



Witness for Life appears to have strong ties to the NYPD, which provides the group with an escort for its monthly “procession” from Old St. Pat’s Cathedral to the Bleeker St Planned Parenthood. Moscinski and other Witness for Life leaders are often seen in huddles with high-ranking NYPD officers. The two groups exchange laughs and handshakes.

The NYPD regularly brings out its notoriously violent Strategic Response Group (SRG) to arrest and brutalize clinic defenders.

## ANTIS GET AN NYPD ESCORT



Witness for Life has a fake escort, Bernadette Patel, who wears a pink vest to impersonate real volunteer clinic escorts, whose role is to bring patients inside the clinic safely. Patel tricks patients into anti-abortion literature in their faces. She shames patients coming in and out of the clinic. The pamphlets handed out by Patel contain a slew of medical misinformation about abortion. They also direct patients to local fake clinics (which antis refer to as Crisis Pregnancy Centers, or CPCs). Yes, those exist in NYC too!

## FAKE ESCORT & TIES TO CPCs

## THE BEST DEFENSE? COMMUNITY DEFENSE

Every first Saturday of the month, NYC for Abortion Rights organizes a clinic defense to fend off Witness for Life. With the NYPD on the antis’ side, it’s up to us to defend abortion access. We won’t stop until the vicinity of our clinics are free of cops and antis alike.



### HOW WE DEFEND OUR CLINICS

First we delay the antis from even getting to the clinic. At the clinic, we keep an eye out for possible invasions, block the antis visually, and let patients know Bernadette is not a real escort.

KNOW UR FASH

## WITNESS FOR LIFE

*the group that harasses and intimidates abortion patients in NYC — with the help of the NYPD*



A zine by NYC for Abortion Rights

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**WHAT IS THE FACE ACT? (A SUMMARY)**

The Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act is a US law that prohibits:

- 1) the use or threat of physical force, or physical obstruction to injure, intimidate, or interfere with any person who is obtaining an abortion
- 2) the damage of a reproductive care facility

Currently, Moscinski has an active Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) that prohibits him from being within 500 feet of any reproductive health center. His FACE Act trial begins on January 23, 2023.



## WHAT/WHO IS WITNESS FOR LIFE?

Witness for Life is a NYC-based anti-abortion group that harasses and intimidates patients outside reproductive health clinics on a weekly basis. The group has been active for at least a decade.

Witness for Life is part of the Archdiocese of New York’s “Respect Life” office, which is headed by Cardinal Timothy Dolan. Dolan is openly against abortion and attends the annual March for Life in D.C.

Witness for Life participants include Christian Nationalists, tradcats, Groypers, and members of Students for Life, the New York Young Republicans Club, and Sisters of Life.

### WHAT IS AN “ANTI”?

In reproductive justice spaces, the term “anti” simply refers to someone who is anti-abortion!



## FIDELIS MOSCINSKI CLINIC INVADER

## A NOT-SO-PEACEFUL PROCESSION

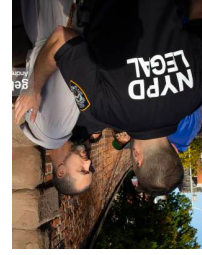
After attending an hour-long anti-abortion mass, Witness for Life participants “process” as a group from their host church to the reproductive health clinic.

Once the group’s procession — sometimes numbering in excess of 100 people — reaches its target clinic, participants intimidate patients by praying, holding anti-abortion signs, and engaging in “sidewalk counseling” to coerce patients into turning back.

This is where clinic defenders stand in front of the antis to cover them up with rainbow umbrellas, shielding patients and providers from their idiocy.



Christopher “Fidelis” Moscinski is an anti-abortion friar based in the Bronx, NY. He was ordained in 2001 and belongs to the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal (who also participate in Witness for Life).



Moscinski has participated in over 15 clinic invasions. His first was in 1989, with Operation Rescue. More recently, he has been invading clinics as part of the Red Rose Rescue group. These “rescues” involve antis forcefully entering reproductive health clinics and interacting with patients in the goal of getting them to cancel their appointments. This usually results in patients and providers being moved to a safer place while cops slowly remove the limp ants from the clinic.