

INTERNATIONAL PROLIFE YOUTH CONFERENCE 2011

951.750.1114 PO Box 52708, Riverside CA 92517 conference@survivors.la

November 8, 2011

Most Reverend Patrick J. Zurek, S.T.L., D.D.

Bishop of Amarillo

PO Box 5644

Amarillo TX 79177

Dear Bishop Zurek,

On November 11-13, exactly one week from today, our youth organizations—Survivors, Ireland's Youth Defence and Students for Life of America—will host the first International ProLife Youth Conference (www.internationalprolifeyouth.com) to take place in the United States.

When we first came together to plan this event, we weren't sure who we would be able to attract to our first ever youth-organized and youth-led International Conference.

When Msgr. Pilato agreed to let us use St. Matthias High School as our conference center, we were thrilled. But the question immediately arose: Who do we ask to be our keynote? Who would come to a first year conference led by youth groups? Then Fr. Frank Pavone told us he would love to come. We were overjoyed, and so incredibly thankful!

Now, however, at the prospect of our conference losing its keynote speaker and internationally recognized leader in the fight for life, our joy is greatly diminished. We created the Conference to be a powerful catalyst for developing new leadership in the pro-life movement, and we feel that no one can better start that work than Fr. Pavone.

That is why we are asking, humbly, for you to please consider giving Fr. Pavone your permission to speak at our conference. We know and respect that without your permission he will not be there.

Fr. Pavone, along with Priests for Life, and the many other ministries associated with him have long since held aloft the Light of Life for the world to see. Often times when others would not.

Fr. Pavone himself has personally ministered to the broken young men and women of our generation that abortion has left stripped and hurting. He is an inspiration to the young people

in this movement, a pro-life leader who believes in empowering the godly people of this nation and the world to rise up and stand against the evils of abortion. He is vital, absolutely vital, to our conference.

In fact, many people are coming just to hear Fr. Pavone speak. Every day we receive more and more calls from pro-life groups and parishes asking whether or not he will be there. We have tried to remain calm in this matter, however, we have no idea what we will do if you do not allow him to come--not just because he is our main speaker, or because we think his presence will draw a large crowd. In all truth, we simply have no idea how we will look into the face of the youth, especially those in the Catholic Church, and tell them that the leader who has inspired so many of us to act on behalf of our preborn brothers and sisters will not be coming.

You see, it is not just the conference that will suffer if Fr. Pavone is denied attendance; it is the heart and spirit of a young generation that will be broken. And not broken by the outside world, which we already know to be evil, but broken by the one institution in this present darkness where we look to for leadership, refuge and inspiration: the Church.

Please, Bishop Zurek, that is not a disappointment and discouragement the young people in our faith need endure. Our cross is to carry the message of Life to a dying world, and this conference was organized to energize and equip young people, and to cultivate new relationships in the global pro-life movement so that we may end abortion. We know, just as Fr. Pavone knows, that we are the generation that can end abortion. But we need strong, committed and experienced pro-life leaders like Fr. Frank Pavone to show us the way.

Please allow Fr. Pavone to attend our conference. Please allow him to come among us, speak words of wisdom and life, and teach a wounded generation how to gather their strength, look to their God, and end the brutal murder of their unborn brothers and sisters. We know that God will bless our nations for it. And we know that God will bless you for allowing Fr. Pavone to be a part of it.

The Peace of the Lord be with you,

Sarah Howell, age 27
IPYC Coordinator
CEC For Life (IPYC Co-Sponsor)

Kristina Garza, age 25
IPYC Planning Committee and Speaker St. Peter & St. Paul, Alta Loma, CA