

July 9, 2021

Dear Bishop Paprocki,

I recently read in *Church Militant* that “The chancellor and general counsel for the diocese of Springfield, Illinois, Mr. James Bock Jr., contacted Church Militant claiming an informant named in the lawsuit was not credible per the diocese's estimation.” While serving as an investigator for the Inspector General of the U.S. Marine Corps, I discovered that what is *not* mentioned is often far more important than what is stated.

While Bock as your general counsel misrepresented the 2006 Springfield in Illinois “Special Panel” Report to be impartial and “independent,” I find it interesting that he failed to attach the actual report which admits that Bishop Lucas himself hired Attorney Bill Roberts to investigate “allegations of misconduct by priests of the diocese.” Insofar as both Lucas himself and Father Peter Harman, his alleged “homosexual lover,” were reported to the Vatican for engaging in “homosexual activities,” this so-called “investigation” was no different than had former President Bill Clinton himself appointed a lawyer to investigate claims that he was having sex with a White House intern. Given this conflict of interest, I am not surprised that Mr. Roberts failed to return calls I made to discuss the validity of some of the Panel's conclusions.

While investigating an abuse case involving a female chaplain who was separated from active duty, I discovered that her Commanding Officer had his own Admin Officer undertake a bogus “in-house” investigation similar to one then-Bishop George Lucas convened after he was reported for sexual misconduct to the Apostolic Nuncio in a letter dated January 6, 2005. Not only did the Vatican cover up the allegations, but the witness who provided incriminating testimony against Lucas and other Springfield priests also suffered reprisals and threats. You may be interested in knowing that I had the claims of the female chaplain who was reprisal against for reporting abuse later investigated by the Department of Defense Inspector General (DODIG). The DODIG endorsed the findings of my investigation; disciplined not only the officer who abused the chaplain but also the Commanding Officer and Admin Officer who covered up the abuse; and compensated the abused chaplain \$3,000 a month for the rest of her life.

While the character of a witness is often considered when undertaking an investigation, if the testimony provided is corroborated by external evidence, by other witnesses, and by separate allegations against an accused party, as it is in this case, it ordinarily is not dismissed simply because an eyewitness in question may have had a checkered past. Consider, for example, how you, as an official of the Archdiocese of Chicago, failed to investigate credible allegations made by several male prostitutes who reported being paid for sexual favors by the late Bishop Daniel Ryan who had a history of homosexual misconduct.

After rejecting the integrity of the 2006 Special Panel Report overseen by Lucas for numerous reasons, the highly-credentialed former FBI Special Agent in Charge who reviewed evidence supporting allegations that Harman and Lucas engaged in graphic sexual acts in the presence of seminarians remains firm that you and your predecessor left these allegations “without an authentic, independent, and impartial investigation...” Truly, a jury would have a hard time believing that the 2006 Report was “authentic, independent, and impartial.”

On the topic of a “videotape” brought up by Mr. Bock, are you prepared to testify under oath that you have no knowledge of 2018 video footage of a clerical drag party at which current members of your leadership team, including Fathers Christopher House, Jeffrey Goeckner, and Joseph Molloy, among others, were alleged to be participants?

Based on the information contained in my attached preliminary investigation of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, it appears to me that you not only covered for Bishop Ryan, but you also are now covering for Archbishop Lucas and Father Peter Harman. Consequently, I feel compelled, in keeping with “Vos Estis Lux Mundi,” to send a copy of this letter to Cardinal Blase Cupich and Archbishop Christophe Pierre, even though both of them, like you, Cardinal Timothy Dolan and Cardinal Wilton Gregory, have failed to act on the

allegations of homosexual misconduct and cover-up involving one of your own priests at the Pontifical North American College (NAC) which you and the other prelates received dated April 22, May 8, June 18, June 27, July 3, and July 16 of 2020.

Only after the Plaintiff's lawsuit was filed, your general counsel sent February 2021 communications to the Plaintiff's attorney demanding to preview documentation, an apparent attempt to preempt discovery and to jeopardize the protection of witnesses who had already been abused by the Springfield Diocese for reporting clerical misconduct. In reading Bock's communications, one could get the impression that you never shared with him the multiple reports containing incriminating evidence that you, Cardinal Gregory, and the NAC Board of Governors already received and ignored between April and July of 2020. The fact that Bock never addressed the point raised by the Plaintiff's attorney in emails of February 14, 2021 that you had already been in receipt of these and other incriminating reports for nearly two years, could lead a jury to believe that you, Bock, or your Panel never had any intention of conducting an "impartial" investigation of the matter.

It is my opinion that the same charges of mishandling clerical abuse and misconduct which warranted disciplinary action against former Crookston Bishop Michael Hoeppner also apply to you and Cardinal Gregory as the Ordinaries of Fathers Harman and Park; the fifteen prelates who serve on the NAC Board of Governors; as well the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Pierre; all of whom failed to act on the credible evidence addressed in the multiple reports you received and also contained in the lawsuit.

I wish to offer you the opportunity to refute or correct any of the information contained in the draft of my attached investigation, "[Clerical Abuse and Misconduct: Diocese of Springfield in Illinois](#)." You will find that it supports many of the allegations addressed in recently submitted affidavits, including that you failed to act upon sexual misconduct allegations which has caused many to question the credibility of your Diocese's purported "investigatory" procedures.

In the interest of transparency, just as each of my prior communications which you ignored have been published, all interested parties may access this letter in the public record at www.gomulka.net/Paprocki.pdf

Looking forward to your response, I remain

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gomulka", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gene Thomas Gomulka

CC:

Cardinal Blase Cupich
Cardinal Wilton Gregory
Archbishop Christoph Pierre
James A. Bock, Jr.