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Archbishop Wilton Gregory
Archdiocese of Washington
5001 Eastern Avenue
Hyattsville, MD 20782

June 2, 2020

Dear Archbishop Gregory,

I find it baffling that on the 41st anniversary of the return of Saint John Paul the Great to Warsaw in 1979, you would fail to see the importance of the United States supporting religious liberty throughout the world. Historians and theologians alike describe the return of Saint John Paul to Poland as a watershed in the fight against world communism by all men and women of good faith. Many believe the nine days spent by the Pope in Poland was the beginning of the end for Soviet oppression in Poland. Millions were liberated and given their full religious freedom by his courageous actions.

As you know from my time with the Archdiocese of St. Louis and from my time working directly with Pope John Paul II, I share deep respect for the Successor of Peter and for his designees as bishops. However, like most American Catholics, I am now more keenly aware of their failings, especially when they cause scandal among the faithful and among non-Catholics. You have repeatedly apologized for your part in these failings and I appreciate your candor.

Today, I write with respect and candor: your recent statement condemning President Trump is causing scandal, Archbishop. Please clarify your remarks by retracting the statement and apologizing. The blatantly partisan nature of your comments alienates half of your flock by expressing subjective political opinions rather than evangelizing using the objective truths of the Catholic faith.

The Communion of Saints means that Saint John Paul participates in our lives. He inspires us with hope and joy. The scandal you are causing is dividing and upsetting. It does not live up to the witness of Saint John Paul the Great. After Catholics have been separated from their churches for months due to the coronavirus, we expect a more spiritual and less political attitude from our shepherd to welcome us all back into the Archdiocesan fold.

You are in my prayers.

All the best.

Ed Martin
President, Phyllis Schlafly Eagles