Abortion and the Gospel
By Rev. Paul Stallsworth, United Methodist Church

Abortion is the public issue, in American society, that stubbornly refuses to go away....

So, how is The United Methodist Church dealing with the abortion issue at the present time? Two main strategies seem to have emerged. The first and most common strategy is silence. Many United Methodist leaders prefer to ignore the issue. Please note that such an approach is not new, nor does it merely sound empty. The biblical and theological abortion issue has been ignored or downplayed for decades by Methodists, and other church bodies, for a variety of reasons. Among these reasons might be fear of the fallout that might result in their local churches, many do not bring it up. Fearful of the fallout that might result in their local churches, many do not bring it up. Fearful of the fallout that might result in their local churches, many do not bring it up. Fearful of the fallout that might result in their local churches, many do not bring it up. Fearful of the fallout that might result in their local churches, many do not bring it up. Fearful of the fallout that might result in their local churches, many do not bring it up. Fearful of the fallout that might result in their local churches, many do not bring it up. Fearful of the fallout that might result in their local churches, many do not bring it up. Fearful of the....
Join the Largest Prayer Group in History!

Fr. Frank Pavone, President, National Pro-life Religious Council

You are invited to join believers around the world to pray to end abortion, as part of the largest prayer group in history! This prayer group is based online, and is grounded in two websites, which have been designed toяем to online prayer and education resources that are updated throughout the year and to current developments in the pro-life cause.

The basic prayer website for this cause is www.ProLifePrayerCampaign.org. From last February through May, the National Pro-Life Religious Council (NPRC) for Life has used this site to promote our “Daily Prayer to End Abortion.” This prayer is essentially an interdenominational one in which we commit to God that we will each do our own part in ending abortion, based on the recognition that nothing claims more lives, and based on the confidence that death has been conquered at the resurrection of Christ. The prayer is interdenominational in its theology, and the NPRC has its own site for believers to say this prayer: www.ProLifePrayer.org.

At various seasons of the year, special prayers and novenas are placed on this site in order to link the pro-life theme to those seasons, or to special feast days or current events. For the last several months, for instance, a prayer for God to guide our nation’s health care reform debate has been featured.

The second website connected to this “largest prayer group in history” is www.ProLifePrayers.org. This goes directly to our Facebook cause, “Pray to End Abortion.” Many are familiar with Facebook as a means of connecting with friends. But Facebook can also be a rallying point for people to join a cause and to participate in activities related to that cause.

And in this case, the cause is praying to end abortion. Because Facebook is such a powerful way of finding people who have common interests, this cause can easily become the largest prayer group in history. Within a few weeks of starting this cause, we had already rallied over 30,000 people! It has been growing by about a thousand a day. Once people are connected with the cause, they stay connected and are updated about various prayer resources that we make available to them for personal, family, church, and organizational use.

So what can you do to help grow the largest prayer group in history for the most important cause of our time, ending abortion? Here are some suggestions:

1. Link to the prayer websites from your website, blog, or social networking site. In particular, have the link on your Church or school, pro-life organization. Include them in mailings. (Contact Priests for Life at 1-888-735-3468.)
2. Have the Daily Prayer to End Abortion, or the prayer for a particular season or novena, prayed in Church.
3. Order the prayer cards for the Daily Prayer to End Abortion and distribute them in your Church, school or pro-life organization. Include them in mailings. (Contact Priests for Life at 1-888-735-3468.)
4. Publish the prayers, or the link to them, in the Church bulletin.

Let’s pray our way to pro-life victory!

Joining Our Network

Fr. Frank Pavone

U.S. bishops ward off vigorous opposition if Congress Fails to Exclude Abortion from Health Care Reform

Washington D.C., October 8 (CNA). - The U.S. Catholic bishops sent an open letter to Congress today, stating that they will “vigorously oppose” the health care bills unless they prevent taxpayer funds from funding abortion...Cardinal Justin Rigali, Bishop Robert Witter and Bishop John Wester penned the letter on behalf of all the U.S. bishops “express our disappointment that progress has not been made on the three primary criteria for health care reform that we have conveyed previously to Congress.”

“In fact,” they noted, “the Senate Finance Committee rejected a conscience amendment proposed earlier by the House Energy and Commerce Committee.”

The bishops warned Congress that if the final legislation “does not meet the principles, we will have no choice but to oppose the bill.”

Listing the flaws that they see in the current health care bills, the Catholic bishops urged Congress “mandate coverage for abortion, and incorporate longstanding policies against abortion funding and in favor of conscience rights.”

“No one should be required to pay for or participate in abortion,” they insisted.

Despite insistence by some legislators that the reform bills do exclude abortion and respect conscience, the high-ranking bishops said that, “No current bill meets this test.”

Saying that they “sincerely hope that the legislation will not short of our criteria,” the U.S. bishops said that they “remain apprehensive when amendments protecting freedom of conscience and ensuring no taxpayer money for abortion are defeated in committee or on the floor.”

“If acceptable language in these areas cannot be found,” the warned, “we will have to oppose the health bill vigorously.”

The bishops concluded their letter by writing, “Much-needed reform of our health care system must be pursued in ways that serve the life and dignity of all, never in ways that undermine or violate these fundamental values.”

Associate Membership Application

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

I enclose my fee of $25.00 for membership as:

[ ] an individual [ ] a church [ ] a group

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 10306-9818

Contact Person

Church or Group

Address

City State Zip

Denomination

Phone ( )

E-mail

New Anglican Province in North America Affirms LIFE!

By Georgette Forney

Anglicans for Life is excited to report that the newly formed Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) has affirmed the sanctity of life in its founding documents in late June. During the new church’s Inaugural Provincial Assembly, recently ordained and lay delegates ratified the Constitution and Canons that establish the new Anglican Province in North America.

The church’s Constitution, Canon Tii1, states “God and not man, is the creator of human life. The unjustified taking of life is sinful. Therefore, from conception to natural death, all members and clergy are called to witness to the sanctity of every human life.” The Church is called upon to show Christ-like compassion to those who have fallen into sin, encouraging them to repent and receive forgiveness, and offering the ministry of healing to all who suffer physically or emotionally as a result.”

According to Georgette Forney, President of Anglicans for Life, “This is historical event. While most mainstream denominations uphold the right to abortion, the ACNA has chosen to boldly proclaim the right to life. We are looking forward to helping the 700 parishes of the new ACNA establish life-affirming outreach and resources...”

In 2006, Anglicans for Life adopted its own Declaration of Life Statement and submitted it to the House of Deputies of the Episcopal Church. The Anglicans for Life AFL was honored to learn that the committee had chosen to use the wording, while making some slight variations, to order the to the sale of pro-life literature.

Anglicans for Life is the only life-affirming ministry in the Anglican Province dedicated to ending abortion and euthanasia, protecting embryos from destructive research, and promoting abstinence and adoption.

Walker Percy to the New York Times

On January 22, 1988, Walker Percy (1916-1990), an American physician-novelist, composed a letter to the editor on abortion and mailed it to The New York Times. Percy’s letter was never published in the Times, and receipt of the letter was never acknowledged by the newspaper. His letter, in full, follows. (Editor, LifeWatch)

Dear Sir:

The fifteenth anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision of the Supreme Court of the United States is an appropriate time to call attention to an aspect of the abortion issue which is generally overlooked.

The little lines between the “pro-life” and the “pro-choice” advocates are so fixed, the arguments so well known, indeed so overworked. This is an historical event. While most mainstream denominations...