

April 11, 2022

(Via email to all known or public email addresses for every active priest in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, and published general email address for each parish)

Your Excellencies Archbishop Rozanski, Bishop Rivituso & Vicar Fr. Chris Martin
20 Archbishop May Drive
St. Louis, MO 63119

Re: An urgent plea for priests in the Archdiocese of St. Louis

Your Excellencies & all my brothers in Christ:

“Will you obey Canon Law?”

“Is anyone above God’s Law??”

My brothers in Christ, how can the above questions be controversial, or difficult to answer for Archbishop Rozanski, or Vicar Fr. Chris Martin? Yet they steadfastly refuse.

I do not think that anyone would dare contend that there has not been tremendous evil within our Church, especially in terms of the sexual abuse crisis. But it is much more accurately understood as an “abuse of power” crisis, much more a “Cardinal Wuerl” problem, than an “ex-Cardinal McCarrick” problem. Ultimately, it comes down to authority, and obedience (or disobedience) to God’s Law. Which of you would sign your name to a written statement that any man (priest or bishop) is above God’s Law?

We all know the answer to that as well, thus we should all find it deeply disturbing that Archbishop Rozanski & Vicar Fr. Chris Martin refuse to answer even this most simple & straightforward question. The abuse crisis is still alive in our Church TODAY, and is now coming full-force to the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

I wish I did not know what I know. After almost 30 years as an attorney and insurance claims professional dealing with just about every angle of the on-going abuse crisis, I cannot ignore the facts.¹ In those decades, I have seen many initiatives like “All Things New” (“ATN”). There is nothing “new” about it at all. It is part-and-parcel of the on-going abuse crisis, and the bearing of false witness against the faith, and against any faithful Catholic that dares to speak up. Nonetheless, I am compelled by the Holy Spirit, Canon 212, and Matthew 18 to send this correspondence to each and every one of you.

Truly faithful Catholics pray for you daily, myself included. I am nothing more than a sinner, to be sure, but I not only pray for you daily, I devote Adoration Hours, have Masses said, etc. I hope that they are likewise praying for me, as I seek nothing more than God’s Holy Will to be done. I have no agenda or “cause” of any kind, beyond

¹ Lest any recipient think Abp. Rozanski or Vicar Fr. Martin are “victims” here, I would be more than happy to introduce them to the true victims of the crisis, or show them what true spiritual wreckage these wicked shepherds and hirelings have wrought.

Christ. I also hope that you are willing to pray especially for those like me, who must deal with the filth of the abuse crisis in our daily work, with no end in sight. It is NOT a thing of the past, at all. Even a casual observer with any degree of honesty or integrity can see that the abuse crisis rages on in our Church to this very day (see attached documentation as well). The presence of ex-Cardinal Theodore “Uncle Teddy” McCarrick here in our Archdiocese, in Archdiocesan clergy housing, is proof enough.

I pray that you will read some (if not all) of the attachments. Regardless, you will be held accountable before the Throne of Heaven for what you did (or did NOT) do, or say, regarding ATN, just as I will. I send this out of love for the good & holy priests of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, including Vicar Fr. Chris Martin, precisely because I am his TRUE BROTHER in Christ. I cannot stay silent while he puts his 16+ years as your brother priest on the line. Candidly, and even more importantly, I will not stay silent while they recruit “good german enablers” (like Fr. Chris Martin?), to try to destroy many a priesthood in your ranks.²

We need loving (but orthodox) priests to preach the true gospel, in season and out of season. We need the Sacramental Graces of Holy Mother Church, which we can get ONLY from your consecrated hands. So why would they diabolically plan to create a “surplus” of priests, from unnecessarily deep cuts in parishes, to “re-imagine” sending you into exile in “non-Sacramental” duties, outside the boundaries of the Archdiocese?³

Perhaps it is true that the Church must go through its own Passion. As we enter Holy Week, we should all contemplate deeply what sort of Passion the Archdiocese of St. Louis may now be entering. Rarely do you all see one another in person, face-to-face. But most of you will this week, at the Chrism Mass. Which one (or dozens?) of your brother priests gathered there, would you sacrifice for gain in your clerical career?⁴ In reverently reflecting upon Our Lord’s Passion, can any of you believe that you are above God’s Law, that Archbishop Rozanski is free to disobey Canon Law against any of his spiritual sons, or against the faithful flock here that he does not yet even know?

True Catholics are already responding, and forming groups to support good & holy priests who may be “cancelled” (especially for orthodoxy). While we may all wish it were not necessary, groups like the Coalition for Cancelled Priests are a tragic necessity, given the state of our current USCCB. We will be watching to see if ATN FOLLOWS CANON LAW !!!! And we will be asking you all: “Will Our Lord bless sin, bless disobedience to the Universal (and required) Canon Law of His Spotless Bride, The Church?”

Your true brother in Christ,

Ken R. Battis, JD, CPCU

² IF you do not yet know of Fr. Ken Brown’s January email and plans for you, wake up!!!!

³ That is precisely what Fr. Ken Brown & the Priest Personnel Board, along with Abp. Rozanski, Vicar Fr. Chris Martin and the whole “ATN team” are doing. Please see all of the attached.

⁴ I hope that you ask Vicar Fr. Chris Martin which one(s) he is willing to sacrifice?