Your Excellency,

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

During the past years of 2019-2020, Fr. Mark White wrote in his personal blog about his concerns with the issue of sexual harassment by the now laicized Theodore McCarrick and the long-delayed but promised report. Eventually his decision to continue to pursue this matter despite your objections resulted in his suspension as priest of two thriving parishes. Now the McCarrick Report has finally been issued. Certain names appeared in the report; certain names did not. But it is done, for what it is worth.

The Church teaches us about forgiveness. It teaches us that we are required to forgive others, just as God forgives us. The church teaches that we cannot expect to be forgiven if we are not willing to forgive. You have written about the need for care and reconciliation, about bringing us closer to each other.

Many of us have repeatedly written to you requesting that you allow Fr. Mark to resume his ministry, which is sorely needed. He was and is an exceptional priest. The parishes need his maturity and experience to continue to grow and thrive.

Fr. White has already apologized for anything he wrote in his blog that may have offended you or others. He has asked to be allowed to return to his ministry. He remains suspended. Why?

We again ask that you return Fr. Mark White as our priest. In doing so, you can demonstrate to all that forgiveness is not reserved only for those in the hierarchy of the church. You can demonstrate your compassion for a priest under your care. You can help the healing to begin. In a world that seems at times to be falling apart around us, you can offer a point of steadiness. We need a bishop that we can trust. That is sadly lacking at this point in time.

Sincerely,