**SAMPLE LETTER #2: THEME - WHAT DID YOU KNOW? 2/3/21**

Your Excellency:

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

I am concerned about the continuing suspension of Fr. Mark White as priest of two parishes. I have supported Fr. Mark throughout this unfortunate situation. I love my Church, and believe it is the one true faith. I believe that Fr. Mark White lives that faith dutifully and totally. I feel that Fr. Mark's concern and comments in his personal blog over the delayed release of the McCarrick report led to much of what has transpired.

Are you aware that for many in the Diocese, concerns over your relationship to McCarrick has “tainted” your time here as bishop? In your 2018 letter to parishioners of our Diocese, you wrote, “I can tell you I was not approached by anyone with any allegations or evidence of sexual harassment or abuse involving [McCarrick].” This sounded very evasive.

So, I have these questions:

1. The report details how, when McCarrick's candidacy for promotion to New York fizzled, Cardinal Hickey, who had long been McCarrick's ally, intervened in McCarrick's favor for his promotion to Washington. Did you know about this?

2. As disclosed in the report, Archbishop Lori because aware of the situation through Cardinal Hickey in December of 2001. Did you know about that?

3. Cardinal Wuerl know about McCarrick's sexual harassment. You worked closely with Cardinal Wuerl for years. Did you know about this?

5. If you did not already know about McCarrick's sexual harassment of subordinates, did you learn about it from Cardinal Wuerl?

In view of the contents of the report and knowing your path to Bishop of the Richmond Diocese, I have to ask these questions. I believe the people in the Diocese deserve an answer.

Whatever your answers to these question, the most important issue is that Fr. Mark White should not be punished because of his desire to bring the truth to light. Therefore, I would also ask for the reinstatement of Fr. Mark White to the two parishes. His presence is needed, and his return could do much to heal the hurt parishioners have experienced due to his suspension, as well as demonstrate to all the charity of forgiveness which the Church teaches.

Sincerely,