



DECREE

FOR THE GREATER HONOR AND GLORY OF GOD. AMEN.

Whereas on November 5, 2020 I was made aware of a video posted on the social media platform Instagram by the Reverend Henry Clay Hunt, III, on October 30, 2020, in which he publicly stated:

Praised be to God I just finished celebrating the Holy Mass. We never miss the Holy Mass for anything. That's our life to God, that's our salvation, and I want to tell y'all I was just, I just saw somebody who is a good friend of mine, who I know and he's a very faithful man, and I told him, "You've been going to the Holy Mass?" and he was like, "No, we have the dispensation," and that's not true at all. We don't have a dispensation from the life of the Lord to us - no matter what anybody says - and that is why I hope you go to the Holy Confession and to the Holy Mass and as we say as Cowboys, come hell or high water, nothing's going to stop me from the Holy Mass. We love you and may the Lord, in the fullness of his power, bless to all your family in these difficult times, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen. Adios.;

and

whereas on November 6, 2020 I became aware that the Reverend Hunt responded publically, in the comments on the above referenced posted video, to a grandmother who cares for her granddaughter with underlying health issues, fears bringing the virus to her, and asked if she was ok to watch Mass online, make a spiritual communion, pray the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet daily, and pray the Angelus at the designated times, saying: "You need to eat the Holy Communion Mija;" and

whereas in keeping with the norm of canon 1717 §1 a preliminary investigation would be entirely superfluous considering the public nature of the Reverend Hunt's statement; and

whereas in keeping with canon 1341 I have ascertained that fraternal correction, rebuke, and other means of pastoral solicitude cannot sufficiently repair scandal and reform the Reverend Hunt and that it is expedient to initiate a process to inflict a penalty; and

whereas in keeping with canon 1718 §1, 3° I have determined that the matter must proceed by extrajudicial decree because of the plain and public nature of the proofs and in order to expedite a just outcome;

I therefore initiate the process of an extrajudicial penal decree, which process must determine if the Reverend Hunt has violated canon 1373 by inciting Christ's Faithful People in the Archdiocese of San Antonio to believe that I invalidly gave a dispensation from the obligation to participate in Sunday Mass and thereby led people into grave sin, or by provoking certain members of Christ's Faithful People in the Archdiocese of San Antonio to disobey my instruction ordering them to stay away from church in order to protect their own health or the health of others, and if so whether he is to be punished by interdict or other just penalties, and whether the Reverend Hunt has violated the penal precept which I gave him by decree of June 3, 2020 by violating the specific restriction "from using social media to comment on any decisions or activities of Catholic leaders, parishes, or organizations," and if so whether he is to be punished with a just ecclesiastical penalty, to include "a public restriction of his faculties and authorization to minister within the Archdiocese of San Antonio to the celebration of Eucharist and Penance within the context of his assignment as Chaplain to Criminal Justice Ministry in the Archdiocese of San Antonio;" and

I invite, in keeping with canon 1723 §1, the Reverend Hunt to appoint an advocate to assist him in this cause; and

I invite, in keeping with canon 1720, 1°, the Reverend Hunt to review, at a time which he schedules with the Reverend Martin J. Leopold, the proofs collected against him, and to make a defense before December 8, 2020. This defense may be submitted in writing at any point before December 8, 2020, or in person at 11:00 am on December 8 at the Pastoral Center, the present decree serving as notice and citation; and


according to the norm of canon 1722, in order to prevent scandal and to guard the course of justice, having heard the Promotor of Justice, I exclude the Reverend Hunt from all public exercise of ministry and impose on him residence at the rectory of St. Joseph in South San Antonio, where I have already assigned him to reside and through my Vicar for Clergy have admonished him to keep residence; and finally,

I order the Reverend Hunt to immediately remove from Instagram the above mentioned video posted on October 30, 2020 and within one day of receipt of this decree to post a correction which at least contains the following language: "In the Archdiocese of San Antonio, Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, M.Sp.S. has given Christ's Faithful People a dispensation from the obligation to participate in Sunday Mass which he reaffirmed in a decree of October 16, 2020. In this decree he further instructs those who are ill not to come to church and those who are in a high risk category due to illness, age, or a chronic health condition or compromised immune system to remain at home." He may additionally reference my decree of October 16, 2020 in its entirety, or link to the Archdiocesan website where it can be found.

Given at the Pastoral Center this 7th day of November, 2020.



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



Sister Jane Ann Slater, CDP
Chancellor