

## *Saint Charles Rectory*

### MEMORANDUM

To: Fr. George Thompson  
From: Fr. Frank Pavone  
Re: Change of assignment

June 30, 1993

As you requested, I have summarized here what has transpired regarding my work and plans for next year.

I have been here at St. Charles since my ordination in 1988. Together with my parish work, I have worked extensively in two other areas: teaching theology and doing pro-life work. I have both the desire and ability to make a contribution in these areas beyond what my present obligations allow me to do.

In May I wrote to Cardinal O'Connor and told him that the pro-life movement had become a dominant theme in my life. I have been in the movement for over half my life, but now, as more opportunities have opened up, I have felt more of an obligation to dedicate myself to the defense of life, especially of the unborn. Because of the nature and extent of the abortion/ euthanasia problem, I feel at this time that I cannot proceed with my life "business as usual," but rather must address these issues with all the strength and resources at my disposal. In other words, I am being drawn not by a mere preference or interest, but by a strong demand of conscience. I have done speaking, writing, TV work, counseling, and organizing of a wide variety of pro-life events; I would like to continue to do so on a wider scale. Of course, I would need more freedom to be able to organize and do this work and, as the opportunity presents itself, to be involved in the direct rescue of pre-born babies.

At the same time that I felt the need to request the opportunity for more pro-life involvement, the Priests for Life group, under the direction of Fr. Lee Kaylor, asked me if I would assume leadership as the National President of the movement, and as the co-ordinator of the East Coast Region. I expressed my willingness to him, but told him that I would have to await permission of the Cardinal.

As a result of all this, I met briefly with the Cardinal on May 26. He told me that he would consider my request, and would speak with Msgr. Woolsey.

In assuming leadership of Priests for Life, it would be helpful (but not necessary) to live in a parish not too far from

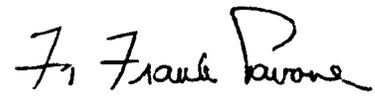
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lower Westchester, where I would have proximity to a network of people I know who could provide assistance in this work, as well as proximity to the resources of the seminary.

Regarding allocation of my time, I request to do the pro-life work full-time. If, however, that is impossible, I would like to be able to give three days a week to this activity and to be able to get to major pro-life events.

Regarding finances, if I were to work full-time or even most of the time on these pro-life efforts, I would be quite content with a place to stay and the stipends that would come from daily Mass. I do not think that much progress will be made in what I want to do for the unborn unless I make significant financial sacrifices, which I have already been doing and am more than ready to do even more. I have never allowed the finance issue to be an obstacle to the work itself, and do not want it to be one in the future. I already have a substantial account dedicated exclusively to this work.

I am willing to discuss different alternatives to this proposal if the Cardinal's desires and the needs of the Archdiocese so dictate. I am very grateful for the guidance that he and you are giving me.

  
Fr. Frank Pavone