



# DIOCESE OF RAPID CITY

February 6, 2019

OFFICE OF BISHOP

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Recently there have been ads in the *Rapid City Journal* paid for by a Mr. Steven Brady, founder and president of Roman Catholic Faithful, Inc. According to their website, Roman Catholic Faithful claims to be a network of faithful laity, investigators and attorneys whose goal is to rid the Catholic Church of clerical corruption. It also appears that they are connected in some way to Church Militant.

According to the ad, Mr. Brady and this group will be coming to Rapid City on Saturday, February 23 at the Ramkota from 5-10 p.m. to meet with local Catholics who are willing to share information about Blase Cardinal Cupich's tenure while he was the Bishop of Rapid City. In order to attend this gathering one must register, providing name, phone number and email address.

It seems to me that their goal appears to be to try to uncover "dirt" on Cardinal Cupich so that they can tear down his reputation. They are accusing him of promoting a pro-homosexuality agenda in the Church, tolerance of abortion, and other issues which go against Catholic teaching. Cardinal Cupich was the Bishop of the Diocese of Rapid City from 1998 – 2010.

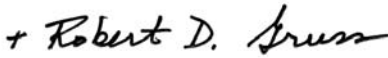
The question on my mind: "Is their true goal to rid the Catholic Church of clerical corruption or is it an attempt to destroy the reputation of Cardinal Cupich with whom they disagree regarding his approach to certain Church teachings? Based upon what I have read in their materials, their goal is to attempt to destroy the reputation of Cardinal Cupich. Therefore, their mission is evil and guided by the Evil One. Any group that seeks to divide the Church by sharing false information is doing the work of Satan.

The Diocese of Rapid City wants to affirm our respect and admiration for Cardinal Cupich. During his tenure as our bishop, he was an effective leader and shepherd, leaving a legacy that will long mark the ministry in our diocese. When he was the Bishop of Rapid City, Cardinal Cupich upheld the teachings of the Catholic Church and encouraged dialogue as a means to change the hearts and minds of people, leading them to the truth of Jesus Christ and His Church.

I hope and pray that we all will pledge our support for Cardinal Cupich. No bishop's leadership style will be loved by everyone. And no bishop deserves to be treated the way that Roman Catholic Faithful is attempting to treat Cardinal Cupich.

Please pray for him as he continues to shepherd the People of God in the Archdiocese of Chicago and serves the wider Catholic community. Pray for your current bishop as well!

Sincerely in the peace and joy of Christ,

  
Most Rev. Robert D. Gruss  
Bishop of Rapid City