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Dear Fr. Ramolla,

When a copy of your Sunday bulletin was e-mailed to me yesterday, I was saddened by your lack of honesty when you made reference to my dismissal of the seminarians. You know very well that the real issue has been your association with Bishop Slupski and Bishop Petko and that it was for this reason the seminarians were dismissed.

I have made it clear that I cannot be associated with Bishop Slupski for the following reasons:

- 1) he has shown a complete disregard for the law of celibacy by the ordination of married men;
- 2) he has illicitly ordained men without any seminary training;
- 3) he “consecrated” Ryan Scott who was doubtfully baptized, married, divorced, a convicted felon, and ordained three times.

So flagrant has Bishop Slupski’s conduct been that even Bishop McKenna was obliged to apologize for consecrating him a bishop:

“I most sincerely regret having... consecrated Bishop Frank Slupski in spite of the fear that he might in turn, consecrate Ryan Scott.” (Open Letter to Traditionalist Catholics; Oct. 3, 2010 Bishop Robert McKenna, OP.)

This problem also extends to Bishop Petko. He was in an extreme dilemma after his departure from the Fraternity of St. Peter when he was doubtfully ordained by Ryan Scott and functioned as a priest in a small Mass center. He not only was ordained conditionally by Bishop Slupski to the priesthood but only two months later was consecrated bishop. Although I was relieved to hear he was conditionally ordained a priest, I was dismayed that there was once again a complete disregard for the laws of the Church that bishops be at least 5 years in the priesthood before they are consecrated. There was no emergency that called for this exception.

As I wrote to you in the past, all this is so similar to the schismatic Old Catholics.

The real issue is then that the seminarians who were dismissed would eventually be associated with you, Bishop Slupski and Bishop Petko. Back in July, I had written to you:

“The purpose of Mater Dei Seminary is to train priests who will eventually work under my direction. As this will not be the case with them, I do not want to be used merely to provide them with legal status in this country and to ordain them to the priesthood only to have them work under another bishop.”

The other reason for the dismissal of the seminarians was that two of them had already made arrangements to join you in December. This was all done without my knowledge and I do not believe that they made these plans without your knowledge. How deceitful on your part!

Lastly, the seminarian from Oklahoma whom you claim was dismissed for insufficient reasons actually left on his own. I told him that I would not ordain him if he would not accept the moral teaching of the Church on “rhythm.” Our priests simply teach what the Church teaches: for a serious reason couples who are morally capable and willing may practice it. The Catholic Church has taught this through the Sacred Penitentiary in 1853 under Pope Pius IX, again in 1880 under Pope Leo XIII, and by multiple theologians for the last 100 years as well as Pope Pius XI and Pope Pius XII. If this seminarian has now modified his position, it does not change the fact that in May he did not accept it.

It makes one wonder why you have chosen to be associated with the problems of Bishop Slupski and Bishop Petko. Perhaps the answer is found in your evasive response to Fr. Rissling when he asked you whether the rumor was true that you are supposed to be consecrated a bishop within a year.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Mark A. Pivarunas, CMRI.

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