

October 26, 2018

Dear Bishop Raica,

In light of the Pennsylvania and McCarrick sexual abuse scandals, I now view the actions of Bishop Robert Lynch towards me through a new lens. With this in mind, I would like to have this letter entered into the official records of the Diocese of Gaylord. You may recall that in November of 2016, I discussed these concerns with you in person.

Just prior to Bishop Lynch's retirement, he came to Michigan and offered to say Masses

_____REDACTED_____. Afterwards, _____REDACTED_____ told me that I might want to google him also, since he would be coming around with a certain frequency. Among other things, I learned about the accusations by Bill Urbanski, who worked for Bishop Lynch in Florida. Having discovered this information, I was on my guard.

I do not have any specific dates, but I do have specific experiences with Bishop Robert Lynch, which I include in the following chronological list:

1. He offered to take me out to dinner. I warily accepted.
2. As he drove us to dinner, he found occasion to touch the back of his right hand to the outside of my left thigh.
3. At dinner, he asked me about my exercise regimen in reference to my physical fitness.
4. At dinner, I asked him why he became a priest. His answer had nothing to do with prayer, love of God, Jesus or the saints, etc.
5. After dinner, he said that my payment to him for dinner was to drive us back, and he handed me the keys.
6. Sometime later he asked me to dinner again. This time I said that it would depend on my friend's schedule. He tried a couple of times to get me to drop the idea of bringing a friend. My friend came with us for this second meal.
7. Sometime later, while in the sacristy, he said he was worried about my never taking a vacation, and then he offered to purchase a plane ticket for me to someplace in Florida. I told him there was no chance I would accept that offer.
8. Sometime later, while in the sacristy following a Mass, he reached out and clasped my left hand with both of his hands. I froze for the 5-7 seconds he did this, and then he let go.
9. Sometime later, he asked me to dinner yet again. This time I made up an excuse which indicated I would never again be going out to dinner with him.
10. Lastly, from around the end of 2016 to the present, Bishop Lynch has brought several young priests and seminarians with him to the Sacramentine Monastery for Mass.

Bishop Raica, since the release of the news about McCarrick taking seminarians and priests to a beach house for sex, and the credible claims of a predatory homosexual network in the church, I now believe that I have a duty to alert others in the diocese about my experiences with Bishop Lynch-let the people draw their own conclusions regarding him. I do not yet know how much I will reveal. I will at least share the articles on the internet regarding Bishop Lynch, and I will say that I have felt uncomfortable in his presence on a number of occasions. However, I think it is more likely that I will simply make and share copies of this letter for the following reasons: 1) To ensure that I have said all I can in order to potentially protect souls, 2) To attempt to ensure that I am not misquoted, 3) To ensure that everyone is getting the same information from me every time, 4) To try to ensure that, in this matter, I am not culpable in the eyes of God for any damage that might be inflicted on a soul.

As you may have heard, on October 12th, Archbishop Hebda removed Bishop Lynch as the keynote speaker at an event for priests and administrators. It is my wish that this diocese follows suit and prohibits Bishop Lynch from speaking publicly or offering Mass here. With this in mind, I will also share this letter with Fr. Denny Stilwell. He may appreciate having time to identify the most prudent way forward for his parish, where Bishop Lynch frequently presides at Mass.

May Christ make all things new.

With Great Hope and Regard,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Adam C. Chittle". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Adam C. Chittle

cc: Fr. Dennis Stilwell