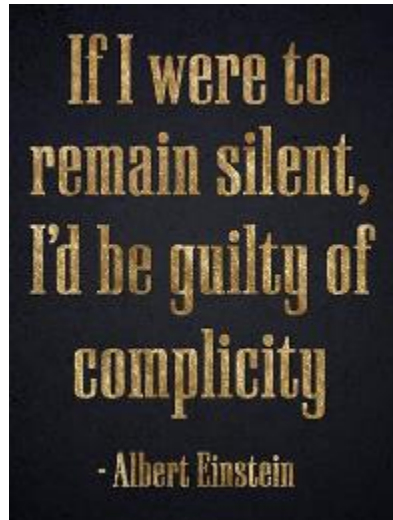


July 22, 2024

Greetings Fr. Carlos,

I was very impressed to read the new booklet ..... **Welcome Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish**. Thanks to you and your team for such an initiative.



I understand that from the two years you have been the parish priest at **Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish**, you have shown a lot of initiative to emphasize on the material aspect of the parishioners. Some of your initiatives include building the confessional doors, repairing the roof, repairing the lady's washroom in the parish hall, repairing the roof of the church entrance, etc. etc. etc.

Whilst the above aesthetic improvements are impressive from a physical standpoint, I am not sure whether the spiritual needs and holistic goals of the parishioners have been fully addressed. Let me elaborate:

1. In **2022** when I came to the office to offer a mass for my parents, the secretary was on vacation, and you accepted my donation and thereafter became very cordial with me. I informed you that I was happy to volunteer my time as a lector or Eucharistic minister. You

called me into your office and offered me three areas where I should help, but you did not take into consideration my choices. You wanted me to:

- a. Look after maintaining the background checks of all the volunteers;
- b. Money counting;
- c. Lector at the 7 p.m. mass on Sundays.

At that time, I agreed, and this is what happened:

- a) I had to travel out of the country and when I returned, I realized that you had handed over the task of getting AODA approved to **Maria**. As you should know, **Maria** has allegedly not much computer skills, no customer skills and was allegedly very rude. At the start itself, she made very rude (alleged racial) remarks when you and I were trying to fix the audio system in the parish hall. **Did she tell you what she said at that time, when she complained to you about me?** Subsequently, when we discussed about training the volunteers, she called me in to have several meetings, but, refused to arrange to fix the big TV and told me very rudely - in front of a witness - that I had to train the volunteers even with the audio visual not working in the parish hall nor the big TV in the counting room. Later she told you a "**cock and bull story**" since she had no skills to train the volunteers – and **you believed her without knowing the truth**. (P.S. Did you notice that **Maria** does not attend any AODA meetings without another person by her side (**Nina**) since she is not familiar with the requirements of AODA or any rules?) By the way, was **Maria** able by herself to finally complete training all the volunteers in compliance with the law?

Subsequently, when I returned from my trip, **you refused to meet with me** even though I made several attempts. Finally when I caught up with you, you told me that someone had complained about me in the past (**about something which you did not clarify**), but, you said, you gave me a second chance to handle the training of the volunteers to comply with the AODA requirements. But **you said I failed on both**, and you did not want to give me another chance.

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**Leviticus 5:1** points out that staying silent about evil is a sin for which people will be held accountable: "If anyone sins because they do not speak up when they hear a public charge to testify regarding something they have seen or learned about, they will be held responsible." **James 4:17** declares: "If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them." If we know that God is calling us to speak out against evil but choose to be silent despite that, we're sinning.

But you did not have the decency of informing me who complained the first time nor did you have the courage to investigate whether Maria was telling the truth considering her history of passive aggressive behavior to the people around her. [P.S. Fr. Carlos, do you believe that God has given you more than two chances when you have allegedly failed in your duties?]

**You arbitrarily decided that I should not offer my services as a volunteer. (see point [c] below):**

b) When I started doing the money counting, I found that handling the notes was causing me a rash and I excused myself.

**c) On that Sunday you specifically asked me to read at the 7 p.m. mass, when I came prepared, I was surprised that Hermine was there and she told me that even though you specifically asked me to read at that mass, Susan allegedly told Hermine that I should not read and asked Hermine to read. Did you know about this? And would you condone such behavior from the Leader of the Liturgy group?**

2. From the above incidents one can see that you are allegedly not very used to ascertaining the facts and you jump to conclusions very quickly. **Do you believe that this is a quality of a leader or that of a Parish Priest?** You have deprived me (and even other parishioners) from offering their volunteer services to the Lord, even though you constantly make announcements asking for volunteers. It appears that not many parishioners are volunteering (based on the history of the church) or you do not actually want many volunteers to actually be lectors or Eucharistic ministers? Which is it, since the following paragraph explains further.
3. Since the past two years one will notice the following:
  - a. The same people do the reading every Saturday mass.
  - b. There are no altar servers for Saturday evening mass.
  - c. The same two people are Eucharistic ministers every Saturday mass.
  - d. **One person is permanently either a Lector or a Eucharistic Minister every Saturday – without giving chances to others to volunteer. Is this person allegedly selfish – or are you encouraging people to be selfish and not giving a chance to others or is the Liturgical leader not doing her job effectively to allocate lectors and Eucharistic Ministers and so are you allegedly conspiring to perpetuate this alleged injustice? By maintaining the same Liturgical leader who is allegedly dysfunctional are you encouraging the existence of injustice in the parish? And is this practice bringing up the level at the parish as you are professing?**
  - e. The same person takes the crucifix to lead the procession every Saturday.
  - f. The same music director leads the mass every Saturday, without giving opportunities to others like a youth choir nor does the music director give a chance to others in the choir to lead with the “Lord have mercy” or lead the responsorial psalm, etc.
  - g. The number of people attending the Saturday mass never increases and sometimes decreases.
4. From the above, it appears that you are allegedly not familiar with what is happening in other parishes where there is a leader who allocates different readers and different Eucharist Ministers at different masses and thus giving all the parishioners to participate in the faith. Sadly, you are continuing to do what you want to do or like to do which allegedly defeats the holistic approach to conducting services in a Catholic church. **It also defeats the Mission Statement that is printed in the new booklet.**
5. The booklet states that you have a Parish Council. But it appears that either the council is dormant or dysfunctional and do not take any initiative to make improvements or changes for

the benefit of the parishioners. Or allegedly you do not wish to make any improvements and stick to your own style of running the parish devoid of any input from the parishioners.

6. Some parishioners have commented that they do not understand your accent and that defeats the purpose of your long homilies.
7. I understand that you had an incident at your previous parish which was reported in the news. But you were not condemned by the Archdiocese just as you allegedly condemned me based on innuendo and false information.
8. For example, you have a Liturgy Committee, but whoever is leading that Ministry does not look after professionally allocating the lectors and Eucharistic Ministers for the Saturday masses and give a chance to others who wish to read. **And yet that Liturgy leader allocates herself to regularly read at all feast masses, Good Friday, etc. And you do not find that strange?** But parishioners are observing what is happening and therefore the numbers at the Saturday masses have dropped dramatically.
9. Strangely, when you accused me of committing two transgressions – without proper investigation and without proper evidence – you deprived me of volunteering. **What action do you think that the Lord should take based on your alleged transgressions described above?**

**Fr. Carlos**, may I respectfully request you to let me know whether the Archdiocese of Toronto is aware of your modus operandi of running a parish only to address the aesthetic aspect of the church facilities instead of looking after the spiritual needs of the parishioners? **Is it not true that many Catholics are moving to other parishes, or changing their religion or completely giving up the faith due to the actions or inactions of priests?**

At the end of the mass on Saturday, July 20, you mentioned that from 2022 you are endeavoring to bring the parish up to a **higher level**. **Does this mean that the Transfiguration of Our Lord parish was at a lower level before you came in 2022?** And from the contents of this email, do you believe that you are actually bringing up the parish to a higher level of spirituality?

**As you probably know, Fr. Sami's sermons - even though in a modest and pragmatic manner - are very spiritual, practical and impressive and allegedly far superior to the drama you put on by using your headphone mic to make a difference.**

**Fr. Carlos**, may I respectfully request you to kindly review the above and in case I have missed something or misunderstood anything or misrepresented the facts, please let me know. I believe I brought to your attention some of the above alleged transgressions before and you did not respond to my previous email. I hope this will not continue and you will make adequate changes as described in paragraph (3) above.

Thank you kindly and may God bless us all.

**Tino Sequeira**

[P.S. I understand that you do not check your emails regularly and I cannot understand why. So, I am sending this email to the office email address as well.]