



Written by [William F. Jasper](#) on July 23, 2024

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## Excommunication of a Whistleblower

If Pope Francis expects that his banishment of Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò will rid him of a troublesome thorn in his side, he is likely to be disappointed. The former papal nuncio to the United States and former top investigator who exposed financial malfeasance at the Vatican Bank and clergy sexual-abuse cases is giving no sign of letting up with his scathing attacks against Pope Francis and other leading Church officials. Many Catholics who have supported the archbishop's charges against heresy, heterodoxy, and corruption in the Church may not be willing (yet) to follow his lead in challenging Francis' papal legitimacy. But Rome's deployment of the excommunication decree against the orthodox Viganò undoubtedly will cause many faithful Catholics to question why Rome is simultaneously coddling and promoting notorious sex perverts and heretical clerics. It looks like more coverup. It looks like shooting the messenger. It looks like killing the whistleblower. All in all, it's a bad look for the Francis pontificate, which incessantly proclaims its commitment to "transparency and accountability" and insists it will enforce a "zero tolerance" policy against sexual abuse.

On July 5, the Holy See Press Office issued a press release from the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith (DDF) concerning the case of Viganò, whom the DDF accused of "the crime of schism." As expected, the press release announced that the DDF had concluded its "extrajudicial penal process" and declared the archbishop to be excommunicated from the Catholic Church.

The DDF, the Church's supreme doctrinal office, had summoned Archbishop Viganò to Rome in a decree emailed to the prelate on June 11. He was directed to appear in person for judgment on June 20, or to submit a defense in writing by June 28. As we reported in an online article on June 26, the archbishop announced that he had not honored the summons for the 20th and would not be submitting a written defense on the 28th. "I have not delivered any statement or document in my defense to the Dicastery, whose authority I do not recognize, nor do I recognize the authority of its Prefect, nor do I recognize the authority of the one who appointed him," Viganò said, referring to radical Cardinal Víctor Manuel Fernández (aka "the kissing cardinal") and Pope Francis.



AP Images

Shooting the whistleblower: The Vatican announced on July 5 the official excommunication of Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò (above) for "the crime of schism." A former top Vatican official and papal nuncio to the United States, Viganò has exposed financial and sexual crimes of leading members of the Church hierarchy.



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The July 5 DDF press release states:

On 4 July 2024, the Congress of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith met to conclude the extrajudicial penal process referred to in canon 1720 CIC against the Most Reverend Carlo Maria Viganò, titular Archbishop of Ulpiana, accused of the reserved delict of schism (canons 751 and 1364 CIC; art. 2 SST).

His public statements manifesting his refusal to recognize and submit to the Supreme Pontiff, his rejection of communion with the members of the Church subject to him, and of the legitimacy and magisterial authority of the Second Vatican Council are well known.

The Vatican announcement continues:

At the conclusion of the penal process, the Most Reverend Carlo Maria Viganò was found guilty of the reserved delict of schism.

The Dicastery declared the *latae sententiae* [i.e., automatic] excommunication in accordance with canon 1364 § 1 CIC.

## The “Listening” “Accompanying” Church?

The Vatican press release announcing the excommunication of Archbishop Viganò came just four days before the same office issued the Vatican’s official *Instrumentum Laboris* (working document) for Pope Francis’ ongoing “Synod on Synodality,” the controversial, multiyear process intended to change radically the doctrine, discipline, governance, and liturgical worship of the Church. Begun in 2021, the first session of the synod concluded in Rome in October 2023 with the issuance of a “Synthesis Report,” which critics derided as a “Sin Thesis Report,” since it pointed toward continued efforts at promoting sin by overturning Catholic teaching on divorce, polygamy, LGBTQ issues, female deacons, married priests, church governance, and more. Cardinal Gerhard Ludwig Müller, the former doctrinal chief of the Church, charged that the globalist agenda of Pope Francis and the Synod on Synodality amounted to “a hostile takeover of the Church of Jesus Christ.”

This “Synod of Bishops,” many critics pointed out, defied the very definition of a synod by appointing many non-bishops as voting participants, including lay men and women and college students. Mere weeks after the conclusion of the synod, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith launched a global brouhaha by issuing *Fiducia Supplicans* on the blessing of same-sex couples. Released on December 18, only a week before Christmas, the celebration of the Nativity of the Christ Child, the papal document authored by Cardinal Fernández was welcomed with howls of glee from the LGBTQ chorus, but was roundly condemned as heretical, blasphemous, sacrilegious, scandalous, and diabolical by orthodox Catholic priests, bishops, cardinals, and bishops’ conferences worldwide.

The scandal was magnified by revelations that Fernández, an Argentine protégé of Pope Francis, was elevated by the pope to the DDF post previously held by Cardinal Müller despite being the author of two erotic/pornographic books and having a checkered past as priest and bishop. According to Müller, Pope Francis and the DDF are aware of a massive file on Fernández that should have nixed *any* promotions for him, let alone promotion to the top Vatican slot for doctrine and discipline. Organizations



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representing victims of clerical sexual abuse were quick to denounce the Fernández appointment and accuse him of a long history of protecting predatory homosexual priests and ignoring their victims.

**Double standard?** Pope Francis has shown harshness in dealing with cardinals, bishops, priests, and lay people who hold to the traditional Catholic faith, while tolerating, supporting, and promoting clerics who endorse abortion, LGBTQ immorality, radical heterodoxy, and heresy. (AP Images)



Thus, it was especially galling to many of the faithful to see Pope Francis, Cardinal Fernández, and the DDF exercise the relatively rare act of excommunication for “schism” in the case of Archbishop Viganò while turning a blind eye to the schism, heresy, apostasy, blasphemy, sacrilege, and criminal sexual abuse of the clerical acolytes of “Francis the Merciful.”

The notorious cases of sexual abuse covered over by Pope Francis, such as those of ex-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick and Father Marko Rupnik, are but the tip of the iceberg. There is also the scandalous failure by the Vatican to discipline or excommunicate the rebellious bishops and priests of Germany, Belgium, the United States, and elsewhere who announced that they would bless same-sex couples in blatant defiance of biblical injunctions, the perennial teaching of the Catholic Church, and a ruling by the DDF. Rather than holding fast to eternal truths, Team Francis/Fernández catered to the militant LGBTQ lobby by promulgating the abominable *Fiducia Supplicans* declaration to condone blessing same-sex couples.

“It is no coincidence,” says Viganò, “that the accusation against me concerns the questioning of the legitimacy of Jorge Mario Bergoglio [Pope Francis] and the rejection of Vatican II: the Council represents the ideological, theological, moral, and liturgical cancer of which the Bergoglian ‘synodal church’ is the necessary metastasis.”

## Agenda 2030 and the “Davos Religion”

Moreover, Viganò accuses Pope Francis and his Vatican hierarchy of gross corruption and subversion of the Catholic faith in concert with the globalists of the United Nations and the World Economic Forum. He charges:

It is necessary for the Episcopate, the Clergy and the People of God to seriously ask



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themselves whether it is consistent with the profession of the Catholic Faith to passively witness the systematic destruction of the Church by its leaders, just as other subversives are destroying civil society. Globalism calls for ethnic substitution: Bergoglio promotes uncontrolled immigration and calls for the integration of cultures and religions. Globalism supports LGBTQ+ ideology: Bergoglio authorizes the blessing of same-sex couples and imposes on the faithful the acceptance of homosexuality, while covering up the scandals of his protégés and promoting them to the highest positions of responsibility. Globalism imposes the green agenda: Bergoglio worships the idol of the Pachamama, writes delirious encyclicals about the environment, supports the Agenda 2030, and attacks those who question the theory of man-made global warming. He goes beyond his role in matters that strictly pertain to science, but always and only in one direction: a direction that is diametrically opposed to what the Church has always taught.

These themes, particularly concerning the machinations of globalist elites, “The Great Reset” of the World Economic Forum, and Agenda 2030 of the United Nations, have featured prominently in video messages produced by the archbishop over the past several years.

## **Origins of the Viganò “Threat”**

The Vatican’s current move against Archbishop Viganò has been brewing since at least August 22, 2018, when he released his blistering 11-page “Testimony” accusing Pope Francis and his inner circle of prominent clerics of knowingly and willfully promoting active homosexuals in the Church hierarchy and engaging in a massive “conspiracy of silence” to cover up their crimes and discredit their victims. Of central concern in his “Testimony” was Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, former archbishop of Washington, D.C.; preeminent church power broker; and pal of Francis. Cardinal “Uncle Ted” McCarrick was credibly accused of sexual abuse of an altar boy and seminarians. Although McCarrick’s homosexual activities had been publicly known for many years, Archbishop Viganò was instrumental in making the cardinal’s notorious record *formally* public and forcing McCarrick’s “retirement.”

In 2011 Pope Benedict appointed Viganò as apostolic nuncio (in effect, ambassador) to the United States, with one of his duties being to investigate clerical sexual-abuse cases. By that time, due to his previous post as secretary general of the Vatican City governorate (considered the number-three position below the pope), Viganò was already aware of the seriousness of the sexual-abuse crisis in general, and of Cardinal McCarrick in particular.

As a result of Viganò’s reports, Pope Benedict placed sanctions on McCarrick, ordering him to move out of the seminary where he had been living, restricting his travel, and prohibiting him from celebrating sacraments publicly or making other public appearances.

Pope Francis, despite his repeated avowals of “zero tolerance” for clerical sex offenders, has racked up a deplorable record. In addition to letting McCarrick out of the dog house to travel freely, he actually made the predatory pervert his emissary to China, where he negotiated a secret agreement with the Chinese Communist Party, which Hong Kong’s heroic Cardinal Joseph Zen called a betrayal of China’s persecuted Catholics. Finally, after McCarrick’s flagrant homosexual activity became a major PR problem, Pope Francis laicized him, a move that many critics see as a coverup to spare McCarrick from a canonical trial that might expose the pope and many high-level church officials as being complicit in



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the cardinal's crimes.

However, McCarrick (now an ex-cardinal, the first to be forced to resign over homosexual charges) is but the tip of a very large iceberg. In his August 22, 2018 "Testimony" and in subsequent releases, Viganò named prominent prelates who are accomplices of the McCarrick pederast lobby within the Church (whether as homosexual practitioners, promoters, or protectors — or all of the above). They include such leading churchmen as Cardinals Tarcisio Bertone, Pietro Parolin, Godfried Danneels, Angelo Sodano, Donald Wuerl, Blase Cupich, Robert McElroy, Joseph W. Tobin, Reinhard Marx, Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, Víctor Manuel Fernández, and Óscar Rodríguez Maradiaga.

From the moment he released his 2018 "Testimony" (if not before), Viganò was a marked man. The pro-LGBTQ faction within the Church hierarchy has expanded alarmingly under Pope Francis and is decidedly hostile toward Catholics who challenge the "progressive" agenda, especially regarding issues of sexual morality. And despite the wrecked lives of thousands of sexually abused victims, despite the exodus caused by the horrendous scandal of ongoing abuses, despite the bankruptcy of dioceses due to lawsuits, despite the resulting unprecedented closing of churches, and despite repeated claims of zero tolerance, Pope Francis and the Lavender Lobby have presided over an *expansion* of clerical sexual abuse, while at the same time attacking the faithful Catholics who attend the traditional Latin Mass and truth-tellers who expose the homosexual cancer infecting the Church.

## **Viganò Treatment vs. McCarrick, Rupnik, et al.**

It has not escaped the notice of many critics that "justice" under the pontificate of Pope Francis, like that under Francis' political pal Joe Biden, has been marked by a striking double standard. Father Frank Pavone, founder and national director of Priests for Life, for instance, was canceled and defrocked for doing what Catholic priests are supposed to be doing: opposing abortion, saving babies, and saving souls. Likewise, Bishop Joseph Strickland of Tyler, Texas, was removed for being too traditional, for urging U.S. bishops to take a stronger stand in the sexual-abuse crisis, and for speaking at a Catholic rally at Dodger Stadium opposing the Dodgers' honoring of the notoriously anti-Catholic and sacrilegious homosexual drag queens known as the "Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence."

Compare the steel-fist treatment in those and similar cases to the velvet-glove handling of serial sex-offender Father Marko Rupnik, a "Friend of Francis" who mysteriously had his excommunication lifted, apparently through the intervention of the pope. Pope Francis has denied intervening, but his disavowal is hardly credible considering the circumstances and the fact that Rupnik's penalty was removed (an extraordinary action) only three days after the pope met with Rupnik's longtime colleague and defender Maria Campatelli.

While Archbishop Viganò is dismissed by defenders of Pope Francis as a crackpot conspiracy theorist, the many alarming charges he has laid at the feet of the current pontiff are increasingly recognized by Catholics and non-Catholics alike as factually true. And although even many of his current and erstwhile supporters among conservatives and traditionalists are not on board with his claim that Jorge Bergoglio is not now, and never was, legitimately the pope, nearly every new day seems to bring fresh examples of scandalous (or even heretical) statements and actions by Pope Francis. One thing seems certain: Archbishop Viganò is not going away anytime soon, and his revelations and accusations are likely to lead to increased calls for the pope's resignation.





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## “J’Accuse”: Viganò’s Defense

In a lengthy defense entitled “J’Accuse” posted on June 28 on his own website, Archbishop Viganò argues that it is not he who is in schism with the Church, since he adheres wholeheartedly to the Deposit of Faith and “all the true Councils of the Church, which I fully recognize and accept, just as I fully recognize and accept all the magisterial acts of the Roman Pontiffs.” Rather, he charges, it is Jorge Mario Bergoglio and his minions who are in schism by embracing “a faith different from that constantly taught for two thousand years by the Catholic Church.”

“I face this trial with the determination that comes from knowing that I have no reason to consider myself separate from communion with the Holy Church and with the Papacy, which I have always served with filial devotion and fidelity,” Viganò avers. “I could not conceive of a single moment of my life outside this one Ark of salvation, which Providence has constituted as the Mystical Body of Christ, in submission to its Divine Head and to His Vicar on earth.”



**Bergoglio-McCarrick scandal:** Pope Francis protected and promoted Vatican power broker Cardinal Theodore McCarrick for years after Archbishop Viganò’s investigation exposed McCarrick’s notorious record as a homosexual predator. (AP Images)

Viganò calls Bergoglio a usurper, not a true pope. He cites the papal bull *Cum ex apostolatus officio* of Pope Paul IV, which he notes “established in perpetuity the nullity of the nomination or election of any Prelate — including the Pope — who had fallen into heresy before his promotion to Cardinal or elevation to Roman Pontiff.” “It defines,” says Viganò, “the promotion or elevation as *nulla, irrita et inanis* — void, invalid, and without any value.”

As a high-level Vatican whistleblower, the archbishop over the past six years has become a hero to traditional and conservative Catholics for exposing sexual and financial corruption in the Church and openly criticizing Pope Francis’ scandalous words and deeds. His admirers include many priests, bishops, and cardinals, as well as lay faithful. However, not all of his supporters are on the same page with him in challenging Pope Francis’ Petrine legitimacy. *Sedevacantism*, which Archbishop Viganò now embraces, holds that the Chair of Peter is vacant (*sede vacante*), hence there is no legitimate pope at present. Currently, many of Viganò’s supporters stop short of that position, holding that Pope Francis



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might be a *bad* pope, but that he is still the pope nonetheless.

One of the most prominent critics of Pope Francis who falls into this camp is the Auxiliary Bishop Athanasius Schneider of Astana, Kazakhstan. In an interview with Religious News Service (RNS) that appeared on June 24, Bishop Schneider argued on behalf of Viganò, warning that excommunicating him would only lead to more division, something Pope Francis claims to deplore.

“I think the pope would be wise and prudent if he were to not excommunicate Archbishop Viganò,” Schneider said, adding that, “with this act, the Holy See will increase divisions even more.” Schneider, who grew up under communist persecution in the old Soviet Union, is a staunch traditionalist.

“The Holy See is becoming an instrument of the global elites,” he said. “It is sad that this global new ideology managed to succeed to a great extent in taking the Catholic Church hostage and turning the Holy See and the episcopates into its collaborators.” Nonetheless, he says, Archbishop Viganò “is in error” in claiming that the election of Pope Francis is illegitimate.

Other Catholic traditionalists have been cautious about either endorsing or criticizing Viganò’s *sedevacantism*, or taking a position on his excommunication. That includes popular publications, commentators, and podcasters such as *Catholic Family News*, Dr. Taylor Marshall, *The Remnant* newspaper, Michael Matt, LifeSiteNews, John-Henry Westen, Matt Gaspers, Dr. Anthony Stine, Kennedy Hall, OnePeterFive, and many others.

However, Catholic actor, producer, and director Mel Gibson, who shares Viganò’s *sedevacantist* views, has offered a full-throated endorsement of the archbishop. “To me and many others you are a most courageous hero,” he said in a letter to Viganò. “You are a modern day Athanasius!”

Gibson’s colleague and fellow actor Jim Caviezel has been more measured in his support, posting a rare comment on X asking for prayers for the embattled archbishop. “Please pray for Archbishop @CarloMVigano, a crusader for the truth, during this troubling time,” he posted on June 21.

While many orthodox Catholics are on the fence and grappling with all the prudential, moral, and theological issues involved in the “Affair Viganò/Bergoglio,” it is unlikely that the excommunication will have the effect desired by Pope Francis and the Fernández cabal at the restructured DDF. Their new *Instrumentum Laboris* for their much-ballyhooed Synod on Synodality makes hypocritical calls for “transparency” and “accountability” 34 times — while they persecute the man who has most courageously exposed their corruption, crimes, and coverups. His excommunication notwithstanding, the Viganò saga is far from over.



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