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Living the Gospel of Life (US Bishops, 1998) This document is a key statement for all followers of Christ about the political responsibility of Christians, and about why elected officials cannot responsibly take a position in favor of abortion.

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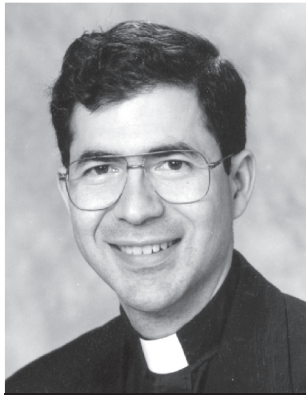
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Please be active in preparing for the elections! We need your help, and our staff is ready to assist you to find the best way you can make a difference. Email us at vote@priestsforlife.org.



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.

This material may be reproduced or quoted, with proper credit, to spread the pro-life message. Receive free pro-life commentary from Fr. Frank. Request it at subscribe@priestsforlife.org



PO Box 141172, Staten Island, NY 10314,
Tel. 888-PFL-3448, Fax 718-980-6515,
Email mail@priestsforlife.org,
Web site www.priestsforlife.org

**You Wouldn't
Even Ask**

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

If a candidate who supported terrorism asked for your vote, would you say, “I disagree with you on terrorism, but where do you stand on other issues?”

I doubt it.

In fact, if a terrorism sympathizer presented him/herself for your vote, you would immediately know that such a position disqualifies the candidate for public office—no matter how good he or she may be on other issues. The horror of terrorism dwarfs whatever good might be found in the candidate’s plan for housing, education, or health care. Regarding those plans, you wouldn’t even ask.

So why do so many people say, “This candidate favors legal abortion. I disagree. But I’m voting for this person because she has good ideas about health care (or some other issue).”

Such a position makes no sense whatsoever, unless one is completely blind to the violence of abortion. That, of course, is the problem. But we need only see what abortion looks like, or read descriptions from the abortionists themselves, and the evidence is clear. (USA Today refused to sell me space for an ad that quoted abortionists describing

their work because the readers would be traumatized just by the words!)

Abortion is no less violent than terrorism. Any candidate who says abortion should be kept legal disqualifies him/herself from public service. We need look no further, we need pay no attention to what that candidate says on other issues. Support for abortion is enough for us to decide not to vote for such a person.

Pope John Paul II put it this way: *“Above all, the common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of human rights—for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture—is false and illusory if the right to life, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all other personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination”* (Christifideles Laici, 1988).

False and illusory. Those are strong and clear words that call for our further reflection.

“I stand for adequate and comprehensive health care.” So far, so good. But as soon as you say that a procedure that tears the arms off of little babies is part of “health care,” then

your understanding of the term “health care” is obviously quite different from the actual meaning of the words. In short, you lose credibility. Your claim to health care is “illusory.” It sounds good, but is in fact destructive, because it masks an act of violence.

“My plan for adequate housing will succeed.” Fine. But what are houses for, if not for people to live in them? If you allow the killing of the children who would otherwise live in those houses, how am I supposed to get excited by your housing project?

It’s easy to get confused by all the arguments in an election year. But if you start by asking where candidates stand on abortion, you can eliminate a lot of other questions you needn’t even ask.

For more election related articles and information, visit:

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