

October 24, 2021

His Excellency, Andrés Gabriel Ferrada Moreira  
Titular Archbishop-elect of Tiburnia  
Secretary, Congregation for the Clergy  
00120 Vatican City

Your Excellency,

I understand by the recent fax received from the Congregation for the Clergy that it is your expectation that I meet in some fashion with Bishop Patrick Zurek to receive the contents of the recent decree.

I can only conclude that the process by which this instruction was formulated somehow bypassed the record in this case, and the clear evidence that Bishop Zurek is both incompetent to carry out this duty in an intelligible manner, and likewise devoid of the good will toward me that such a process requires.

Again, the record in this case speaks for itself, and I again request that this record be reviewed by the Congregation so that you can have a clear understanding that any meeting or communication between me and Bishop Zurek will not happen at any time in the future.

Let me first address just some of the evidence of Bishop Zurek's incompetence. I refer Your Excellency to the letter sent to me by this Congregation on 26 March 2012 (Prot. N. 20120747), during the time that Bishop Zurek and I were meeting regarding the recourse I had placed at that time. While the letter clearly outlines the scope of the conversation that was to occur between me and Bishop Zurek, the bishop, who had received an identical letter, told me in the meeting that this letter indicated that *I had withdrawn the recourse*.

Clearly, Your Excellency, this indicates a fundamental incompetence on the part of Bishop Zurek to understand the most basic communications from the Congregation on the most simple matters. You can understand, therefore, why I would doubt his ability to properly understand or communicate an entire decree.

I also refer Your Excellency to the letter sent to me by this Congregation on 11 July 2012 (Prot. N. 20122139) which made clear at that time that Bishop Zurek "is free to grant or to withhold permission for you to minister outside of the Diocese."

Compare this to his letter to me of May 29, 2012 in which he stated, "I was instructed most firmly by the Archbishop Cleso Morga Iruzubieta, Secretary of the Congregation of the Clergy, to delay my decision concerning your pro-life ministry until the completion of the visitation" and therefore "I am obliged to wait."

Your Excellency, either the bishop was lying or was incompetent, yet again, to understand the most basic instructions of the Congregation.

That brings me to the second set of concerns. The record sent to this Congregation shows the animus with which Bishop Zurek has treated me over these last 13 years. He presented a false narrative

to the entire Administrative Committee of the US Bishops' conference that I had doubts about my priesthood and had undertaken a retreat to discern whether I should leave. No such thing ever happened.

Moreover, he presented a false narrative to all the US Bishops in regard to my management of the finances of Priests for Life, asking them to discourage contributions to this ministry. This Congregation had to correct the record in its Visitation report (Prot. N. 20133327) "*The financial administration of Priests for Life (Priests for Life) has been publicly called into question. Despite various accounts to the contrary, it is the opinion of the Apostolic Visitor that the Association has been relatively well administered financially... There has been an annual Audit of the Association every year... [T]he work and finances of PFL are in order... [T]he administrative costs of PFL are in keeping with other groups receiving similar funding in the United States.*"

Bishop Zurek has spoken ill of me in private and in public multiple times and has even misrepresented to this Congregation my actions and intentions.

I therefore take this opportunity to inform you that for these and numerous other reasons, many of which have been outlined in detail for this Congregation and are in the record, I cannot under any circumstances now or in the future have any communication with Bishop Zurek, nor will I accept any. He is a malicious abuser, and if he or anyone in his name attempts to establish communication with me, I will consider it an act of harassment and will make recourse to all necessary civil and canonical remedies, and to the court of public opinion.

Moreover, I have already sent to the Holy Father a formal complaint about Bishop Zurek, and I urgently request that before we do anything further with this process, that complaint be handled. There are other complaints against him that will be filed in the coming days.

I also ask Your Excellency to allow me to enter a more profound dialogue with you in the spirit of accompaniment that our Holy Father has insisted upon in the pastoral action of the Church. I would also ask you to concretely help me move under a new bishop immediately – who will support, guide and nurture my priesthood and full-time pro-life ministry, as this is the only real solution to this situation, and which is now only capable of being healed by Your Excellency's paternal intervention.

Sincerely,



Fr. Frank Pavone