

December 1, 2021

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

Your Excellency,

I would like to confirm receipt of your letter of November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, and extend my gratitude for clarifying the Congregation's position in reference to my letter of October 25<sup>th</sup>, which is helpful. In this same spirit of seeking clarity, and as well desiring to give expression to themes of dialogue and accompaniment to our superiors so desired by our Holy Father, please allow me to respond to some of the points made in Your Excellency's letter.

There seems to be a profound misunderstanding with regard to what has transpired over the past 10 years and the nature of my relationship with Bishop Patrick Zurek. I understand that both Your Excellency and the Prefect of the Congregation, His Excellency, the Most Rev. Lazzaro You Heung-sik, have only recently been appointed and that you are both without a doubt facing many new complex cases and challenges, and as such, may not be fully aware, nor have had the time to study, the relevant details of my case. In light of this, please know of my prayers and willingness to discuss openly what has transpired.

The fundamental point I would like to emphasize is that ***I am not being disobedient to the Holy See but am simply asking the Holy See for protection from the abusive behavior of Bishop Zurek towards me!***

The history of this case is long and difficult, and the record clearly reflects a consistent pattern of behavior by Bishop Zurek towards me that is tantamount to calculated and malicious abuse of ecclesiastical power and scandalous animus towards my reputation as an individual and a priest. This is abundantly reflected in the many letters, documents and recourses sent to the Congregation, as well as in the testimonies from numerous individuals in this regard. To briefly list some of Bishop Zurek's continued abuses against me, the following presents some of the abuse confirmed by several decrees from your Congregation:

1. My bishop abused canon law so as to maliciously attack my reputation, thereby declaring in an ecclesiastical document which he sent to the entire USCCB (and which document was leaked to the media and traced to his diocesan office) that I was guilty of deliberate and self-serving financial impropriety. This accusation was proven false by your Congregation's Apostolic Visitation (Cf. Apostolic Visitation Report, Protocol number 2013327 of November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013).
2. Against the precepts of canon law, my bishop repeatedly abused procedural laws, such as not appointing an Instructor of a Case, and of failing to convene me to allow for my defense in all of his previous canonical cases against me.
3. Against the precepts of canon law, my bishop has repeatedly imposed the penalty of suspension on me, all of which have been declared invalid by your Congregation, not only *in procedendo*, but also *in discernendo*.

In view of Bishop Zurek's continued propensity to do me harm, to declare false things against me and to spread malicious rumors, I cannot imagine how I can be made to face this man,

without the grave and certain risk that my encounter with him will not be used by him to spread lies or make false allegations. I would thus ask you, so as to avoid even greater scandal, to please review the record of this case and not be complicit in allowing the abuse from this Bishop to continue.

My desire is to see a resolution in which all can "win", and to bring healing through recognition of the truth and the reality of the events that have transpired, in such a way that we can all move on without causing greater scandal to our beloved Church.

With promise of my prayers, and sentiments of my devout esteem, I would ask Your Excellency to please remember me and the unborn children and families whom I serve in your prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Fr. Frank Pavone