

These emails from May of 2014 (read from bottom up) show the willingness of Fr. Frank to cooperate with Cardinal Dolan in working with the Cardinal's appointed person, Thomas Hilton, to conduct a "preventive" audit of Priests for Life.

It was when Fr. Frank's board and legal advisors unanimously told him that the Cardinal was overstepping his authority and making unreasonable demands that the process stopped.

Neil Moran is an accountant for Priests for Life.

Ed Mechmann is an official of the NY Archdiocese, assisting Cardinal Dolan

From: Rev. Frank Pavone (Desktop)
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2014 6:21 PM
To: Thomas E. Hilton
Cc: Neil Moran; Edward Mechmann
Subject: Re: Assistance to Priests for Life

Tom,

Thanks very much for this helpful email. I will be in my office both of the days you indicate, and so will welcome the phone conversation. It might be good to have one or another member of my team on the call as well so that they too can hear from you directly.

My team tells me that I am more demanding and meticulous than most secular employers that they know, so making necessary reforms will certainly not be a problem. The priority we always keep in mind is that the structure serves the mission -- but my understanding is that is precisely the point in the first place.

We do have a separate track of activity going on right now, whereby our General Counsel is doing a very detailed review of corporate structure, bylaws, and other things that would intersect apparently with what you're describing here. But we can talk about that in more detail when we connect, and perhaps our General Counsel can join us on the call so that we can together discuss in detail the division of labor.

Thanks in advance for all your help.

Father Frank

Sent from my iPhone

On May 22, 2014, at 4:58 PM, "Thomas E. Hilton" ...

Mr. Hilton responded and made it clear that what he was going to do for us was a "preventive engagement" rather than a "detective engagement."

In other words, we were not being investigated or suspected of any wrongdoing.

We were, instead, being helped to improve our functioning and transparency.

From: Rev. Frank Pavone (Desktop)
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 5:26 AM
To: Neil Moran; Thomas E. Hilton
Subject: Assistance to Priests for Life

Neil and Tom,

I wanted to take this opportunity, now that the two of you have had some initial communication, to check in with you myself and offer some initial perspectives.

First of all, Tom, let me thank you for being part of this process, at the recommendation of Cardinal Dolan. I look forward to meeting with you and working with you.

As Neil knows, the initiative of the Cardinal in putting us in touch with you comes at the tail end of a process we have recently undertaken with the Vatican's Congregation for the Clergy, whom we have approached with the request to be recognized as an international association of the clergy. The Congregation has examined our work closely, issuing a report in November which, among other things, stated that our finances were in order and relatively well managed, and inviting us to continue in the process that could lead to international recognition.

They indicated that we should work with Cardinal Dolan who, since our organization is based in New York, is the "competent authority" under Canon Law.

One of the things that the Congregation indicated he could do for us was to issue a "letter of good standing" for Priests for Life, so that there would be no doubt in the minds of the other bishops that, as the Vatican report said, our work and finances are in order.

When we met with the Cardinal in March (the meeting including Neil Moran along with our canon lawyer, civil lawyer, and myself), he indicated that, in order to provide him with yet another layer of certainty above and beyond the Vatican's report, he wanted to be able to say that he had someone of his own choosing look at our finances. Therefore, Tom, he put us in contact with you.

We discussed at the meeting what the most reasonable way of proceeding would be, and agreed that to have the two of you meet for a few days to review our finances would be a good next step.

I look forward, then, to working with you both on this process.

Thanks again
Fr. Frank

