

April 9, 2025

VIA EMAIL (where available) and via CERTIFIED MAIL to the Archdiocese

Most Rev. Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski
Most Rev. Bishop Mark Rivotuso
The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. Louis, MO
20 Archbishop May Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63119

RE: Rule 34 Legal Hold Notice
Re: NEW Archdiocesan guidelines and/or process for school-children
vaccination and/or religious exemption process & determination

Your Excellencies Archbishop Rozanski and Bishop Rivotuso:
(and any and ALL of your applicable leadership or those concerned):

It is with sincere regret that I feel absolutely compelled by The Holy Spirit to send yet another such notice to the Archdiocese of St. Louis (hereinafter “Archdiocese” or “AD-STL”), and its leaders. As you know, I do not send any such correspondence except after prayerful reflection, and then always under Canon 212 and Our Lord’s direct command to us, in Matthew 18. I welcome any and all fraternal correction, as this correspondence is once again sent here under those same circumstances of prayer *for* you, and for all of the people of God, reflecting upon and seeking only God’s Holy Will.

I have been working on this letter for some time, trying to get the full truth of these new developments, which are once again shrouded in secrecy and uncertainty by our Archdiocesan leadership. It many in the Rigali center continue to push “sweeping changes,” but shrouded in secrecy, not seeking the Light of Christ. Of course, I am writing about the “new” guidelines being promulgated by the Archdiocese in regard to required vaccinations for AD-STL parochial schools, and the all-important “exemption” process to be followed, once such new vaccination guidelines are promulgated.

It would be difficult to imagine what might more directly impact the laity, than school and vaccination policies and exemptions for our next generation of Catholics?

I respectfully request the favor of a written reply. In particular, and as always, I sincerely beg for fraternal correction under Matthew 18, if you believe it is necessary, and if you contend that anything in this correspondence is inaccurate or in error, *in any way*. I would expect that any such fraternal correction would be sent under the signature of the correcting person, and signed by any such person (if not Your Excellencies). Certainly, I would expect

that any such fraternal correction would be the “official” response or correction of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, and thus at the specific direction of Your Excellency Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski, regardless of any sending party name or signature.

I understand that the AD-STL has promulgated new guidelines or directions to all pastors and parishes who operate a school on their parish grounds (or that have any affiliation with the Catholic Church, or the AD-STL?). At least some portion of those new guidelines or this new “process” was promulgated via email between February 11 and February 15, 2025, to some (or all?) current canonical parish pastors. One would think such an important new set of guidelines or process, affecting tens of thousands of Catholic school children and their parents, in our Archdiocese, would be a matter of public record. But alas, that is not how this current Chancery and Archdiocesan leadership operate. They appear to love the darkness, and shroud what they are “truly” doing in secrecy, thus believing that no one person will ever be accountable (or as the case may be here, “liable”). IF I am mistaken in this regard, I would indeed love to be corrected, and for you to tell me precisely where such new process/guidelines were published publicly, and can be found to this day (i.e. at the Archdiocesan website, etc.). I welcome a clear and unequivocal statement “on the record” in that regard, if any such correction is warranted.

Catholics in this Archdiocese are increasingly frustrated by a lack of communication and transparency on many fronts, including now especially the Church Authority, Canon Law Authority, or even objective medical standards or metrics by which Archdiocesan leaders are trying to “force” parochial school decisions, including now apparently vaccination against the will of the child’s parent(s). Putting canonical pastors into such terrible positions is horrific, especially when the vast majority of them are good and holy priests, who simply want to serve God, and serve their parish flocks.

One would have thought that the Archdiocese’s forced cancellation of Diaconate candidates, for refusing to vaccinate against their will, would have chastened our leadership from engaging in such outrageous conduct. But sadly NO!! However, just like with the abuse crisis, the forced silence or censure of anyone who speaks up about such issues, even by simply asking honest, Show-Me State Catholic questions, demonstrates precisely the opposite. Such silence in the face of wrong-doing always has such effect, when we know that all that is required for evil to flourish, is for “men of good will” to remain silent (paraphrasing this timeless quotation). So sadly, not only are our wicked shepherds and hirelings not chastened, no.....rather they are seemingly emboldened!! Now they bring us a “new” process, absolutely designed to eliminate any child or parent’s valid reason (canonically, or medically) to seeking an exemption to any particular “required” vaccine.

It should be noted that despite forcing (by pressure, silence, cajoling or bullying) many in this Archdiocese and around the world to take the experimental mRNA covid-19 vax without much vetting, no small number of studies and medical evidence continues to come out about those harmed by such vaccines. Indeed, a recent peer-reviewed study out of Slovenia has proven that these vaccines not only contained mRNA, but also “DNA” (without the knowledge of the vaccine recipient). As was made crystal clear in the confirmation hearings of Robert F. Kennedy Jr. (as HHS Secretary for the current administration nationally), no single vaccine, not one of them, is “universally” safe for all persons, in all circumstances. Thus, even the most benign or universally accepted vaccine may have serious or fatal consequences for some portion of the population, and thus there may be a

myriad of valid reasons for not taking that vaccine (or seeking an exemption from any “requirement” to take such a vaccine). Trying to institute a “one size fits all” vaccine model in the AD-STL is nothing short of medical Marxism.

And who will pay the price for such careless or evil conduct? Children of course. How often must our children be the victims of this wicked generation of alleged shepherds and hirelings? But good and holy priests will also pay a steep price! From my reading of even what little I have seen of these “new” guidelines, it is clear that Archdiocesan leaders in the Chancery will be the real “power behind the throne” or the power behind such decisions. But the “language” of the new guidelines asserts that a canonical pastor will be the sole party ultimately in charge of making such decisions. That is correct, they will bully, cajole, blackmail or pressure local priests to deny such exemptions, or make it difficult or near impossible for them to allow or “grant” such exemptions; but in the end, when injuries (and the inevitable lawsuits come), it will be “Father” (as canonical pastor) who finds himself as the named defendant of any such lawsuit. “Father” will be subject to full, electronic ‘discovery’ in the legal realm, as well as a videotaped deposition “on the record.” It is difficult to conceive of a more sinister plan to intentionally put your parish pastors on the firing line, for your clear policy and efforts to “force” vaccinations at will. Just as with covid-19 and their experimental vaccines, Bishops and their Dioceses will be a shill for Big Pharma, worshipping the vaccine or needle, not The Lamb of God. Many wonder if our famed bioethics priest (still serving in an Archdiocesan leadership role for ALL priests in the Archdiocese) will remain complicit/silent, with this new outrage?¹

As Catholics, we absolutely believe in the infinite mercy of Almighty God, even for disgraced clerics, bishops and their “good german” enablers. However, we know from clear Catholic Teaching that they must first seek repentance (and for those whose sins and abuse were so public, a corresponding public repentance may likely be in order). We know that Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ alone, makes all things new!!! Jesus is all-merciful, but in ways we mere humans cannot comprehend, he is simultaneously perfectly just. Can any “good german enabler” to evil and abuse, done in the name of His Spotless Bride, truly expect to escape His perfect justice?

As you know, I have spent more than thirty years as an attorney and insurance professional dealing with the abuse scandal in Holy Mother Church. How can you defend your actions, starting first with bringing ex-Cardinal McCarrick here to the Archdiocese of St. Louis, hiding him in clergy housing, AFTER he was completely laicized by the Vatican? After seeing more than thirty (30) years of the continuing abuse and cover-up in the name of Holy Mother Church, I am compelled to be a “true brother in Christ” to each recipient of this Notice, so that you may know not only your potential legal liability, but clearly hear someone state your potential moral and spiritual “liability,” which is all the more important, and very real. People often ask me when the abuse crisis will end in our Church, and I tell them that in my opinion, it is abundantly clear that it will ONLY end, when there are no more “good german enablers” or “good Catholic enablers” willing to be complicit in their silence.

¹ Many will be paying attention Fr. Peter Fonseca, and I doubt very much that you will be able to avoid being deposited in any such lawsuit as well.

LEGAL NOTICE

TO: His Excellency Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski, and His Excellency Auxiliary Bishop Rivituso, Vicar for Parish Mission and Vitality Fr. Chris Martin, Superintendent of Catholic Education and all Catholic Education personnel in the Archdiocese, and General Counsel Mr. Thomas Buckley, and any other Archdiocesan leader(s) involved in these matters (hereinafter collectively “The Archdiocese” or “Archdiocesan leadership”). You are hereby put on **LEGAL NOTICE**.

This notice includes any Archdiocesan employee or official, leader or leadership designee, and includes but is not limited to, named staff or leadership, and applies to any one with actual or delegated responsibility for the record-keeping or maintenance of any records of any kind related to these matters, in any way.

You are hereby placed on notice **to preserve all documents and electronically stored information, copies and backup, as defined by Rule 34 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (or any state or federal law, or Church or Canonical authority, or Church or INTERNATIONAL equivalent or similar regulation)**, along with any paper files, notes, phone logs or all other records which The Archdiocese or its leadership has or maintains, or is aware of or should maintain, or has custody or control of, or that are, or may be relevant, in any way, to this Notice or any Attachments, all incorporated herein by reference. Accordingly, this Legal Notice includes, but is not limited solely to:

- 1) Any current or past policy or guidelines in regard to “vaccination status” of students attending parochial school in the Archdiocese, or “required” vaccinations;
- 2) Any “new” process or guidelines promulgated in regard to vaccines, vaccination status or “exemption” requests or exemptions from vaccination, of any student or prospective student in parochial or affected schools, in the Archdiocese;
- 3) Any and all records of medical evidence, public policy or records of any kind, including notes of any internal discussions, regarding “why” such a change in vaccination policy or guidelines was considered, or was enacted. This includes but is not limited to any specific requests for information to any medical or bioethics personnel, publications or scholarship in regard to such vaccines, their long-term effects on children, or canonical or theological works or writings in regards to “forcing” vaccinations, or “denying” exemptions of any kind, including but not limited to religious or medical exemptions;
- 4) Any records related to any and all “objective” standards or metrics used or consulted by the Archdiocese, or anyone in their official capacity with the Archdiocese, to evaluate in any way this new process or set of guidelines in regard to vaccinations;
- 5) Any records related to any meetings or discussions, of any kind, in regard to anything related to vaccinations, bioethics or medical safety of students or prospective students in parochial schools in the Archdiocese;
- 6) Any records related to any other Diocese, Bishop or Catholic organization or entity that has instituted the same or even any similar type of “vaccine” or “vaccine exemption” guidelines;
- 7) Any records related to the training or discussions that the Archdiocese will have with its canonical pastors regarding this new process or set of guidelines, including but not limited to what information you will provide to those canonical pastors about their own legal rights, and their own potential (and personal) liability, when enacting any

decisions under these new guidelines, especially including but not limited to any potential “denial” of exemptions (or thus “forced” vaccinations);

- 8) Any records related to the sourcing and vetting of educational materials for the Archdiocese of St. Louis, including specifically the methods and processes for determining that educators, vendors and sources of materials are not violating Catholic Magisterial Teaching. This includes, but is not limited to, all records related to ensuring that Catholic education materials and spending in the Archdiocese does not support Planned Parenthood or any of its related entities, affiliated NGO’s, vendors or promoters, or how the Office of Catholic Education and Formation ensures it is 100% authentically Catholic, and 100% authentically pro-life (including but not limited to the use or presence of aborted fetal cells in the research, testing or vaccinations involved in these matters).

This is a LEGAL NOTICE. The Archbishop and the Archdiocese, or any of its priests, canonical pastors, leaders or individual staff members or designees may be subject to it, and could potentially be subject to deposition testimony under oath, and/or personal liability, for failing to observe its requirements. Such liability could include, but not be limited to, future claimants who allege they were harmed in any way, or their rights were abrogated or impaired in any way, in regard to this matter. Please distribute this Legal Notice as widely as needed or possible within the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

This preservation notice should be disclosed in all future claims, especially prior to any deposition testimony of any Archdiocesan leader or individual on behalf of the Archdiocese. No such current leader nor individual shall be able to deny knowledge of this notice, nor any of the issues related herein.

It is imperative that Archbishop Rozanski himself, and his entire leadership team, and any designee of his authority, and any and every recipient within the Archdiocese of St. Louis understands and is aware of the potential legal (and indeed spiritual) consequences of your conduct, in the past or going forward (by action or omission).

As this is simply (but importantly) a preservation notice (IF, and just in case of) of any future claims or claimants, it is difficult to see how anything in this notice could be considered legally "in error," nor against Church Teaching. Nonetheless, as a faithful son of Holy Mother Church, and pursuant to Matthew 18, I reiterate once again that I would welcome any such correction, fraternal or factual, of any kind.

This notice is not a threat of immediate legal action by anyone, and certainly not by its author. In fact, nor is it a threat of any kind, whatsoever. However, all parties should be aware that it could be produced or used in future legal or canonical proceedings or litigation. God will absolutely judge us all on these matters. Such judgment will include the complicit silence of any who supports (or continue to supports) any abuse of power or scandal(s) within Holy Mother Church. The movie *Spotlight* dealt with the sex abuse scandal as it was exposed by the Boston Globe’s “Spotlight” unit in 2002. The attached May 2023 Associated Press (“AP”) article (attached as Exhibit A, and incorporated herein by reference) makes clear that such abuse and cover-up continues by certain Bishops of our Church, ***to this very day!!*** That movie used the phrase “good germans” to reference all those who enabled

such evil within the Church, by omission or commission, by their being bullied or silenced (or cajoled, blackmailed or bribed by promotion, into such complicit silence). This phrasing for how such evil continues and becomes so widespread within Our Church today is (sadly) “spot-on” accurate.

I note for this record, and for ALL recipients of this notice, that not only was “Bishop Rozanski” a named defendant in the lawsuit that was referenced in that AP article, but so were certain “members of his team.” They were defendants, “by name”.....and thus subject to potential legal liability, and absolutely subject to the legal discovery process, including the potential taking of their personal deposition, under oath. As noted in the AP article, Bishop William Byrne (as successor to Bishop Rozanski), rightly apologized again (to the victim, and to all publicly) about the lies and cover-up that were clearly present, well after the underlying abuse itself. Bishop William Byrne rightly and publicly stated that it was more than merely his predecessor Bishop who denied the truth, but also “members of his team” who participated in that cover-up.

Sadly, it is precisely because of my experience of now more than thirty (30) years as an attorney and insurance professional dealing with the sexual abuse/abuse of power crisis with U.S. Bishops and Dioceses, that I am certain this type of correspondence and record is critically necessary. It seems only the possibility of significant public exposure, or potential legal or canonical consequences, motivate some U.S. Catholic leaders to finally “do the right thing”? Unfortunately, I am equally certain that no matter what any recipient of this letter might “say” now, in regard to these matters.....what the documents and evidence may establish or “prove” later (should they be needed by any relevant claimant or court of competent jurisdiction, including by The Vatican), are often two very different things.

The course & scope of conduct documented already, in bullying or silencing faithful Catholics here in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, since the installation of our 10th Archbishop, is increasingly well known. Certainly, the bullying and silencing of faithful Catholics who simply have honest, Show-Me State Catholic questions about “the most sweeping changes” in our history (in regard to “All Things New” or “ATN”), is a part of that emerging and continuing pattern. Rather than seeking healing in the immediate aftermath of the ATN Pentecost Decrees, by open and transparent dialogue, radical far-left political agendas are being pushed instead, ever more aggressively, by certain Archdiocese leaders.

These include, but sadly are not limited to, seeking to destroy parish schools against the will of a local canonical pastor, and/or its local parishioners, students and parents, who themselves have canonical rights, independent of their canonical pastor. The tactics also include heavy-handed and bullying efforts to “force” priests into retirement, against their will, who are below the published retirement age, and who wish to continue to serve in local parishes. Banishing faithful Catholics (or priests) from their own parish grounds, and/or defaming them as dissident Catholics or somehow “disobedient” or “against The Church” (while they are in fact defending The Faith and their brothers and sisters in Christ), will go down in the annals of history as part of the very same type of shameful abuse of power and cover-up that Bishop Byrne rightly and publicly condemned, as Bishop Rozanski’s immediate successor.

All should keep in mind that electronic discovery and documentation continue to advance in our modern world, and hiding things from long ago was much easier than hiding any

continuing cover-up, or abuse of power today. The faithful flock will not return to the “pay, pray & obey” Catholicism of the 1950’s. In that regard, we are indeed “closer to 2050 than 1950,” as has often been repeated recently by Archdiocesan leaders. The referenced evidence, or its continuing pattern, by any Archdiocesan official or employee, whether in the guise of trying to “force” priest retirements, or “force” parish school closures, or now “force” vaccinations on catholic school children, all against the will and desire of those involved, will come to light eventually, no matter whose “team” some of those officials think they are playing for, right now in their official Church positions.

As repeatedly stated, I am nothing more than a sinner. I am not a theologian. I am certainly not a Canon lawyer. It would seem that it would be EASY for the Archdiocese, with all of its resources, lawyers and theologians, to respond to me in writing, and rebuke or correct me with Canon Law, Magisterial Teaching or Church Authority, if I am stating anything in error, in any way. It would also seemingly be EASY for you to explain to me (and everyone else) how such conduct is not sinful (by commission or omission). Yet, to date, no one has been willing to even attempt it. Not one reply, not one contradiction of even one paragraph, nor one sentence, and certainly not under anyone’s specific name and signature, as a leader or authorized representative of The Archdiocese of St. Louis. Aren’t we all left to wonder exactly why that is?

I continue to pray, sincerely, for your fruitful ministries, including in my daily Rosary. I will continue to encourage all to do the same, regardless of any response (or lack thereof) to this correspondence. Myself and many in the faithful flock here that are defamed regularly by AD-STL officials will nonetheless continue to pray for you, and for The Holy Father and all of our Church leaders, especially our Bishops, as successors of The Apostles. My hope is in Christ, and I wish only for God's Holy Will to be done. I very much thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration of these important matters, and this important Legal Notice. I do hope to receive the favor of a written reply or some "official response" from The Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Your true brother in Christ,

/ s /

Ken R. Battis, JD, CPCU
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Cc: **Vicar Fr. Chris Martin**
Vicar for Parish Mission & Vitality (email only at chrismartin@archstl.org)

Fr. Peter Fonseca (Archdiocesan leader and medical bioethics expert)

Dr. Maureen DePriest (still believed to be the “number 2” in command of parochial education in the Rigali center, but no org chart is published any longer?) (email only catholiceducation@archstl.org)

Mr. Thomas Buckley, General Counsel of the Archdiocese of St. Louis
(via email at tombuckley@archstl.org **and via certified mail**).