Your Excellency:

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

In brief, Fr. Mark White was suspended in 2020 as a result of your disapproval of what he wrote in his personal blog about the McCarrick scandal and how others in the hierarchy of the church were involved and sought to “cover up” the information. Of specific concern was the long-awaited McCarrick Report.

What did the suspension of Fr. Mark accomplish? It brought hurt to parishioners who could only watch helplessly, whose pleas to you went unheeded, who saw a bishop willing to do anything in order to silence a priest who spoke the truth about an unsavory matter that was a disgrace in the Catholic church. It has shown the public, indeed the world, that the truth is of less importance to the hierarchy of the Church than maintaining the illusion of “holiness.”

Finally, this year, the McCarrick report was released. It clearly demonstrated the problem of “secrecy” among the hierarchy of the Catholic church. Information was known and shared, yet not acted upon in a timely manner. But, it is finally published, for what it is worth.

So, what reason is there to continue to punish a good priest for speaking the truth? If you felt a need to suspend him in order to demonstrate your power over him, then you have done so. There is nothing to be gained by continuing this suspension and much to be gained by lifting the suspension so that he may return to his work.

I respectfully urge you to return Fr. Mark to the two parishes he served. We need him as our priest to help us through this time, and we need to have our faith in the hierarchy of the Church restored.

Sincerely,