

From: Rev. Frank Pavone (Desktop)
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 1:40 PM
To: 'Eric Scheidler'; Monica Miller
Subject: thoughts on the project

Hi, Eric and Monica,

The attached document, as a help to our conversation this afternoon, contains some of my initial thoughts about the project.

I'll be eager to hear your thoughts.

Fr. Frank

Unborn Memorials Project

Vision

As we know, when people come to see abortion, they more easily cut through the lies by which some try to justify it, and the natural apathy to which human nature is inclined. Even pro-life people are thrust into a higher level of commitment and activism.

Touching the reality of abortion happens in various ways: hearing a description of the procedure, seeing diagrams of it, seeing images of aborted children, and seeing aborted children themselves.

This impact, whereby abortion no longer remains an abstraction, can be brought to an even more profound level when experienced in an event, such as a funeral for an aborted baby.

As we know, tens of thousands of these children have been retrieved and buried at sites across our country. The stories of how they were killed, how they were found, and how they were buried, along with the images and videos that accompany those events, are powerful tools to awaken the consciences of our fellow citizens.

But while a funeral and burial for an aborted baby may be a relatively rare event, the opportunity to visit the burial places and recall how those children got there does not have to be rare. It is a tool we can use again and again, and it is a tool we can activate simultaneously across the country with the memorial services at the burial sites.

Proposal

This would be a joint project of Citizens for a Pro-life Society, Priests for Life, and Pro-life Action League. The project could consist of three phases:

a) Educational and spiritual preparation

b) The day of simultaneous memorial services (Saturday, September 14, 2013)

c) Educational and spiritual followup

The first phase, educational and spiritual preparation, would consist of telling the stories of the burial sites and how they came to be. Images and video, along with the history of how the babies were killed, retrieved, and buried, could be related by a website, unbornmemorials.org.

In the process of telling the story across the country through the various means of pro-life education and media (including nationwide webcasts), we would invite people to plan and participate in the memorials on September 14 and explain the rationale behind it.

The second phase, the day itself, would consist of memorial services at the sites where babies are actually buried. Local pro-life leaders would be recruited and trained ahead of time and provided with template services, prayers, etc. and would invite speakers to participate and media to cover the event.

It is also possible that at one of the sites we could even have an actual burial on that day, depending on the availability of a child to bury.

The third phase, the educational and spiritual follow-up, would consist of disseminating the news, images, and video of the events to those who could not participate, to continue telling the stories and receiving feedback about people's experiences, and urging them to continue in prayer and in having future memorial services at these sites, especially, for example, on the anniversaries of the burials or on special days like the Feast of the Holy Innocents. It could even lead to a renewed, systematic effort to retrieve more bodies of aborted children.

Collaboration

The preparation, publicity, and guidance of this project would be carried out on the national level by Citizens for a Pro-life Society, Priests for Life, and Pro-life Action League, in such a way that these groups would be equal partners.

In the publicity, the groups would agree to always mention all three groups. Naturally, when each group is speaking to its own "audience" of supporters, the specific role of that group would be highlighted.

The groups would agree to launch the project all at the same time with a joint press release.

Each group can use the project to urge its supporters to contribute financially to the effort, and any new names acquired through the project itself (for instance, if the project website had a sign up form or the participants in the memorial services left us their contact info) would be shared by the three groups.

The specific roles of each of the groups in relation to the project would be spelled out clearly.

