

Dear Father Jack McKone:

Many prayers for you and your parish during this advent season. As we continue lighting the advent candles, I have always been deeply moved by the symbolism of the fourth candle, which is the purity of the Church before the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

My name is Stephen Knobbe and I am one of the leaders of the FRK advocates. I, along with hundreds of other people, saw the letter you penned about us. Out of the respect that we have for you, we felt that you deserve a direct response from us.

I would like to start with a story that has been the foundation of who I am today. Growing up I was a cradle Catholic that experienced all the joys of a strong, faithful family that was dedicated to our Lord Jesus Christ and the Church he established. From my childhood to my early 50's I witnessed something amazing and beautiful. This was the dedication and service my father gave the Church throughout his life.

My father was a simple and faithful man who centered his life around the Church. By profession, he was a talented carpenter until the day he passed. One of the amazing things about him was how he channeled the talents of his trade towards restoring the Church. Whenever there were broken pews, squeaky doors, backed up plumbing, or anything that required immediate attention, he would graciously take time out of his day to attend to Her needs to preserve Her beauty. This was important to him. In no way do I even come close to having the talented carpentry of my father, but through his example I have tried to use my talents to serve the Church where I can. In short, this led me (an engineer by profession) to spearhead the construction of Saint Martin de Porres Catholic Church. I loved every minute of service I have given to building this beautiful Church. This is important to me.

Simply, Father Jack McKone, your letter is **heartbreaking**.

Over the last few years, I have had the opportunity to get to know many wonderful people and see beautiful families flourish as the excitement of building a new parish gave life to the future of our Church. When the construction of Saint Martin's was finally completed, we all celebrated in joy and marveled at our accomplishment. This took the loyal dedication and service of hundreds of families. It was beautiful.

Seven months later, we had our pastor unexpectedly ripped away from us. After respectfully asking our Bishop for truth, transparency, and a direction forward from this, we were met with generic responses and silence. Furthermore, after a little investigation, we discovered the truth of why our Bishop removed our pastor and it is truly disturbing.

Thus, started our movement to restore our pastor. We are comprised of faithful, God loving Catholics that want to practice our faith and relish in the purity of our Church. Unfortunately, in advocating for the return of our pastor, we have uncovered more misconduct, possible scandal, and poor behavior leading us to have more unanswered questions throughout our diocese.

We are obedient Catholics. However, Church teaching never advocates anyone to be obedient towards sin – no matter what your role is in the Church (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1849- 1853; CCC 1865-1876). Furthermore, the Church would never declare anyone to be silent and commit a sin of omission in the face of evil (CCC 1853). This is wrong. We, the advocates know this and are obedient to the

sanctity of the Church and upholding the moral integrity of her teachings as stated by Catholic Catechism (CCC 907).

Father Jack McKone, your claims that we are “outsiders” a part of a “disturbing movement” that is promoting “mortal sin” could not be further from the truth (CCC 1855 – 1861). I would invite you to meet with us and explain to you more about who we are, however, I know this is not possible. The Bishop has forbidden you and all priest in the Fort Worth Diocese from associating with us and has implemented a strict 10 PM curfew that must be adhered too. Given your unwavering obedience to our Bishop, the logistics of an invitation would not work.

However, I believe we can find common ground in supporting our Church together. Since June, our group has laid its foundation in prayer, more specifically, the rosary. We have said the rosary twice a day every morning and night. It gives us hope for a pure Church.

Father Jack McKone, would you commit to leading Sacred Heart in praying a rosary every day for truth, transparency, and direction until purity has settled in the souls of Catholics throughout our diocese?

Seeing Catholics united through the rosary would be powerful. We do not need a response from you, only your actionable step towards the Blessed Mother.

Lastly, I have heard that you are a kind-hearted man who has dedicated his life to the service of our Lord. Thank you. Even though you may not agree with us, please know that we support you and you are in our prayers. If the time comes that you are ever mistreated and unfairly stripped of your priestly vocation, please reach out to us and we will do our best to have your back.

As my father continually worked to restore the Church to her beauty and perfection, I, along with all of the advocates, are working to restore the purity of our Mother Church where we can.

And may GOD be Praised...

Stephen Knobbe