

**"Proclaim the word. Be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching" (2 Tim. 4:2).**

## **From By Our Gracious Permission?**

**Rev. Frank Pavone**

St. Paul summed it up well. "Proclaim the word. Be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching" (2 Tim. 4:2). The sanctity of life and the truth about abortion are certainly aspects of the "Word" that the pastor is to preach. Some say, "Abortion has no place in Church." Then what does? Are people who worship God supposed to be blind to injustice? Are believers supposed to be unconcerned about what goes on in the world? Abortion kills 1.6 million babies in America every year. In Church we say we believe in "the Lord, the Giver of Life." Church is the place to talk about things that concern God, and God cares about the destruction of 1.6 million babies a year! The Bible says that those who worship God but do not act to correct injustices are not pleasing God at all (see Amos 5:21-27, and Isaiah 1:10-17).

Suppose for a moment that a clinic were set up in your neighborhood at which eight year old boys and girls were routinely killed every day. What would you do? What would you expect the Church to do? Morally speaking, every abortion takes the life of one who is as much of a person and has as much of a right to life as an 8 year old or any other human being! So many in our society who know this are wondering why we pastors don't talk more about it and take more action to get our parishioners involved in the effort to save these babies and give their mothers life-giving alternatives. Many pastors do, but far too many still do not.

"The greatest lies are told in silence." To be silent on abortion is not to be silent; it is, rather, to shout the message, "Don't be all that concerned about this!" And to the women in the congregation who have had abortions, the silence says, "Your pain doesn't matter, and what you did is no big deal."

**As some pro-lifers have pointed out, unless we speak out fearlessly and act decisively against abortion, one could very well put up this sign at our local abortion mills: "Babies Killed Here with the Gracious Permission of the Local Christian Community."**

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St. Paul asks, "If the trumpet sounds an uncertain call, who will get ready for battle?" (1 Cor. 14:8) In the battle for life, it is not a matter of "We win" or "They win." If pro-life doesn't win, nobody wins! It is time for all pastors to take courage and to lead the way to victory for the pro-life movement! It is time for all parishioners to encourage their pastors more than ever to speak the truth about abortion clearly and without compromise!

This is the purpose of "Priests for Life," a movement that aims to unite pastors in a common commitment to defend the sanctity of life, to provide them with resources, suggestions for homilies and activities, and to introduce them to other pastors active in the pro-life movement. As a national effort only a few years old, Priests for Life welcomes input from clergy and laity alike, and is ready to assist any individual or group in their pro-life work. I have been privileged to serve as the Director since 1993, succeeding Fr. Lee Kaylor who founded it. You may write to: Priests for Life, P.O. Box 141172, Staten Island, New York 10314, 888-PFL-3448, (718) 980-4400, Fax 718-980-6515, Email [mail@priestsforlife.org](mailto:mail@priestsforlife.org) Subscribe to Fr. Frank's bi-weekly prolife column (free): [subscribe@priestsforlife.org](mailto:subscribe@priestsforlife.org)

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