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September 19, 2011

Via First Class Mail and Electronic Mail

Bishop Patrick Zurek, Bishop of Amarillo
P.O. Box 5644
Amarillo, TX 79117

Re: Father Frank Pavone

Your Excellency:

By way of introduction, I currently serve as the President of Care Net, a national affiliation organization of over 1,150 pro-life pregnancy resource centers serving over 400,000 clients annually in the United States and Canada. Our mission is to promote a culture of life within our society in order to serve people facing unplanned pregnancies and related sexual issues. We seek to compassionately care for women and provide the truth about abortion in defense of the preborn.

Our organization recently learned of Father Pavone's restriction from public ministry outside of the Diocese of Amarillo, notably restricting Father Pavone from his on-going work at Priests for Life. As the leader of dozens of staff and consultants, and of a membership network including over a thousand pregnancy centers, I sympathize with your need to maintain accountability and supervision of your subordinates. Nonetheless, I write to share with you my very positive experiences with Father Pavone and to humbly ask that you use all efforts to resolve this matter as quickly as possible.

Care Net has joined efforts with Priests for Life and Father Pavone for over a decade in the fight against abortion. For the past several years, Father Pavone has served our pregnancy centers as a speaker at our annual national pregnancy center conference, through his work with Rachel's Vineyard and the Silent No More Campaign, and through his general advocacy for the pro-life cause. Care Net considers Father Pavone one of its closest friends and ministry partners.

In all of our work we have found Father Pavone to be honest, transparent, dependable, humble, generous to others, and sacrificial of himself. I have observed Father Pavone actively and effectively creating positive change for the benefit of society, the preborn, and women facing the pains and scars of a past abortion. Because of Father Pavone's tireless work, countless children lives have been saved and women have found healing from their past abortions.

I fear that the removal of Father Pavone from his work at Priests for Life, even temporarily, will have a disastrous effect on the pro-life movement. As one example, Father Pavone is now unable to attend our annual pregnancy center conference next week and will therefore be unable to present information regarding the Silent No More Campaign to over 1200 attendees.

We at Care Net will continue to pray for you and Father Pavone, as well as the other parties involved, for wisdom and a speedy resolution.

Thank you for your kind attention to this letter and for all you do in service of Christ's kingdom.

Very Truly Yours,



Melinda Delahoyde
President