

Hello all,

A few weeks ago, as Pope Francis was landing in Ireland to begin his Pastoral Visit there, the former Papal Nuncio to the United States Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, issued a lengthy statement regarding corruption in the Vatican on levels up to and including Pope Francis. The archbishop "named names" of those he felt were complicit in covering up then-Cardinal McCarrick's abuse and, among other things, how he felt a homosexual conspiracy among bishops was largely responsible for the appointment of Francis-minded bishops in the United States. Archbishop Viganò called for Pope Francis to resign. Subsequent to publishing the document (that was first released publically through certain right-wing media outlets), the Archbishop went into hiding.

You may be aware that, on the plane trip back to Rome from Ireland, the Holy Father was asked by the reporters present on the papal flight about Abp. Viganò's allegations – Pope Francis refused to comment on them, and urged the journalists to investigate the allegations themselves. Our Holy Father did, however, promise that there would be a forthcoming response from the Vatican to the letter's allegations.

All of this – on top of the revelations of the Pennsylvania Grand Jury, the revelations about now-Archbishop McCarrick and the struggles that our Church is facing these days – has been the source of concern and discussion among many Catholics, within and outside of our local community.

**Yesterday, the Vatican News Service released a letter of Cardinal Marc Ouellet that – with the approval of the Holy Father – responds to a number of points that Archbishop Viganò made.** The French-Canadian Cardinal Ouellet serves as the Prefect, or head, of the Vatican Congregation of Bishops - the Vatican "department" responsible for advising the Pope on the appointment and management of bishops/archbishops throughout the world. This letter sheds a whole new light on the allegations and agenda of the Viganò statement. It is most informative; please take the time to read it carefully at the following link:

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2018-10/letter-ouellet-vigano-mccarrick-sexual-abuse-united-states.html>

I am also attaching a PDF copy of the homily I preached at all the Masses of September 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>, the weekend following our Parish "Evening of Prayer and Discussion" – responding to a number of issues that were raised during the evening's open-forum discussion.

Thanks for your time and attention given to these topics that I feel are crucial for today's Catholic.

blessings and peace,

Fr. Chuck

