



Written by [Gary Benoit](#) on November 12, 2023

Archbishop Viganò Condemns Pope's Decision to Remove Conservative Catholic Bishop Strickland

The Vatican announced Saturday that [Pope Francis](#) has ordered the removal of Bishop Joseph Strickland from "the pastoral governance" of the diocese of Tyler, Texas. The Vatican announcement did not give any reason for Strickland's removal. Strickland, a conservative, has upheld traditional Catholic teachings on abortion and homosexuality and has also warned that Pope Francis is "[undermining the Deposit of Faith.](#)"

After the announcement, [Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò](#), who served as the apostolic nuncio to the United States, condemned the pope's action, stating on X:

The removal of His Excellency Archbishop Joseph Strickland, especially after the failure to ambush him with the Apostolic Visitation, appears as a cowardly form of authoritarianism, which in no way fits with Bergoglio's [Pope Francis'] rants about "welcoming" and "inclusiveness."

Seeing the sacrilegious and perverted Marco Rupnik incardinated in the Diocese of Capodistria, or Bishop Michael Olson still in office despite the petition of the faithful of Fort Worth following his abuses and scandalous behavior with the Carmelite Sisters of Arlington, while one of the few faithful Bishops is persecuted and kicked out for no reason shows us in all its arrogance the tyranny of the Argentine Jesuit.

A tyranny that is even more scandalous to the faithful due to the fact that the majority of the Pastors



FILE - Bishop Joseph Strickland walks in front of a reliquary bearing the bones of Saint Maria Goretti, dubbed "The Little Saint of Great Mercy," into the sanctuary at Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Monday, Nov. 2, 2015, in Tyler, Texas. Pope Francis on Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023 forcibly removed from office the bishop of Tyler, Texas, a conservative active on social media who has been a fierce critic of the pontiff and some of his priorities. (Andrew D. Brosig/Tyler Morning Telegraph via AP, File)



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are silent out of cowardice or
complicity.

Archbishop Viganò has warned in the past that a global coup threatens both the church and society, and he has called this coup inside the Catholic Church the “Deep Church.” (See, for example, *The New American* articles [here](#) and [here](#).)



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