

Dear Fr. Mark,

I have been told that you intend to serve this coming Sunday in spite of being placed in a state of suspension. My duty is to warn you that if you dare to touch the Holy Liturgy in a state of being suspended, your suspension will become deposition (defrockment) by your action.

I do not wish this for you. Do not throw away your rewards for all of the good things that you have accomplished these past 20 years. Man up. Do your duty before God and man, or die trying to. Read the canons of the Church. You think that I have lost my mind. But it is you, dear Father, who has lost his mind.

Your disobedience will not be rewarded with success. You made vows on the Gospel and the Holy Cross. Whatever my imperfections may be, it does not excuse you if you don't keep your vows to God. Think of your wife, your children, the souls who look to you for guidance.

St. John Chrysostom has written that those who cause schisms, even if they die as martyrs, cannot be saved.

CANON 10

One who prays with the excommunicant, shall himself be excommunicated.

CANON 11

A clergyman who prays in company with a deposed clergyman shall also be deposed.

CANON 12

If any clergyman, or laymen, who has been excommunicated, or who has not been admitted to repentance, shall go away and be received in another city, without commendatory letters, both the receiver and the one received shall be excommunicated.

CANON 28

If any Bishop, or Priest, or Deacon, who has been justly deposed for proven crimes, should dare to touch the Liturgy which had once been put in his hands, let him be cut off from the Church altogether.

CANON 31

If any Priest, condemning his own bishop, draws people aside, and sets up another altar, without finding anything wrong with the Bishop in point of piety and justice, let him be deposed, on the ground that he is desirous of power. For he is a tyrant; and let the rest of the clergymen and all those who abet him be treated in the same manner. But let the laymen be excommunicated. Let these things be done after one, and a second, and a third request of the Bishop.

CANON 32

If any Bishop excommunicates any Priest or Deacon, these men must not be received by anyone except the one who excommunicated them, unless by a coincidence the Bishop who excommunicated them should de cease.

CANON 39

Let Priests and Deacons do nothing without the consent of the Bishop. For he is the one entrusted with the Lord's people, and it is from him that an accounting will be demanded with respect to their souls.

CANON 45

Let any Bishop, or Priest, or Deacon that only joins in prayer with heretics be suspended, but if he has permitted them to perform any service as clergy let him be deposed.

CANON 46

We order any Bishop or Priest, that has accepted any heretic's baptism or sacrifice be deposed; for "what consonance has Christ with Belial? Or what part has the believer with an unbeliever?"

CANON 47

If a Bishop or Priest baptize anew anyone that has had a true baptism, or fail to baptize anyone that has been polluted by the impious, let him be deposed, on the ground that he is mocking the Cross and Death of the Lord and for failing to distinguish priests from pseudo-priests.

CANON 55

If any Clergyman should insult the Bishop let him be deposed. For "you shall not speak badly about your people's ruler."

CANON 65

If any Clergyman, or Layman, enter a synagogue of Jews or of heretics to pray, let him be both deposed and excommunicated.

CANON 68

If any Bishop, or Priest, or Deacon accepts a second ordination from anyone, let him and the one who ordained him be deposed, unless it be established that his ordination has been performed by heretics. For those who have been baptized or ordained by such persons cannot possibly be either faithful Christians or clergymen.