

Dear Fathers,

I am writing to let you know that, in the aftermath of the recent letter your read regarding the group Roman Catholic Faithful coming to the diocese, I have published another letter that will appear in this week's edition of the West River Catholic. This new letter is a response to reaction from this group as well as Church Militant. I and my staff have received a vast number of emails, Messenger posts, Facebook posts, etc. beginning the day following the reading of the letter. These emails and posts were from supporters of these groups and contained some of the most disgusting vitriol that I have ever received in my life. They were filled hate, lies, disgusting comments and character assassinations specifically against me. They preached a Gospel of vengeance.

You can read my current letter when it comes out in the West River Catholic. I would have sent it to you ahead of press time but there are some priests among you who cannot be trusted.

The letter that was read at the Masses about the Roman Catholic Faithful was sent to this group by some of your brother priests. They also chose to send them my personal, private email address as well.

I am deeply saddened that these priests did not have the courage to come and speak with me about the letter if they disagreed with its contents and did not want to read it in their parishes. Instead, they chose the avenue of deceit and betrayal. How sad for someone who is supposed to represent Christ. From their actions, it appears to me that they do not care about the reputation of other people. Cardinal Cupich's, mine nor anyone else with whom they might disagree. They are akin to these groups who attack anyone who disagrees with them or does not see things their way.

Fathers, in some way, I feel what Jesus felt when he was betrayed by Judas. I would encourage the priests who passed on this letter to this group to have the decency to present yourself to me so that we can have an honest, adult conversation about your motives and actions. If you choose not to, then it is evident to me where your heart is – and it is not in the heart of Jesus.

Fathers, be assured of my continued prayers for all of you. I remain,

Sincerely in the peace and joy of Christ,

Bishop Gruss