

Priests for Life is a recognized Catholic association and a 501(c)(3) corporation whose mission is to end abortion and euthanasia. With a full-time staff of over 60 people, it is a family of ministries, encompassing Deacons for Life, Seminarians for Life, Rachel's Vineyard, the Silent No More Awareness Campaign, Gospel of Life Ministries, and more.

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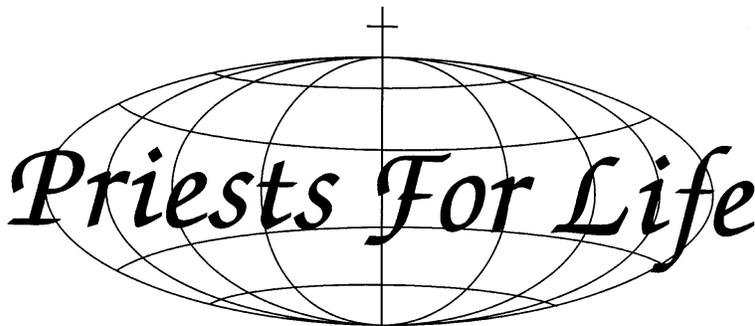
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Assisting God's People to Proclaim, Celebrate, and Serve the Gospel of Life.

H.E. Celso Morga Iruzubieta
Secretary of the Congregation for the Clergy
SEDE

June 6, 2012

Your Excellency:

I am writing for the purpose of seeking an urgent clarification of the recent Decree of the Congregation for the Clergy dated May 18, 2012, and accompanying letter of the same date announcing an Apostolic Visitation of Priests for Life.

Bishop Zurek is interpreting the letter regarding the Apostolic Visitation to mean that ***the Congregation is explicitly forbidding him to restore me to active pro-life ministry outside the diocese until the completion of the Apostolic Visitation.*** We are seeking clarification as to whether that is, in fact, the intent of the Congregation.

Upon my receipt of that decree, I immediately contacted His Excellency, the Most Reverend Patrick J. Zurek, for the purpose of providing for the implementation of this decree. This communication took place by telephone on Tuesday, May 29, 2012.

During this telephonic communication, Bishop Zurek informed me that he was restoring, effective immediately, my full faculties for priestly ministry outside the Diocese of Amarillo, and was doing so "without restriction." We discussed some priestly supply work within the Diocese of Amarillo he had recently requested and to which I readily agreed. The Bishop also informed me that I was free to resume taping and broadcasting at EWTN, as well as traveling. Finally, the Bishop informed me that he would take no further action in my regard concerning my priestly ministry with the pro-life movement and with Priests for Life outside the Diocese of Amarillo ***until the Apostolic Visitation of Priests for Life called for by the Congregation had been completed.***

Based upon this conversation with Bishop Zurek and with his complete approval, I proceeded to prepare work with Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) involving video programs to be broadcast addressing various pro-life

issues. However, in order to confirm that this was, in fact, Bishop Zurek's specific intentions in my regard and because of the expenses involved in undertaking this scheduled videotaping, EWTN did contact Bishop Zurek directly on May 29, 2012. The Bishop specifically informed EWTN that I had his complete approval to resume without restriction taping and broadcasting on EWTN. Accordingly, I did so.

However, he did indicate to me the importance of preparing a written communication that would address the decisions that he was making in my regard. In response to an email which I sent to the Bishop on May 28 (cf. enclosed email), I received a written communication from the Bishop dated May 29, 2012 in which he responded to some but not all of the concerns I had communicated. Most notably in this letter Bishop Zurek stated:

Since Cardinal Mauro Piacenza had decided “to conduct an Apostolic Visitation” of the Priests for Life and since I was instructed most firmly by the Archbishop Celso Morga Iruzubieta, Secretary for the Congregation for the Clergy, to delay my decision concerning your pro-life ministry until the completion of the visitation, I am obliged to wait.

Accordingly, in consideration of the Bishop's permission communicated to myself and to EWTN, and in view of the need for me to understand the meaning of the above statement, as well as for the purpose also of addressing the preparation of a written communication and public statement, the Bishop and I therefore scheduled a meeting for June 5, 2012. However, upon my arrival at this meeting, Bishop Zurek made clear to me that his understanding of the Congregation's instruction *had changed*—and that I could do *no work* with or for Priests for Life outside the Diocese of Amarillo. He also stated that while I do enjoy priestly faculties in the Diocese of Amarillo and am under no penalty nor accusation, I was not permitted to exercise any priestly ministry outside of the Diocese -- He said I should do no talks or interviews or public masses (even concelebration). He indicated that *until the completion of the Apostolic Visitation, he could not restore me to active ministry outside the diocese.*

This reversal of Bishop Zurek's previous decision came to me, not only as completely unexpected, but was at obvious variance with his verbal statements to EWTN on May 29. As a result of this reversal on his part, EWTN will experience serious financial consequences due to expense of taping programs it may well not be able to air. Additionally, Priests for Life has also initiated projects and made commitments based upon Bishop Zurek's initial decision which now must be curtailed and/or cancelled with negative financial consequences due to this unexpected reversal on his part.

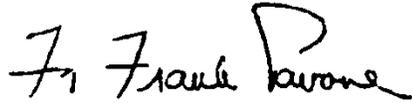
It is the purpose of this letter to urgently seek a clarification of the conditions contained in the Decree that was issued on May 18, 2012.

Our understanding is that while the Bishop has the authority to either permit me to continue my ministry with Priests for Life or to withdraw that permission, this authority is in no way affected by the Apostolic Visitation—which remains beyond the scope of the recourse. Bishop Zurek, on the other hand, seems to be interpreting the decision to mean that *the Congregation is explicitly forbidding him to restore me to active pro-life ministry outside the diocese until the completion of the Apostolic Visitation.* It is for this reason that I am now seeking a clarification

from the Congregation regarding this important matter.

With gratitude and the greatest respect and esteem, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Frank Pavone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "F" and "P".

Fr. Frank Pavone

National Director