

DIOCESE OF AMARILLO

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DECREE

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MISSIONARIES OF THE GOSPEL OF LIFE AS A DIOCESAN RIGHT CLERICAL SOCIETY OF APOSTOLIC LIFE


I am in receipt of a petition submitted by Reverend Frank Pavone, an incardinated priest of the Diocese of Amarillo and National Director of Priests for Life, in which he asks that the Missionaries of the Gospel of Life, of which he is the founder, be erected as a diocesan right clerical society of apostolic life. My administrative, and canonical advisors and I have carefully reviewed the Constitutions of the Missionaries of the Gospel of Life, which were subsequently approved on December 8, 2005, on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, Patroness of the United States of America. We have reviewed Priests for Life's history of tireless service to the Church and world in promoting the Culture of Life by fighting against abortion, euthanasia and all other attacks on human life and in doing so we find that the Missionaries of the Gospel of Life, consisting of men completely dedicated to this apostolate, would give witness to:

1. The call of every Christian to put their faith into action
2. The responsibility of professing Catholic teachings on the sanctity of life
3. The witness to a strong and authentic communion with the local bishop, the Holy See and the Church at large
4. Conformity to and participation in the Church's apostolic goals
5. A commitment to a presence in human society, in fact, the transformation of society from a culture of death to a Culture of Life.

In their Constitutions, which carefully address: the nature of the society and their mission; the vigilance and role of the Bishop and their relationship to the Diocese of Amarillo, Priests for Life and the Church at large; general management and internal functioning; membership; spirituality, education and formation; administration of temporal goods; and other matters, the Missionaries of the Gospel of Life has addressed and met the canonical requirements necessary for erection as a diocesan right clerical society of apostolic life.

I heartily endorse their mission, objectives and means to achieve those aims, which is in full accord with the apostolic and teaching mission of the Church. Therefore, after having carefully reviewed and approved the Constitutions, and after having consulted with canonical and civil legal experts, diocesan presbyteral leaders, diocesan finance council, and the Holy See on various occasions, in accord with canons 579, 588, 589, 731, 732 and 734 of the Code of Canon Law, I hereby erect the Missionaries of the Gospel of Life as a diocesan right clerical society of apostolic life, thereby granting them the right, officially and in the name of the Church, to pursue their apostolic purpose of building the Culture of Life by fighting against abortion, euthanasia and all other attacks on the sanctity and dignity of human life.

Given at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, Amarillo, this 12th day of December, 2005, on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, in whom we entrust this new society and all its pro-life apostolic works.


Reverend Michael Colwell, JCI
Vicar General-Chancellor


Most Reverend John W. Yang
Bishop of Amarillo