



Office of the Bishop

Diocese of Richmond

June 17, 2020

Rev. Mark D. White
c/o St. Joseph Parish Rectory
2481 Spruce Street
Martinsville, VA 24112

Dear Father White:

As your Advocate, Mr. Podhajsky, has told you, the Congregation for Clergy has directed you to leave the assignment as pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Martinsville, and St. Francis of Assisi, Rocky Mount (*Cf.* Prot. N. 2020 1698), in accord with my original letter of April 13, 2020. You are to vacate the rectory by June 20, 2020, and relocate to Jubilee House in Abingdon, Virginia.

His Eminence, Cardinal Stella also indicated to your advocate that you should take your new assignment and I hope you will do so; however, the restoration of your priestly faculties, needed to take on this new work, will be dependent on your taking down your blog, as you were directed by decree and which you acknowledged on November 21, 2019. Specifically:

Reverend Mark White is to cease from this moment in disseminating his opinions by means of any social media: in print, by audio, or video, or any digital means. This includes any personal communications to and from his Ordinary. Any previous posts are to be removed from all social media and the account is to be closed. In the exercise of his pastoral office, Father White is to refrain from all assertions against, or judgments about, the hierarchy of the Church; rather, he is to show the respect and obedience he promised at his ordination. Failure to do so in any of these matters will find Father White subject to additional penalties not excluding loss of office. Given in the Diocese of Richmond on November 21, 2019.

In short, the *vetitum* I issued is still to be observed; and I also ask you to refrain from airing grievances in other media so as to avoid an increase in scandal among both the faithful and others outside the Church. Should you refuse, I would be obliged to consider other courses of action.

I earnestly entreat you to take up your new assignment, and to continue in the ministry for which you were ordained. Please give me your response in writing at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. Barry C. Knestout,
Bishop of Richmond