Begin: Dear Bishop Knestout

(OR) Your Excellency

Greetings in the name of Christ. I pray this finds you doing well.

**Tell the bishop why you are writing. Suggestions:**

I am very unhappy with the suspension of Fr. Mark White.

I do not believe the suspension of Fr. Mark White was fair.

I need my priest who has been through so much with me and helped me in so many way.

It is very difficult not having Fr. Mark to help us through the Covid crisis.

**Tell the bishop why you think the suspension was not fair. Suggestions:**

Fr. Mark wrote only the truth in an effort to make others aware of the problem.

Fr. Mark wanted to help the victims of McCarrick and other predators by bringing the problem into the open and making people aware of what had happened.

Fr. Mark did offer his apology if anything he wrote had offended you or anyone in any way.

Fr. Mark offered to have others look at his blog before publishing it in order to avoid any future problems.

Fr. Mark has expressed his desire for reconciliation and that he might return to his parishes.

**Tell the bishop about your other concerns. Suggestions:**

You [bishop] are not willing to accept Fr. Mark's apology and allow him to return to to us as our priest. The Church teaches forgiveness but you don't want to forgive Fr. Mark.

We were embarrassed at what you [bishop] published in the Martinsville Bulletin about the situation between himself and Fr. Mark. This did not put the Church in a good light.

Canon laws were ignored during Fr. Mark's appeal to Rome. It seemed that you [bishop] were more concerned about making sure Fr. Mark did not get a fair hearing than about being honest and just.

We feel that you [bishop] attempted to bring us to you “side” and turn us against Fr. Mark by doing things like arriving unexpectedly for the Mass and using the homily to tell us your side of the matter.

You [bishop] took Fr. Mark away from us when we needed him most, during the pandemic!

The way you [bishop] have treated Fr. Mark makes it hard for us to trust you. You write and talks about everyone getting along and loving God, but the way you have treated Fr. Mark is not one of love and forgiveness.

**Tell the bishop what you are asking for.**

Please reconcile with Fr. Mark and return him to us as our priest. We know him and we trust him. We need him, his love and caring.