



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

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TO: All Priests, All Deacons and the Curia

FROM: Archdiocese of St. Louis, Office of Communications & Planning

DATE: September 22, 2020

RE: INTERNAL MEMO: Immigration Task Force Webinar Regarding Upcoming Election

Dear Priests, Deacons and the Curia,

Last week, the Immigration Task Force of the Archdiocese of St. Louis hosted the first of what were to be several webinars on its Facebook page. The webinars were intended to be informational seminars on the issues in the upcoming elections. This ministry invited representatives of other faiths to share opinions on immigration. The opinions of those faith representatives are their own and do not fully—nor, in some parts, accurately—represent the stance of the archdiocese regarding immigration.

Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski had no knowledge of this webinar prior to its execution, nor did anyone on the archbishop's leadership team.

Following a review of the process leading up to the webinar, the Archdiocese of St. Louis has learned that there was a breach of existing policy and that appropriate approvals of content were not sought by the presenters.

As a result, Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski is requiring the implementation of the following steps:

- The individual who has oversight of the Immigration Task Force Facebook account is now on administrative leave.
- The Facebook account for the Immigration Task Force has been shut down.
- All webinars from the Immigration Task Force will be discontinued.
- All social media accounts belonging to ministries of the Archdiocese of St. Louis are now subject to review by the archdiocesan Office of Communications and Planning, and decisions about the future of those accounts will be made accordingly.

The work of the Archdiocese of St. Louis in promoting immigration initiatives is well documented and remains focused on serving all of our brothers and sisters in need.

Archbishop Rozanski's primary concern is for the health and spiritual care of all souls in the Archdiocese, regardless of their political affiliations. The Archdiocese of St. Louis helps to form consciences for faithful citizenship in a non-partisan way by sharing the Church's teachings on the issues of the day. This good faith effort is done so that Catholics and voters of all denominations can make informed decisions as they discern how to cast their ballots. The

Catholic Church does not endorse nor criticize political candidates nor parties. Regrettably, the offending presentation violated our expectations in this regard. As a 501(c) (3), the Catholic Church is prohibited from engaging or participating in political activity on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate or party seeking elective public office. More on this can be found on the USCCB website. [\(Link Here\)](#)

We are grateful to all who communicated their concerns to the offices of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. You are encouraged to share this communication with anyone who has contacted you with concern about the webinar. All further questions can be directed to the Office of Communications and Planning communications@archstl.org.