



COUPLES FOR CHRIST
FOUNDATION FOR FAMILY AND LIFE
Renewing the Family and Defending Life



STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF FR. FRANK PAVONE

We in Couples for Christ Foundation for Family and Life - USA are saddened by the news that Fr. Frank Pavone has been recalled to the Amarillo Diocese by his bishop, Most Reverend Patrick Zurek. We do not understand why such an action is necessary and believe that Fr. Pavone be given the opportunity to continue his much-needed ministry in Priests for Life.

We believe that Fr. Pavone is the main reason why Priests for Life has grown to be the leading Pro-life voice of the Catholic Church in the US today. With his passion in defending the unborn, his eloquence in exposing the evils of abortion while being sensitive and compassionate in reaching out to the supporters, participants, and victims of the abortion industry, and his great managerial and people skills, Fr. Pavone has not only positioned Priests for Life to stand in the gap in the fight to end abortion in the US but he has also awakened many Catholics to the great need for both the laity and the clergy to pro-actively rise in defense of the millions of babies that are killed through abortion.

We are grateful to Fr. Pavone for the help he has extended CFCFFL particularly in providing keynote speakers for our national Pro-life conferences which had Fr. Peter West in 2010 and Fr. Pavone himself in 2011. In each case, Priests for Life did not charge a fee for the speaking engagements and yet the talks were exactly what we the laity needed to hear from the Church but which unfortunately is not preached from the pulpit on Sundays. There has been much success in Fr. Pavone's ministry in Priests for Life that has inspired many Catholics to rally behind the cause for defending the innocent unborn and we in CFCFFL believe that taking out Fr. Pavone from Priests for Life will have an adverse effect on this very important aspect of the Church's work and voice. Fr. Pavone is ideally equipped to be the inspiring leader of Priests for Life and thus we respectfully request Bishop Zurek to allow Fr. Pavone to continue serving in what we believe should be his full-time ministry.

We offer our prayers for both Bishop Zurek and Fr. Pavone that their meeting on Fr. Pavone's assignment will result in mutual understanding and pave the way for Fr. Pavone's return to active leadership in Priests for Life. We pray that Bishop's Zurek's review of the finances of Priests for Life will reveal that all donations to the organization were spent prudently and faithfully in the mission of defending the right to life of the unborn and with due stewardship of the monies that belongs to the Church.

Lastly, we pray that the Holy Spirit descend upon Bishop Zurek and Fr. Pavone that their relationship not only be restored but even strengthened as comrades in arms in the fight to defend life. We the laity in CFCFFL so fervently pray in the mighty name of Jesus and through our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of Pro-life.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Manny E. Hernandez', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Manny Hernandez, 09/22/11

CFCFFL-USA National Pro-life Coordinator