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We have confirmation that after several weeks the Congregation of the Resurrection has indeed concluded its hearings and investigation of the accusations directed against Father Phillips.

An independent Review Board of three public-spirited leaders from the Chicago area, who are not members of St. John Cantius Church, was constituted. Thereafter, the Review Board interviewed the detractors and several witnesses, persons who personally know the accusers, and other individuals who came forward to testify in defense of Father Phillips' integrity. In accordance with directives given by Card. Cupich the members of the Canons Regular were not interviewed.

The Review Board has concluded that Fr. Phillips has not violated any secular criminal, civil or canon law.

Fr. Phillips, having been exonerated thusly, and this in turn confirmed by the *votum* of The Rt. Rev. Gene Szarek, C.R., Ph.D. Provincial Superior of the Congregation of the Resurrection upon receipt of the Review Board Report. We now prayerfully await the response of His Eminence, Blase Cardinal Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago, for the return of our pastor.

While recalling the words of Pope Francis on the occasion of the 52nd anniversary to commemorate the World Day for Social Communications [13th May 2018], exhorting *us as Christians to be the number one media capable of truth and an efficacious enunciation of good*. False news is always « evil », because it impacts relationships between persons, violating the dignity of those same persons, and sometimes entire peoples. A Christian, instead, never divides the truth from good. Just as Jesus of Nazareth did, when He affirmed: “the truth will make you free.”

We therefore remain confident that in this process, justice and truth will prevail over the mendacity, falsehoods, spitefulness and malevolent connivance from which this unpleasant episode originates; and that the accusers, who recklessly have besmirched their own reputations in this matter, will too choose to make themselves “free”, by each of them individually presenting an unconditional retraction.

Church sources tell us, the above cited conclusions and *votum* have not been made public, inasmuch as further legal action could be taken to fully restore Fr. Phillips' good name.

We turn to the Blessed Virgin Mary as our advocate and plead for her maternal help and guidance.

The Protect Our Priests Team

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