

*St. Therese of the Infant Jesus Church*  
*"Shrine of the Little Flower"*

9 June 2021

To: M [REDACTED]

From: Vincent Paul Chávez, Pastor

*300 Mildred Avenue NW*

*Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107*

*(505) 344-8050*

*Vincent P. Chávez*

Dear Ms. M [REDACTED]

I understand that you made an appointment with me today to discuss resuming Zumba in the Parish Hall as the Coronavirus Pandemic in New Mexico seems to be easing. Please note that before discussing any form of volunteerism or ministry association here at Saint Therese Parish, a most important topic needs to be brought to your awareness.

Enclosed you will find the Saint Therese Parish Bulletin for Pentecost Sunday, 23 May 2021. An insert titled "While You Have Been Away" describes a protest that took here on Pentecost Sunday, 31 May 2020. From the video produced by the protesters you are clearly seen participating in the protest and even being interviewed. On that afternoon, I sent a text to your brother Manuel Sisneros indicating that you were at the protest and indicating my shock and hurt. In all this year, you have never communicated with me anything about your involvement in this ugly and dangerous protest.

When the Trump people were here with their flags, signs, guns and protesting and disrupting the 11 am Live-streamed Mass inside we could hear their jeers and taunts and then viewing the video they made and posted we could see their faces, weapons and of course you joining them.

I would like to think that I have always treated you with dignity. When Zumba grew successful and I was aware you all were crowded in Room 1 of the Parish Hall, it was I who suggested moving into the spacious gymnasium. To think that you would actively participate in such an ugly and dangerous protest against me greatly hurts me. The actions by you and the other protesters 31 May 2020 are no less serious than the insurrectionists in Washington on 6 January. Your protest here in front of the Shrine was miniscule in size and scope to that terrible day in our Nation's and American Democracy's history with its attack and intent to kill but no less serious. Your association with the threats against my life and safety I take most seriously. And the actions of these violent and armed protesters sicken me.

I have many questions. Why were you there? Did you know about it ahead of time? Were you part of the planning? Why in a year have you never come forward about this? I would like to think that you showed up to pray at the Prayer Garden, saw Trump protesters of which you are a political supporter and you came over to ask them, what is going on. Perhaps they then caught you in their videos as being a part of this parish and in asking you what you felt about the fact that we had not opened up to live assembly at Masses, used you for their own foul and vile purposes.

At this point, with a year without answers from you of your part of the protest, I am not interested. The Archdiocese has a formal process of reconciliation between parishioners and pastors but as you were with armed protesters, I am not interested in any conversation or association with you in this earthly existence. And as far as I am concerned, I hope the Lord understands that eternity is too short for me to ever have to run into you in heaven. Alas, the Lord Jesus has a lead on forgiveness on me as he is also Divine.