC. You will find my schedule posted on our website, www.priestsforlife.org, and if you are going to be there I'd love to greet you, and give a blessing to your group.

The morning of the March (Monday, January 23), the ecumenical prayer service at which I preach will start at 8:30 in the Senate Caucus Room (325) of the Russell Building. The family of Terri Schiavo, who was murdered last March, will be there and I will present to them a Pro-life Recognition Award for all they did to defend Terri's life. Likewise, I will present an award to one of our strongest pro-life allies in the US Senate, Senator Sam Brownback of Kansas. This prayer service will be an invigorating preparation for the March itself!

Then, at the conclusion of the March, you are invited to stay at the Supreme Court for the 4pm Silent No More Awareness gathering, and show support for the women who will share publicly their pain and healing after abortion. Remember, too, that there will be gatherings like this throughout the nation. At www.SilentNoMoreAwareness.org, you can find out where and when these gatherings occur. If you have had an abortion and want to participate in any of them, or if you want to help organize gatherings during the year, register on that website. (Remember, the Silent No More Awareness Campaign is not a separate organization. It is a project of Priests for Life and NOEL.)

In other matters, we just posted the latest version of "Frontlines," our online update about our activities on the road and at the office. Check it out at www.priestsforlife.org/frontlines.

Meanwhile, on the TV front, starting with this column I want to alert you to the episodes that will be airing this week and next on our EWTN Defending Life program and on our Sky Angel Gospel of Life program.

On Defending Life, seen on EWTN each Friday at 10pm and Saturday at 2am ET, this week's episode is called "How to Speak Up." My assistant Janet and I will discuss how we can break the silence and effectively be a voice for the unborn. In next week's Defending Life episode, I am joined by Janet and by Dr. Theresa Burke, and we will discuss "Abortifacients, the other forbidden grief" - a fascinating discussion about how abortions caused by birth control are causing a new kind of post-abortion syndrome.

On Gospel of Life, which airs on "Angel One" on the Sky Angel Satellite System every Monday at 3:30am, Tuesday at 2:00 am, Thursday at 8:30am and Saturday at 7:30pm (all times Eastern), this week's show is "This is My Body," featuring the powerful music video that Dana made for us. Next week's episode is called "Window to the Womb" and features our friend Shari Richard, an ultrasound pioneer.

Please tune in and help us reach an even bigger audience by spreading the word! More details at www.priestsforlife.org/tv.

Regards,
Fr. Frank Pavone

Election Perseverance
Fr. Frank Pavone
National Director, Priests for Life

As the year 2006 begins, it is time to fire up the engines for another election, and focus on electing leaders who will provide the maximum possible protection to innocent human life. In the last several major elections, voters have increased pro-life majorities both on the state and federal levels of government. More voters each year say that the abortion holocaust influenced their vote, and even many pro-abortion candidates who are not yet ready to become pro-life are realizing that being pro-abortion does not win elections.

Momentum is on our side, and there is nothing the other side can do to take the stigma out of abortion. Therefore, there is no reason for delay on our part. The time to activate is now, and the reason is the same as it always was: those who are more willing to have babies killed must not be given the power to do so.

Notice that I phrase that in the negative. Elections are often not about getting a satisfactory person in office as much as they are about keeping a worse person out of office. Elections are exercises of power, and deal in the categories of "bad, worse, good, better" rather than "bad, perfect". If we go into elections hoping to find perfect candidates, we will constantly be disappointed. But if we go into elections determined to improve things as much as possible, recognizing the limits of what that means, but also recognizing its significance, we will be energized.

Some people may wonder what the pro-life candidates they elected have done, or may feel they have not done enough. Important progress has been made, but far more is required, and we always have to keep the pressure on those we have elected. But if you prevent someone from falling off a cliff, you have already achieved something quite significant. That is the first and perhaps most important success to keep in mind. In the last two elections, if the pro-abortion forces had been able to elect the people they wanted, the cause of abortion would be in a far stronger position than it is now. Much of the success of elections is in what we prevent.

There have been positive advances, including the fact that the makeup of the Supreme Court will again change this month and move in a pro-life direction. We could have had the situation this month of having two more committed pro-abortion justices on the Supreme Court for lifetime terms. We avoided falling off that cliff.

As for what we achieve, the work always remains ours. It is not easy to find pro-life activists running for office. But what we need at the very least is people who will not stand in the way of the work that we have to do. Politics is not our salvation; we the people are responsible for ending abortion. But that responsibility includes taking power away from those who take human rights away. Let's keep abortion supporters out of office in 2006, and let's start now!