



Ven, Holy Spirit, Ven!

April 24, 2024

Reverend John Mary Foster
Mission of Divine Mercy, Inc.
P.O. Box 1759
New Braunfels, Texas 78133

Dear Father Foster,

Though you have been prohibited from doing so, I am aware that you continue to publicly celebrate the Eucharist at the Mission of Divine Mercy, Inc. Considering your recent postings, including homilies, on the website of the Mission of Divine Mercy, Inc., I am equally aware of your continued persistence in disobedience to me and your utmost disrespect for our Holy Father, Pope Francis.

Father Foster, as an incardinated priest in the Archdiocese of San Antonio, I once again reach out to you and, as your archbishop and your brother, I ask that you refrain from your disobedience and adhere to the recognized authority of the Church Jesus Christ has entrusted to us.

Even as I await your return to obedience and communion, I direct you to do the following:

1. In withdrawing ecclesiastical approval for the Statutes of the Mission of Divine Mercy; in withdrawing approval for the Mission of Divine Mercy to function as a Catholic apostolate in the Archdiocese of San Antonio; in suppressing the private association of the Christian faithful known as the Mission of Divine Mercy; in suppressing the private juridic person of the Mission of Divine Mercy; and in ordering that those who formed the Mission of Divine Mercy not to collectively use the name Catholic or call themselves a Catholic private association, I hereby order you to immediately remove all photographs of the bishops you have placed on your website and to remove all documents of prior support granting permission and/or support of the Archdiocese of San Antonio to the Mission of Divine Mercy.

These photographs and documents are located on your website in *About Us* category entitled *The Mission* and in the *More* category entitled *Archdiocesan Information*. If there are other areas on your website where references to the Archdiocese of San Antonio are located, I order that they also be immediately removed.

2. In the decree of suppression issued to you on March 15, 2024, I also ordered that the allocation of the goods of the former association be determined according to the norm of

CIC canon 326 § 2, without prejudice to the acquired rights and the intention of the donors. Distribution of the assets is not determined by Archdiocese of San Antonio; full responsibility for the lawful distribution of assets rests with the officers of Mission of Divine Mercy, Inc. The Archdiocese has never attempted nor threatened to seize any property or funds the Mission of Divine Mercy has accumulated. I have only ordered, as stated in the decree cited above, that the intention of the donors to Mission of Divine Mercy, Inc. be respected.

Through articles of incorporation, you have assured that civil law protects the assets of Mission of Divine Mercy, Inc. With the suppression of the Mission of Divine Mercy as a private association of the Christian faithful, and its private juridic status revoked, I urge you to inform your donors that they are contributing to the Mission of Divine Mercy, Inc., a civilly incorporated entity, and not to an approved Catholic organization/apostolate.

In your newsletter published on April 5, 2024, you state: *“Thank you for considering a donation in support of the Mission of Divine Mercy. The Mission has no regular source of income, and we receive no diocesan funding. Every bit of support comes from people like you; people whom God introduces to the Mission. We try to steward your money wisely and make each dollar work hard for Him and for His people”*. Father Foster, I direct you remove the reference, *“and we receive no diocesan funding”* from your newsletter in order to ensure that the people of God understand that the Mission of Divine Mercy, Inc. is a civil entity and has nothing to do with the Archdiocese of San Antonio nor the Catholic Church itself.

3. While accepting their donations, receiving the gifts of property, and benefiting from various types of in-kind services, I urge you to remind your generous benefactors that you have declared, in your own words, that Pope Francis, the Supreme Authority of the Catholic Church, whom you irreverently refer to as Bergoglio is *“acting as the enemy of Christ and His Church. God is telling us that the Throne of Peter is occupied by a usurper, and we should not submit to him nor those who are carrying out his unjust designs”*? (*We Must Obey God*, p. 11).

Father Foster, you state you are not leaving the Church or being schismatic, and yet your words and actions speak otherwise (*We Must Obey God*, p. 12). You persist in your disobedience to the recognized authority of the Catholic Church, all the while you are accepting donations from God’s faithful to support you and the members of the Mission of Divine Mercy, Inc.

4. Remind your supporters, Father Foster, of your statement that I am *“...enthusiastically following Bergoglio, whom we do believe is trying to subvert the Church”* (*We Must Obey God*, p. 10). I am being obedient to Christ’s Vicar on earth and faithful to the promises I made on the day of my ordination and to the Oath of Fidelity and the Profession of Faith I made upon my ordination to the priesthood and the episcopacy. The same promises you made on the day of your ordination, Father Foster. How can you do what you are doing and say what you are saying, while also saying that you have not left the Church? (*We Must Obey God*, p. 12).

5. Father Foster, in fraternal concern for you, the members of Mission of Divine Mercy, Inc., and those of the faithful who continue to support you, and in light of your comments cited above regarding our Holy Father, Pope Francis, I understand you, when celebrating Mass, are omitting the name of our Holy Father in the Eucharistic Prayer. I have reviewed an audio recording of your illicit celebration of the Sunday Mass on April 21, 2024 in which you omitted the words, “*Francis our Pope*” from the first Eucharistic Prayer, modifying the prayer to: “*and bring her to the fullness of charity, together with Gustavo our bishop, and...*”

Father Foster, liturgical law, as dictated in the rubrics of the Mass, according to the Roman Missal, do not allow for any alterations or omissions. I remind you of the following highlighted areas:

Eucharistic Prayer I:

To you, therefore, most merciful Father, we make humble prayer and petition through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord: that you accept and bless + these gifts, these offerings, these holy and unblemished sacrifices, which we offer you firstly for your holy catholic Church. Be pleased to grant her peace, to guard, unite and govern her throughout the whole world, together with your servant N. our Pope and N. our Bishop, and all those who, holding to the truth, hand on the catholic and apostolic faith.

Eucharistic Prayer II:

Remember, Lord, your Church, spread throughout the world, and bring her to the fullness of charity, together with N. our Pope and N. our Bishop and all the clergy.

Eucharistic Prayer III:

May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation, we pray, O Lord, advance the peace and salvation of all the world. Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity your pilgrim Church on earth, with your servant N. our Pope and N. our Bishop, the Order of Bishops, all the clergy, and the entire people you have gained for your own. Listen graciously to the prayers of this family, whom you have summoned before you: in your compassion, O merciful Father, gather to yourself all your children scattered throughout the world.

Eucharistic Prayer IV:

Therefore, Lord, remember now all for whom we make this sacrifice: especially your servant, N. our Pope, N. our Bishop, and the whole Order of Bishops, all the clergy, those who take part in this offering, those gathered here before you, your entire people, and all who seek you with a sincere heart.

Father Foster, I remind you of the following liturgical law and authoritative teachings of the Catholic Church regarding the celebration of the Most Holy Eucharist:

Redemptionis Sacramentum: 59. *The reprobated practice by which priests, deacons or the faithful here and there alter or vary at will the texts of the Sacred Liturgy that they charged to pronounce, must cease. For in doing this, they render the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy unstable, and not infrequently distort the authentic meaning of the Liturgy.*

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal: Nevertheless, the priest must remember that he is the servant of the Sacred Liturgy and that he himself is not permitted, on his own initiative, to add, to remove, or to change anything in the celebration of Mass. [GIRM§ 24]

Sacrosanctum Concilium, 22.3: Therefore, no other person, even if he be a priest, may add, remove, or change anything in the Liturgy on his own authority.

Redemptionis Sacramentum states: 51. Only those Eucharistic Prayers are to be used which are found in the Roman Missal or are legitimately approved by the Apostolic See, and according to the manner and the terms set forth by it. "It is not to be tolerated that some priests take upon themselves the right to compose their own Eucharistic Prayers" [Pope John Paul II, *Vicesimus quintus annus*, n. 13] or to change the same texts approved by the Church, or to introduce others composed by private individuals [Instruction *Inaestimabile donum*, n. 5].


Desiderio Desideravi: 19. The action of the celebration does not belong to the individual but to the Christ-Church, to the totality of the faithful united in Christ.

23. Let us be clear here: every aspect of the celebration must be carefully tended to (space, time, gestures, words, objects, vestments, song, music...) and every rubric must be observed. Such attention would be enough to prevent robbing from the assembly what is owed to it; namely, the paschal mystery celebrated according to the ritual that the Church sets down.

36. Let us always remember that it is the Church, the Body of Christ, that is the celebrating subject and not just the priest.

Father Foster, by your actions, in omitting the prayer for the Holy Father during the celebration of the Mass, you have separated yourself from the Catholic Church and are further provoking misunderstanding and scandal among the people of God. I urge you to retract what you published in *We Must Obey God*, cease publishing the alleged prophecies, until they can be evaluated by proper Church authority, recant your disobedience to legitimate Church authority, and discuss with me how to begin repairing the damage caused by your actions. I am prepared to meet with you once again.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Gustavo Garcia-Siller, MSpS
Archdiocese of San Antonio