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October 1, 2018

Reverend Carl Morello  
Pastor, St. Giles Parish  
1025 Columbian Avenue  
Oak Park, IL 60302-1327

Dear Father Morello,

Having received the letter from your parishioners, I want to assure you that I have, and will, strongly advocate that all bishops exercise transparency in disclosing the names of deacons, priests and bishops who have credible accusations against them, much as we have done here in Chicago. Secondly, as to the issue of lifting sanctions, while I know that the Holy See has already indicated that a statement is being prepared, I also have learned through the media that Pope Benedict apparently indicated that he never imposed any sanctions or restrictions on Archbishop McCarrick in the first place. It may be that the statement being prepared will address this more fully, but it appears that there were indeed no sanctions to lift.

Please feel free to communicate this information to those signing the document. Also assure them that we have a solid record in this archdiocese of being transparent in informing parishioners of clerical misconduct involving either minors or adults, that we report all allegations of child abuse to law enforcement, we reach out to victims with pastoral care and we remove priests from ministry. What has happened elsewhere is troubling to our people and to me, and we should be troubled. The bishops made promises in 2002 and we need to know now what happened in those cases in which those promises were not kept.

Please thank your people for speaking out and let them know that I fully support their aspirations for truth and justice.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
Archbishop of Chicago