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The National Pro-Life Religious Council

The National Pro-Life Religious Council (NPRC) is a Christian coalition which acknowledges Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and works to encourage every Christian denomination to affirm and witness to the biblical standard of the value, dignity and sanctity of human life, and to foster ministry to those vulnerable to the violence of abortion or euthanasia.

Alpha Omega Life

Anglicans for Life

Conservative Congregational Christian Conference (CCCC)

Ernest Ohlhoff, Director of Religious Outreach, National Right to Life Committee

International Communion of the Charismatic Episcopal Church (CEC for Life)

Lutherans for Life (LFL)

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS)

National Clergy Council

National Institute of Family and Life Advocates (NIFLA)

Presbyterians Pro-Life (PPL)

Priests for Life (PFL)

Taskforce of United Methodists on Abortion and Sexuality (TUMAS)/Lifewatch

United Friends for Life (UFL)

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 no such thing. 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 legislatures 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

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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."



Reggie Littlejohn

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



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.

“Lord, Welcome Home Thy Humble Servant”

By Ernest Ohlhoff, Director of National Right to Life Outreach



Pastor Ben Sheldon

These six words were the first words that came to me on hearing of the passing of Pastor Benjamin E. Sheldon on September 18th. 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. He attended and presented workshops at National Right to Life Conventions. 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 pastored 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.

I am very proud to have called him both pastor and friend. A great pro-life man of God is now forever joined with his beloved Lord.

India's Missing Girls



India has joined China and several other Asian countries in having outrageous 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 though 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."

Though the use of ultrasound technology many women can learn the gender of their baby before birth. If the woman

is carrying a boy there is cause for celebration, but if she is carrying a girl, she is often pressured to abort the baby. Even though it is illegal in India to use ultrasound to determine gender, it is a law that is largely ignored. The same is true for the law against sex-selective abortions.

The main reason so many Indian families prefer sons to daughters is because of the cultural tradition of the dowry. The expense dowries required to marry off their daughters can put many Indian families in debt, whereas a son will bring money to his family. And paying too small of a dowry is not an option for a family that loves their daughter. If 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.



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



Eliezer “Elie” Wiesel is 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. Elie Wiesel experienced firsthand the horrors of religious persecution and was one of the few survivors of the Holocaust.

The National Pro-Life Religious Council at the 42nd Annual National Right to Life Convention

From June 28th-30th, 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 out-spoken on life issues. The talk is a panel which is led by NPRC's board members.

Fr. 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 Swaagh (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. Ed Szeto (Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod) discussed what pastors and Churches can do regarding elections and their

connection to the abortion issue. Tom Glessner (National Institute of Family and Life Advocates) gave ways that the Church can increase the help it gives to those who are pregnant and tempted to abort. He also discusses how the Churches can better network with pregnancy centers. Fr. Terry Gensemer (Charismatic Episcopal Church) shared

his own experiences on closing abortion mills in Alabama and talked about how it can encourage Churches to see this as more of a local fight and focus on closing the local abortion mills. And finally, Ernest Ohlhoff (National Right to Life) closed the workshop talking about how to connect pastors with various pro-life organizations and what resources these groups can provide.

Other workshops run by members of the NPRC included “Overcoming Pro-Abortion Opposition within a Congregation or Denomination” and “Increasing Local Pro-Life Effectiveness in Pro-Life Religious Denominations.”

If you missed the Convention and would like to hear the talks you can download them at stoptheabortionagenda.com/convention/convention-extras. Or you can contact stateod@nrlc.org to purchase audio CDs of the workshops.

Please join us in Dallas, Texas for the 43rd National Right to Life Convention!



Rest in Peace Nellie Gray



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 Roe v. Wade decision, and it has persisted every year after that. The March for Life will continue on without Nellie Gray, but remains her greatest legacy.

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 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 10306-9811

Contact Person _____
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