

Editor's Note: Beginning last week, rumors have been spreading that Cardinal Blase Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago, has decided to shut down the [Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest](#) in the Archdiocese of Chicago, where the Institute's [U.S. provincial headquarters](#) is located. Last week Friday (July 15), Fr. John Zuhlsdorf [reported](#) on his popular blog (without naming any sources):

Cupich of Chicago has told the members of the Institute of Christ the King in Chicago, that he is effectively shutting them down as of 1 August. This will be formally announced on Sunday at the Institute's church on the South Side of Chicago.

No Masses. Nothing. 31 July is their last day to function.

Earlier this week (July 18), Dr. Maike Hickson [reported](#) the following for *LifeSiteNews*:

A prominent Chicago Catholic has told LifeSiteNews that, in a further move to destroy the traditional rite in his diocese, Cardinal Blase Cupich, the archbishop of Chicago, has instructed the traditional Institute of Christ the King to close down all public Masses by the end of July of this year. He will remove their other faculties by August 1, that is to say, the Institute's priests will not be permitted to hear confessions anymore.

LifeSiteNews has learned from Keith Armato, a leading Catholic layman close to the situation, that the archbishop of Chicago had demanded for months now that the Institute signs a document with five or six points. Among the points they had to sign — each priest individually — was that the Novus Ordo rite is the only true expression of the Roman rite. This formulation stems directly from Pope Francis' own document *Traditionis Custodes*, an explanation that makes it clear that the traditional Roman rite has to disappear altogether. Moreover, the Institute was also asked to accept a procedure, according to which the priests of the Institute have to ask Cardinal Cupich for permission to celebrate the traditional Latin Mass and that he might grant it for two years, but that he also could revoke that permission at any given time.

Dr. Hickson further [stated](#) on Twitter yesterday (July 20), "We also have a second source in Chicago," one apparently able to corroborate Mr. Armato's testimony.

Abp. Viganò Responds to Cdl. Cupich's Alleged Shutdown of ICK in Chicago

In response to this disturbing news, Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò has issued a declaration (full text below) on the situation in Chicago, placing it within the larger context of the agenda of “the deep church,” namely, “the destruction of the Church of Christ and the cancellation of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass” according to the traditional Roman rite.

His Excellency observes:

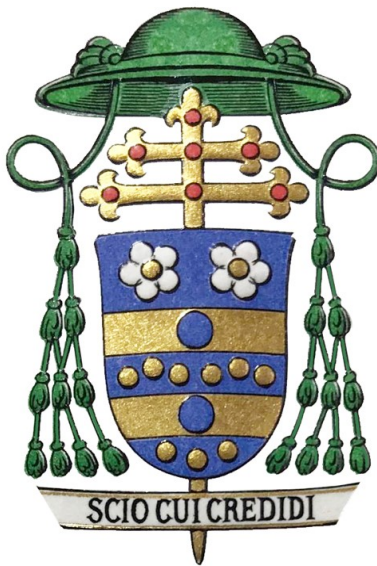
This Mass, the Mass of the Holy Church, the Mass of the Apostles and Martyrs of all times, *our* Mass — this is the Mass that truly causes them *scandal*. It is not Roman birettas and bows that scandalize them; it is not the mozzettas and rochets that scandalize them. The real thing that scandalizes them is the Catholic Mass, and this is what they rail against, with the rage of heretics — the same people who preach “welcoming” and “inclusivity,” which applies to everyone without condition except for good priests and faithful laity.

He also appeals to “the Canons of Christ the King and all of the *Ecclesia Dei* institutes” to make the most of present circumstances by offering principled and courageous witness in the face of persecution:

I trust that the Canons of Christ the King and all of the *Ecclesia Dei* institutes will be able to see in these days of trial a precious opportunity for purification, courageously witnessing to the necessary coherence between the profession of Faith and its cultic expression in the Mass, and the consequent irreconcilability between these and the doctrinal and liturgical deviations of Vatican II. Because it is not possible to celebrate the Mass of Saint Pius V and at the same time to accept the errors of its enemies.

His Excellency concludes by emphasizing “the sacred and urgent duty to rise up against the decisions of these completely discredited characters and to demand, without yielding an inch, that the venerable Tridentine Liturgy remain an inviolable bulwark of doctrine, morality, and spirituality.”

See below for the full text of Archbishop Viganò's declaration:



DECLARATION on the Suspension of Liturgical Celebrations of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest in the Archdiocese of Chicago

Cardinal Blase Cupich, with the bureaucratic authoritarianism that distinguishes the officials of the Bergoglian church, has ordered the Canons of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest who carry out their ministry in the Archdiocese of Chicago to suspend all public functions in the ancient rite beginning at the end of the month of July, revoking the faculties granted to them in accordance with the Motu Proprio *Summorum Pontificum*.

It is obvious to anyone that this decision is intended to prevent the exercise of a right that no ecclesiastical authority can deny, *a fortiori* conditioning it on the acceptance of doctrinal and liturgical principles that are in blatant conflict with the immutable Magisterium of the Catholic Church.

Indeed, every baptized person has the right to attend Holy Mass and to be administered the Sacraments in the form that Benedict XVI's Motu Proprio *Summorum Pontificum* acknowledged may never be abrogated. Depriving the faithful of Chicago of their right is a very grave abuse, and the fact that Cupich's decision is tacitly approved by the Roman Sanhedrin adds to the embezzlements of the Ordinary the confirmation of a broader plan

intended to cancel throughout the entire Catholic world the *sign of contradiction* that is the Apostolic Mass. A sign of contradiction because its very existence is a silent condemnation of decades of doctrinal, moral, and disciplinary deviations.

It is no secret that Bergoglio has a hatred of Tradition, and that he does not miss any occasion to deride and discredit those who want to remain Catholic and are not willing to apostatize from the Faith. Just as well known are his predilections for his collaborators and confidants: they are all united by sodomy, lust for power, and corruption in financial matters. It should therefore be no surprise that one of his pupils — an intrinsic friend of the serial molester McCarrick along with other no less controversial Prelates like Donald Wuerl and Joseph Tobin — returned the favor of his undeserved promotion to the See of Chicago by showing himself to be a loyal executor of his benefactor's orders. A promotion that — permit me to remind you — I strenuously opposed when I was serving the Holy See as Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, and that today appears even more scandalous after the disturbing revelations made by *Church Militant* ([here](#) and [here](#)) regarding Cupich's involvement in the cover-up of evidence related to the sexual crimes of Cardinal Joseph Bernardin. In 2019, Cupich was investigated by federal authorities and by the attorney general of Illinois for not having turned over incriminating documentation on Archbishop Bernardin and his accomplices that was in the possession of the Archdiocese of Chicago. And we have also learned that, while Cupich would like to see Bernardin the champion of progressivism canonized ([here](#)), there are actually very serious accusations hanging over Bernardin made by one of his abuse victims, accusations which the Congregation for Bishops, the Secretariat of State, and the Archdiocese of Chicago have never followed up on, despite the fact that these accusations mention the profanation of the Blessed Sacrament during a Satanic ritual with minors carried out in 1957 by the young priest Father Joseph Bernardin and his brother priest Father John J. Russell, who was later consecrated as a Bishop and is now deceased.

It is truly difficult, if not completely impossible, to find any justification for the decision of Cupich, who considers the celebration of the Mass of all time to be a sin of injuring the Council, but who strangely enough knows how to be indulgent and understanding towards sodomites, child molesters, abortionists, and profaners of the Eucharistic Species. *Cupich pro domo sua*. It is Cupich, of course, who, when he was instructed by Bergoglio to preside over the Commission on Sexual Crimes of the American Clergy and was asked about the Memorandum I issued in August 2018, commented with scandalous impudence:

"The Pope has a bigger agenda: he's got to get on with other things, talking about the environment and protecting migrants, and carrying on the work of the Church. We're not going to go down a rabbit hole on this. . . . Years ago, if a

Cardinal had allowed himself to respond like this, the whole world would have come down; but today obviously times have changed. . . . Here we can also allow ourselves a bit of insolence. So much is known that the media will not tear their garments for so little.” ([here](#) and [here](#))

You read that correctly: “*For so little.*” In the secular world, if a manager prevented his subordinates from doing their job and encouraged dishonest and corrupt employees by promoting them and covering up their crimes, he would be fired on the spot and asked to pay millions in compensation for the damage caused to the company’s image. Instead, on the multicolored bandwagon of the lavender mafia protected by Bergoglio, these forms of sordid complicity with evil and ferocious aversion to the Good have become the norm, confirming that moral corruption is the necessary corollary of doctrinal deviation and liturgical license. The crisis of ecclesiastical Authority — beginning from the very top — is undeniable, as confirmed by the creation of Cupich as Cardinal as well as the names of those to be given the red hat at the upcoming Consistory.

If in temporal matters civic rulers who are obedient to the deep state make use of corrupt officials to carry out the silent coup of the “Great Reset,” at the same time on the ecclesial front we see cardinals and prelates who are no less corrupt and who are obedient to the deep church. With Bergoglio’s *placet* they are bringing the subversive plan of Vatican II to completion, which is destined to lead to the Religion of Humanity yearned for by Freemasonry.

But if on the one hand it is a duty to denounce and condemn the intolerable abuses of these renegades who have as their goal the destruction of the Church of Christ and the cancellation of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, on the other hand it seems to me that it is necessary to reconsider how certain forms of carefree acceptance of Vatican II on the part of the Institute of Christ the King may have wrongly allowed its members to believe that Rome would have looked the other way regarding buckles and capes as long as they did not criticize the Council or the *Novus Ordo*.

This shows us that — beyond the impromptu ceremonial connotations that are bit too *ancien régime* (which however are very moderate in Chicago and in general throughout the United States) — it is the Tridentine Mass *in itself* that is a formidable profession of Faith and an unflinching refutation of the patched-together reformed liturgy, whether it is celebrated by an old parish pastor or a newly ordained priest, regardless of whether he wears a Roman fiddleback or a medieval chasuble. It is *that* Mass, and the Mass *par excellence*, celebrated in the one Rite that is truly *extraordinary*, not because it is occasional but because it is incomparably superior to the Protestantized imitation that is the Montinian rite, which a

Curé of Ars would have looked upon with horror.

This Mass, the Mass of the Holy Church, the Mass of the Apostles and Martyrs of all times, *our* Mass — this is the Mass that truly causes them *scandal*. It is not Roman birettas and bows that scandalize them; it is not the mozzettas and rochets that scandalize them. The real thing that scandalizes them is the Catholic Mass, and this is what they rail against, with the rage of heretics — the same people who preach “welcoming” and “inclusivity,” which applies to everyone without condition except for good priests and faithful laity. In reality, this ought to be enough to convince us to totally ignore the last dying wheezes of a Hierarchy that is blinded in both intellect and will because it is alien to Grace.

This umpteenth show of strength by Cupich, who is cynical and ruthless towards the faithful even before the Canons of the Institute of Christ the King, can constitute a healthy moment of reflection on the many omissions and equivocations that need to be clarified, especially in the matter of acceptance of the Conciliar *mens* and the Bergoglian “magisterium.” I trust that the Canons of Christ the King and all of the *Ecclesia Dei* institutes will be able to see in these days of trial a precious opportunity for purification, courageously witnessing to the necessary coherence between the profession of Faith and its cultic expression in the Mass, and the consequent irreconcilability between these and the doctrinal and liturgical deviations of Vatican II. Because it is not possible to celebrate the Mass of Saint Pius V and at the same time to accept the errors of its enemies.

Cupich knows this very well, and this is why he wants to prevent the celebration of that Mass. He knows how much that Mass is a very powerful exorcism against the servants of the devil, both those who wear miters and those who do not. He knows how immediately that Mass is understandable to anyone for its supernatural sense of the sacred and divine — the *mysterium tremendum* of Moses before the burning bush — and how that Mass opens the eyes of the faithful, warms their hearts, and enlightens their minds. After decades of unspeakable torments, the faithful are finally able to approach the Majesty of God, to be converted, to change their lives, to educate their children in holiness, and to spread the Faith by their example. What could be more desirable for a Bishop who is truly a Shepherd of the Sheep entrusted to him by the Lord? And what could be more detestable for those who want to see the Sheep be torn to pieces by wolves or fall into the abyss?

The lay faithful, priests, and Bishops have the sacred and urgent duty to rise up against the decisions of these completely discredited characters and to demand, without yielding an inch, that the venerable Tridentine Liturgy remain an inviolable bulwark of doctrine, morality, and spirituality. *We must obey God rather than men* (Acts 5:29), especially when these men have demonstrated by their reprehensible conduct, that they do not love either God or their brothers in the Faith.

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+ Carlo Maria Viganò, *Archbishop*

20 July 2022