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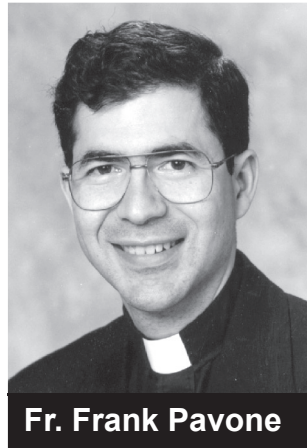
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**Fr. Frank Pavone**

Fr. Frank Pavone was appointed in 1993 by Cardinal John O'Connor to serve as Director of Priests for Life, and has also served as an Official of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for the Family, which coordinates pro-life activities for the entire Catholic Church.

The mission of Priests for Life is to encourage and equip God's people to respond to the tragedies of abortion and euthanasia. It is an Association of the Faithful recognized under the Canon Law of the Catholic Church. Priests, deacons, and lay persons may join as members simply by contacting the main office. Priests for Life is also a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

Fr. Frank Pavone also serves as President of the National Pro-life Religious Council, which consists of many different denominations working to end abortion.

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# 10

## TEN RESPONSES TO PRO-ABORTION POLITICIANS

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**Fr. Frank Pavone  
National Director, Priests for Life**

If you've ever written to a pro-abortion politician about the right to life, you've probably received a form letter that utilizes one of several worn-out arguments. Let's review how we answer them.

**1.** *"I respect your views, but I have to represent all the people."* Our response: That's what *we're* trying to say to *you*. If you neglect the unborn, you are not representing all the people. *Roe vs. Wade* excludes them from protection; we demand that they be included. A public servant cannot legitimately ignore an entire segment of the public that is being destroyed.

**2.** *"I'm personally opposed to abortion, but can't impose my views on others."* Our response: This is not a matter of views, but of violence. The law is supposed to protect human life *despite* the views of those who would destroy it.

**3.** *"The government should not be involved in such a personal decision as abortion."* Our response: The government got "too involved" in abortion when it claimed to have the authority to deprive some human beings of their right to life. The Declaration of Independence asserts that government exists to *secure the rights* already

bestowed by the Creator. Moreover, when somebody's "choice" destroys somebody else's life, that choice is no longer merely a personal, private matter.

**4.** *"Legislators should not be practicing medicine."* Our response: We're not asking you to practice medicine, but to prevent the abuse of medicine. The practice of medicine is regulated by all kinds of laws that protect the lives of patients. All we ask is that the unborn be included in that protection.

**5.** *"Abortion is the law of the land."* Our response: The "law of the land" can be changed, just as it was changed regarding slavery and segregation. Leadership means seeing the injustices that others miss, and inspiring people to utilize the methods the law permits to make necessary changes.

**6.** *"I support women's rights and health."* Our response: That is precisely why you should examine the evidence, which is more plentiful than ever, that abortion is destructive of women's health, and listen to the growing voices of those who have been harmed by abortion. That is also why you should examine how the abortion industry, through unregulated and dangerous clinics, continues to deceive and exploit women.

**7.** *"Abortion is just one of many issues; I embrace a consistent ethic of life."* Our response: The foundation of a house is only one of many parts of the house, but it is essential in order to build the other parts. That is why the Catholic bishops have repeatedly asserted that among the many interrelated issues within a consistent ethic, abortion deserves "urgent attention and priority" (*Pastoral Plan, 2001*).

**8.** *"My office does not involve any decision-making about abortion."* Our response: Your position on abortion says a lot about your character and worldview. If you cannot stand up for the smallest of children, how will you stand up for the rest of us?

**9.** *"Let's just agree to disagree."* Our response: We have the greatest respect for those who disagree with us. But when victims are oppressed, we don't sit back and "agree to disagree" with the oppressor. Rather, we intervene to save the victim. Abortion is not about beliefs; it's about bloodshed. Those who need protection need it despite the disagreement of others.

**10.** Finally, always use the best response to all the arguments: *I vote!*