Dear Bishop Knestout:

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

I am very unhappy that Fr. Mark White is still suspended. I write to you today to ask that you allow him to return as our priest.

I think that you suspended Fr. Mark because you did not want him to write about the problem with McCarrick and the abuse in the Catholic church. Fr. Mark loves God and the Catholic church. Fr. Mark wrote about the problem because he believed that this was God's will for him to do. Fr. Mark has offered an apology for anything he wrote that offended you or anyone in any way. He has let you know that he wanted to find a way to reconcile.

Your decision to suspend Fr. Mark has hurt parishioners. We have been left without our priest that we know and trust. We were publicly embarrassed by your letter posted in the Martinsville Bulletin. That did not put the Church in a good light. When you took over a live-streamed Mass you used your homily to speak against Fr. Mark. I do not understand why you think it was right to try to turn us against our own priest.

Please show to Fr. Mark, and to us, the mercy and forgiveness that you have preached about.

We are not just bodies sitting in a pew, we are the people who need to see their bishop set the example for all of us.

I humbly and respectfully ask that you return Fr. Mark White to us as our priest. Please let the healing begin. Please give us a reason to trust and believe in you, our bishop.

Sincerely,