



Ven, Holy Spirit, Ven!

A message from Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, MSpS, concerning the publication of the alleged prophetic messages from the Mission of Divine Mercy

March 15, 2024

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I write to offer you guidance regarding the recently published alleged prophecies from Reverend John Mary Foster at the Mission of Divine Mercy (MDM) at Canyon Lake, Texas. Before addressing the many concerns sent to me and other archdiocesan officials, I wish to clarify the canonical status of the Mission of Divine Mercy.

The Mission of Divine Mercy was granted status as an approved Catholic apostolate by Archbishop José H. Gomez on May 19, 2010. Reverend John Mary Foster, founder of the apostolate and an incardinated priest of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, has enjoyed a special assignment to serve as the director of MDM. Although he had hoped the apostolate would grow and the number of members would increase, this has not occurred. The apostolate consisted of Reverend John Mary Foster, his biological sister and former religious sister Mary Foster, his cousin William Roderique, his nephew Joseph Jebbia, and a non-family member: Araceli Granados Gantner. The MDM is not a canonically erected religious community of either diocesan or pontifical rite and its status as a Catholic apostolate of the Archdiocese of San Antonio has been suppressed and revoked by official decree on March 15, 2024. Additionally, Reverend Foster's faculties to minister have also been removed as of March 15, 2024.

Since 2009, the Mission of Divine Mercy has offered retreats, sacramental ministry, and a peaceful setting for the faithful of God. I have been supportive of their efforts, and I have enjoyed a positive relationship with Reverend Foster and the members of the Mission of Divine Mercy. The only stipulation I have ever requested of the MDM -- in order to prevent any misunderstandings and possible scandal -- was to refrain from publishing any alleged prophetic message until they were reviewed to ensure they were not harmful to the people of God. This stipulation was intended to protect the faithful since the alleged prophetic writings include many scandalous claims and false teachings. Until just recently, the members of the Mission of Divine Mercy have been obedient to my request.

On February 28, 2024, Reverend Foster published an alleged prophetic message from a member of the MDM community. I contacted Reverend Foster the same day and requested that he remove the post on the website. On March 5, 2024, I met with Reverend Foster for more than an hour, praying together and discussing the false teachings contained in the post and Reverend Foster's oath of fidelity to the Church and duty of obedience to me, which oath and duty he has reaffirmed each year during the Chrism Mass since his incardination in 2009. The next day, Reverend Foster posted a second alleged prophetic message. On March 7, 2024, I repeated my direct request to him to remove these publications from the MDM website and social media, to begin assisting in repairing the confusion, bewilderment and damage caused by these alleged prophecies. On March 13, 2024, the third alleged prophetic message was widely published.

Reverend Foster, in the statement he posted on the website of the Mission of Divine Mercy entitled, "We Must Obey God", outright admits his disobedience to Pope Francis and his Ordinary and cites the following reasons which he believes justifies his actions:

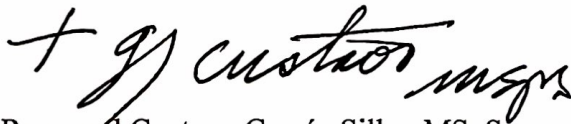
"We know that many people are concerned that the Mission of Divine Mercy is being disobedient to our Archbishop in publishing these Messages. And that our "disobedience" discredits these Messages. That is a very legitimate concern. The key question is: Are we obeying God? We should always obey God. And normally, we should obey legitimate human authorities—but only in those cases where human authorities are acting in accord with God's law. There are occasions, as the Church has clearly taught, when we are called to obey God even though it means disobeying human authorities.¹ We see many examples in the life of Our Lord Himself as we will discuss below. Is our situation one of those occasions? We are making three claims that may be shocking to many: 1. That these Messages are coming from God. They are prophetic Messages. 2. That the Church is facing an extreme crisis, beyond any she has faced before, because, as a Message we recently published says "the usurper [is sitting] on the chair of My Peter—he who is carrying out the Great Treason."² This extreme crisis calls for extreme measures. 3. Given this extreme crisis, we are obeying God in publishing these messages, even without our Archbishop's permission" ("We Must Obey God", p.1).

In his document Father Foster, in his own words and by quoting the alleged prophetic messages refers to Pope Francis as "the usurper" and writes: *"In summary, we must always obey God. Normally, obeying God includes obeying the authorities of the Church. But we are living in an unprecedented crisis. God is telling us that the Throne of Peter is occupied by a usurper, and we should not submit to him nor those who are carrying out his unjust designs" ("We Must Obey God", p. 11).*

Father Foster publicly declares his disobedience to Church authority and encourages others to do the same: *“When superiors are actively committing or commanding grave evil, one is not obliged to obey them. We don’t believe our Archbishop intends to do evil. We believe he is good-hearted. But he is enthusiastically following Bergoglio, whom we do believe is trying to subvert the Church”* (“We Must Obey God”, p. 10).

Conscious of my duty to exercise governance over the ministries of the archdiocese and prudently lead the Christian faithful of the Archdiocese, I cannot allow any further confusion and grave scandal to descend upon the faithful of God and so I have removed Reverend Foster’s faculties for public ministry in the Archdiocese of San Antonio. I pray that Reverend Foster will work with me to repair the damage that has been caused and find a path forward for his ministry.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gustavo García-Siller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and a cross-like flourish at the end.

Most Reverend Gustavo García-Siller, MSpS
Archbishop of San Antonio



DECREE

In the name of God. Amen.

WHEREAS by DECREE of March 15, 2024, I withdrew my approval of the “Mission of Divine Mercy” as a Catholic apostolate in the Archdiocese of San Antonio and I suppressed the private association of the Christian faithful, the “Mission of Divine Mercy” and the private juridic person of the “Mission of Divine Mercy”; and

WHEREAS while the Reverend John Mary FOSTER acted as Guardian of the Mission of Divine Mercy, he publicly taught that Pope Francis is usurping the papal office as in the following examples:

“In summary, we must always obey God. Normally, obeying God includes obeying the authorities of the Church. But we are living in an unprecedented crisis. God is telling us that the Throne of Peter is occupied by a usurper, and we should not submit to him nor those who are carrying out his unjust designs” (“We Must Obey God”, p. 11); and

“Many commentators have pointed out that for centuries enemies of the Church have worked patiently to infiltrate her with the goal of subverting and destroying her faith, the Deposit of Faith given her by our Lord Jesus Christ. Their efforts have seen some bad men placed in powerful positions in the hierarchy, including bishops, cardinals, and members of the Curia. Such infiltrators have already done great damage. Now, however, they have ‘allowed the usurper to sit on the chair of My Peter’. An unprecedented attack on the Church” (“We Must Obey God”, p. 6); and

“Regarding the legitimacy of Bergoglio’s papacy, serious questions have been raised by individuals who are much more competent in this area than we are. We are not pretending to resolve here from a human standpoint all those difficult questions, but we are trying to transmit the crucial point made by the Lord in His messages to us. We do believe that whatever scholars and canonists may say is the official or technical status of the man occupying the papacy, that man is a usurper and leading the most dangerous attack the Church has ever faced” (“We Must Obey God”, p. 6-7); and

“When superiors are actively committing or commanding grave evil, one is not obliged to obey them. We don’t believe our Archbishop intends to do evil. We

believe he is good-hearted. But he is enthusiastically following Bergoglio, whom we do believe is trying to subvert the Church” (“We Must Obey God”, p. 10); and “To those who suggest we are leaving the Church or being schismatic, we can only reply with an empathic NO. We are defending Christ’s Church and her Deposit of Faith. We love and defend the papacy, which is why Bergoglio’s usurpation is so painful. It is those who willfully sow confusion and disorder and subvert the Deposit of Faith that have—worse than leaving the Church—betrayed the Church” (“We Must Obey God”, p. 12); and

WHEREAS after canonical warning and admonition of March 7, 2024, the Reverend FOSTER has incorrectly asserted that he does not, during what he claims to be an unprecedented crisis in the Church, owe obedience to legitimate Church authority,

by this

DECREE

I REMOVE the Reverend FOSTER from the function of Director of the suppressed “Mission of Divine Mercy”; and

I REMOVE the Reverend FOSTER from the related office of Parochial Vicar of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Canyon Lake, TX; and

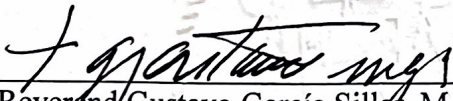
I WITHDRAW from the Reverend FOSTER all faculties habitually given to him for the exercise of these assignments, to include the faculty to preach (cf. canon 764) and to hear confessions (cf. canon 970), and intend to grant to him all faculties required for the exercise of future assignments; and

I APPOINT the Reverend FOSTER to a time of spiritual retreat of approximately six (6) months, with the place and format to be mutually agreed upon with the Reverend FOSTER; and

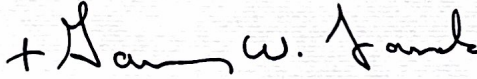
The Reverend FOSTER is to coordinate with my Vicar for Clergy, the Very Reverend John Mefrige, VE, as to the place, time, and format of this retreat. This coordination is to begin promptly and be completed no later than April 8, 2024. The retreat is to begin no later than May 1, 2024.

Recourse against this decree can be made within ten (10) useful days, according to the norm of the applicable canons, see canons 1732-1739.

Given at 11:59 AM at the Pastoral Ministry Center this 15th day of March 2024.



Most Reverend Gustavo García Siller, M.Sp.S.
Archbishop of San Antonio



Most Reverend Gary Janak, JCL
Chancellor



DECREE

In the name of God. Amen.

WHEREAS having reviewed and approved the statutes of the Mission of Divine Mercy and having determined that the Mission of Divine Mercy intended to pursue a truly useful purpose in the ministry of the Church in the Archdiocese of San Antonio, by decree of May 19, 2010 my predecessor in office, the Most Reverend José H. Gomez, S.T.D. established and erected the private juridic person of the "Mission of Divine Mercy" to carry out the mission outlined in the aforesaid statutes; and

WHEREAS I, the undersigned Archbishop of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, have continued to recognize the Mission of Divine Mercy as a Catholic apostolate in the Archdiocese of San Antonio; and

WHEREAS the Reverend John Mary FOSTER, currently acting as Guardian of the Mission of Divine Mercy, has publicly taught that God is telling him through a female member of the association that Pope Francis is usurping the papal office as in the following examples:

"In summary, we must always obey God. Normally, obeying God includes obeying the authorities of the Church. But we are living in an unprecedented crisis. God is telling us that the Throne of Peter is occupied by a usurper, and we should not submit to him nor those who are carrying out his unjust designs" ("We Must Obey God", p. 11); and

"Many commentators have pointed out that for centuries enemies of the Church have worked patiently to infiltrate her with the goal of subverting and destroying her faith, the Deposit of Faith given her by our Lord Jesus Christ. Their efforts have seen some bad men placed in powerful positions in the hierarchy, including bishops, cardinals, and members of the Curia. Such infiltrators have already done great damage. Now, however, they have 'allowed the usurper to sit on the chair of My Peter'. An unprecedented attack on the Church" ("We Must Obey God", p. 6); and

"Regarding the legitimacy of Bergoglio's papacy, serious questions have been raised by individuals who are much more competent in this area than we are. We are not pretending to resolve here from a human standpoint all those difficult questions, but we are trying to transmit the crucial point made by the Lord in His messages to us. We do believe that whatever scholars and canonists may say is the official or technical status of the man occupying the papacy, that man is a usurper and leading the most dangerous attack the Church has ever faced" ("We Must Obey God", p. 6-7); and

"When superiors are actively committing or commanding grave evil, one is not obliged to obey them. We don't believe our Archbishop intends to do evil. We

believe he is good-hearted. But he is enthusiastically following Bergoglio, whom we do believe is trying to subvert the Church” (“We Must Obey God”, p. 10); and
“To those who suggest we are leaving the Church or being schismatic, we can only reply with an empathic NO. We are defending Christ’s Church and her Deposit of Faith. We love and defend the papacy, which is why Bergoglio’s usurpation is so painful. It is those who willfully sow confusion and disorder and subvert the Deposit of Faith that have—worse than leaving the Church—betrayed the Church” (“We Must Obey God”, p. 12); and

WHEREAS after canonical warning and admonition on March 7, 2024, the Reverend FOSTER has only reasserted his intention to continue down the path of division and disobedience (cf. canon 1371 §1); and

WHEREAS the activities of the Reverend FOSTER and of the Mission of Divine Mercy have led to confusion and division and have caused grave scandal to the faithful, which has been reported to me both from within and without the Archdiocese of San Antonio; and

WHEREAS as the diocesan bishop of the Archdiocese of San Antonio I am the competent authority to act within the norm of CIC canons 326 if a private association of the Christian faithful’s activity causes grave harm to ecclesiastical doctrine or discipline or is a scandal to the faithful; and

WHEREAS as the diocesan bishop of the Archdiocese of San Antonio I am the competent authority to act within the norm of CIC canons 120 to legitimately suppress a private juridic person;

by this

DECREE

I WITHDRAW ecclesiastical approval for the Statutes of the “Mission of Divine Mercy”; and

I WITHDRAW my approval of the “Mission of Divine Mercy” as a Catholic apostolate in the Archdiocese of San Antonio; and

I SUPPRESS the private association of the Christian faithful, the “Mission of Divine Mercy”; and

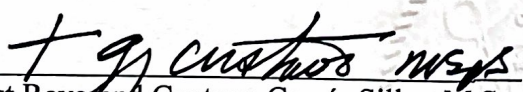
I SUPPRESS the private juridic person of the “Mission of Divine Mercy”; and

I ORDER the allocation of the goods of the association to be determined according to the norm of CIC canon 326 §2, without prejudice to acquired rights and the intention of the donors; and

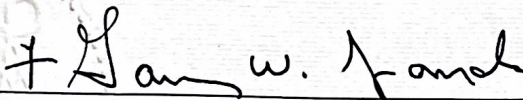
I ORDER that those who formed the “Mission of Divine Mercy” are not to collectively use the name Catholic or call themselves a Catholic association.

Recourse against this decree can be made within ten (10) useful days, according to the norm of the applicable canons, see canons 1732-1739.

Given at 11:50 AM at the Pastoral Ministry Center this 15th day of March 2024.



Most Reverend Gustavo García Siller, M.Sp.S.
Archbishop of San Antonio



Most Reverend Gary Janak, JCL
Chancellor



DECREE

In the name of God. Amen.

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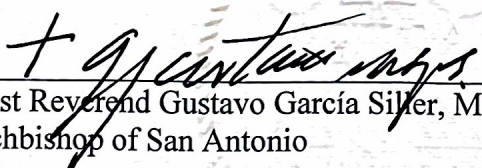
DECREE

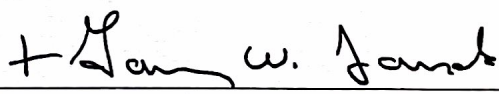
I RESTRICT the Reverend FOSTER’s public exercise of ministry, PROHIBITING him from the exercise of any public ministry at the location that historically was the “Mission of Divine Mercy,” to include any celebration of the Eucharist in the presence of Christ’s faithful people, even persons who formerly were members of the “Mission of Divine Mercy”; and

I WARN the Reverend FOSTER that if he exercises any restricted ministry I may PROHIBIT him from exercising any public ministry in the Archdiocese of San Antonio.

Recourse against this decree can be made within ten (10) useful days, according to the norm of the applicable canons, see canons 1732-1739.

Given at the Pastoral Ministry Center this 15th day of March 2024.


Most Reverend Gustavo García Siller, M.Sp.S.
Archbishop of San Antonio


Most Reverend Gary Janak, JCL
Chancellor