

---

## **A Fact-Based Rebuttal to Fr. James Altman's Statement of 12-4-23**

James Michael Francis Komaniecki, P.E.  
President & CEO  
[www.ProtectOurPriests.com](http://www.ProtectOurPriests.com)  
Protect Our Priests 501(c)3  
[JMFK@ProtectOurPriests.com](mailto:JMFK@ProtectOurPriests.com)

**For Public Release**  
December 11, 2023

Dear fellow Catholics,

As the President of Protect Our Priests, 501(c)3, I am responding to Fr. James Altman's serious accusations about Fr. John Lovell, the Founder of the Coalition for Canceled Priests (CFCP). This is a fact-based rebuttal to Fr. Altman's statement dated 12-4-23.

Let it be known to all that I am not a "proxy" writing to defend Fr. Lovell, as Fr. Altman has stated. Our organization was founded in March of 2018, prior to CFCP. Our two organizations have worked well together in the past to serve the cause of canceled priests, and I write this rebuttal with a heavy heart for the mission of CFCP.

Please forgive the length of this response, but brevity is the enemy of truth in this situation. As shall be seen, we are well qualified to present the results of our own investigation with appropriate conclusions based upon verifiable facts.

I am a board-certified Licensed Professional Engineer with real-world business leadership experience as the President & Chief Executive Officer of two (2) successful corporations, one of which is a non-profit 501(c)3. By the grace of God I had a successful engineering career with several United States patents that bear my name. I also co-founded two pro-life pregnancy

centers, and was the Business Manager for both centers. I understand well how to run a business.

Let me now address how I came to know both Fr. Lovell and Fr. Altman. I met these men under very different circumstances.

I met Fr. Lovell at the inaugural event for the newly formed Coalition for Canceled Priests (CFCP) which took place in Lombard, Illinois, in June, 2021. We became good friends and worked together on important projects to help canceled priests. I was the Chief Engineer who served the CFCP in the evaluation of the Cedar Lake, Indiana property formerly known as the Franciscan Lourdes Friary. I managed a team of fellow Professional Engineers to inspect and evaluate the property for a future home for canceled priests. This property failed inspection, and under Fr. Lovell's capable leadership, CFCP purchased a smaller, less expensive home in Northwest Indiana. Fr. Lovell has occupied this home since, and contrary to the false and misleading claims by Fr. Altman, numerous retreats have taken place there for fellow canceled and active priests. The home was intended to be used as a safe house for short to long-term purposes to provide fraternity for canceled priests, with a location near a major airport.

I interviewed Fr. Altman for one of my companies several years ago, while he was still Pastor of St. James the Less Catholic Church in La Crosse, Wisconsin. We became friends, meeting occasionally at important Catholic events and conferences. I liked Fr. Altman then, but today he's not the same man, as public adulation and donations of money to his personal cause seem to have inflated his ego. Case in point: His own recent statements claiming that he can judge Pope Francis, and that by his judgement the Pope should be cast into the Mediterranean with a millstone around his neck. While I am no fan of the present Pope, given his destructive behavior, only God must judge him personally, as we shall all surely face God's judgement some day. We can only judge behavior, and not the sinner. Almighty God will not be robbed of His vengeance.

In order to counter other false claims made by Fr. Altman, and specifically, his assertion that the CFCP was in turmoil when he

accepted Fr. Lovell's invitation to him to join its Board of Directors, at this juncture, it's appropriate to review key points along the growth timeline of CFCP.

CFCP has existed for a brief two years. The exponential growth of CFCP could not have been reasonably anticipated by its founders. Given this, it is logical to assume that the men initially recruited to serve as board members proved unsuitable to handle responsibilities once CFCP experienced exponential growth. The same applies to staff members. Fr. Altman was himself invited by Fr. Lovell to join the Coalition's board precisely to strengthen the board's competence. Tom Oglesby, too, was brought on by Fr. Lovell for the same purpose. Both of these men were brought on by Fr. Lovell when the Coalition's growth trajectory was able to be estimated more accurately. That they were brought on by Fr. Lovell is a testimony to Fr. Lovell's competence as a leader. Further, that Tom Oglesby was entrusted with the Presidency of the Coalition bears witness to the fact that Fr. Lovell had not established the Coalition for his own profit or in order to establish a personal fiefdom. Sadly however, both of these men were to prove themselves traitors to Fr. Lovell. Every relevant fact about the timeline of CFCP is a sound rebuttal to Fr. Altman's grandiose assault on Fr. Lovell's character and competence. To describe the situation within the CFCP at the beginning of this year, a situation brought about by its unanticipated rapid growth, as turmoil, reflects either manifest ignorance of such matters at best, or a malignant will at worse.

Now, let us examine what Fr. Altman refers to as "the rule of alots." First, it is important to note that this is a fictional rule. Fr. Altman has simply made it up: No reference to it can be found, even in a Google search. But, that does not seem to trouble Fr. Altman because this fake "rule" serves him well as a rhetorical weapon to discredit others, whether Fr. Lovell, his fellow canceled priests, or knowledgeable authorities who have investigated the matter.

Instead of using fictional terms, let's apply real-world business concepts that are not make-believe hyperbole. Once such concept is the well-used 80/20 rule, also known as the Pareto

Principle, which states that in business, the key objective is to identify factors that are potentially the most productive and then make them the priority focus. As the leader of CFCP, Fr. Lovell was a master practitioner of this business concept. Case in point: In 2021, Fr. Altman donated \$100,000 to the organization shortly after it's founding, and Fr. Lovell's natural management acumen and expertise yielded a twenty-fold asset-based return (ROI) on the money in two years. This was skillfully accomplished by Fr. Lovell. Fr. Lovell is a natural-born leader. Thus we can conclude that formal education is not necessarily the measure of a man, but real-world skills and talents are important, and especially what matters are actual lasting accomplishments. These things are the true measure of an effective leader, and this makes common sense.

Further, in his public attack, Fr. Altman makes reference to an independent investigation that was conducted by the CFCP's board. This effort was not a true inquiry into the facts, but rather it was little more than a circus charade and a smoke screen, intended to mimic an investigation, while providing cover to CFCP in finding Fr. Lovell guilty without a fair trial, and to punish him without an investigation that might implicate the current leadership of CFCP.

How do I know this?

My organization, Protect Our Priests, 501(c)3, conducted our own in-depth study of the matter, and we contributed critical information to this "investigation"; we made this effort prior to our realization that the CFCP board's investigation was a sham. We submitted in writing a large volume of carefully researched evidence that was totally ignored by CFCP in it's pre-determined agenda to railroad it's founder. As such, we respectfully demand that all of the facts be released to the public without delay. Then the public will know the truth about what has happened to Fr. Lovell and CFCP. The current leaders of the organization have refused to release all of the information, in order to hide their own motives and incompetence.

Fr. Altman falsely claims that Fr. Lovell is directly responsible for

poor financial accounting at CFCP. First and foremost, Fr. Lovell was the founder and leader of the organization. As such, it was not his direct job to count the beans. Rather, his chief service to the organization was to provide general oversight and to be its public face. CFCP had four (4) people on staff to handle financial transactions and reporting to state and federal government agencies -- the Executive Director, the Treasurer, a contract bookkeeper, and a CPA. These people had primary responsibility to account for all transactions in an accurate and transparent manner, using raw data from the bank. If the math does not work, then management must take action. Fr. Lovell agreed with Tom Oglesby and Fr. Altman to remove the Executive Director when it was clear that he was unable to perform to the level needed to serve the exponential growth of CFCP. The board approved this action.

Moreover, contrary to Fr. Altman's assertion, the turnover of board members, employees and volunteers is not in itself an indicator of institutional instability. Rather the exact opposite may in fact be true; leaders of maturing institutions have to make tough decisions regarding staffing. It's also a well-known fact that irresponsible leaders delay or refuse to dismiss incompetent employees out of fear of volunteer loss. Fr. Lovell did not exhibit this lack of leadership. In two years under Fr. Lovell's leadership, the company experienced exponential financial growth, and this was simply way too much for some initial members of the financial staff to handle with their limited experience. As a result, there were adjustments to be made to staffing and board members to continue moving forward to serve the cause of canceled priests.

Fr. Altman has publicly accused Fr. Lovell of the crime of malfeasance. According to the Legal Information Institute at Cornell University: "Malfeasance is an act that is illegal and causes physical or monetary harm to someone else. Malfeasance is intentional conduct that is wrongful or unlawful, especially by officials or public employees." Fr. Altman has offered no proof of such conduct, nor have any facts been made available to support such an outrageous statement.

Fr. Altman claims that Fr. Lovell was "living large" on the company

expense account. Nothing could be further than the truth. As the leader and public face of CFCP, it was the duty of Fr. Lovell to engage in necessary travel to promote the organization and its mission, consistent with board approval. The mere fact that Fr. Altman's donation of \$100,000 to the organization yielded a twenty-fold asset-based return (ROI) by Fr. Lovell on that investment, should tell us all we need to know about Fr. Lovell's successful role as leader of the company.

Fr. Lovell added Fr. Altman to the board ten months ago. Unfortunately Fr. Altman has chosen to scapegoat Fr. Lovell for the very challenges for which he was brought aboard to surmount. Where was Fr. Altman's knowledge and expertise when it was needed? Fr. Altman was busy operating his own 501(c)3, Blood of the Martyrs, and was in fact "living large" at the expense of his own donors. It even appears as though Fr. Altman may have used donated funds to purchase an expensive vehicle and a large home for himself in northern Wisconsin.

As a result of the careless and irresponsible actions of current CFCP leadership, Fr. Lovell may be evicted from the priests' home during the Christmas holidays. Who among us believes that such callous and outrageous actions are those of men purporting to be Catholic?

This home was purchased by CFCP with over \$500,000 of donor funds to house canceled priests like Fr. Lovell. While this may seem like a large sum, in reality this price is typical for homes in the Midwest with acreage.

One must ask: where is the charity in all of this? One could wonder why Fr. Altman would decry the lack of charity shown him and his parents by his bishop, yet is himself so lacking in charity in response to Fr. Lovell, a priest who had the courage to establish CFCP in the face of the push-back of the hierarchy.

Fr. Lovell and the other canceled priests are dead right to call for a suspension of all contributions to CFCP. The Coalition for Canceled Priests has been hijacked by men whose lack of good judgement is destroying the very organization that Fr. Lovell

labored so hard to build to serve a great cause, as testified to by numerous canceled priests who have been sent legal cease-and-desist letters for speaking out on behalf of Fr. Lovell.

Make no mistake, the actions undertaken by the current leadership of CFCP are nothing short of a hostile takeover of the organization. This is in fact, a unjustified coup d'état executed against Fr. Lovell, and it must not stand without a valiant fight. St. Michael, defend us in battle to expose the truth.

My dear fellow Catholics, please examine the facts carefully, and do not be deceived by those who manipulate the data and public perception to serve their own purposes. Remember the words of Our Blessed Lord: By their works ye shall know them, whether they be sheep or ravenous wolves in sheep's clothing.

Please pray for all concerned, and for the fate of both CFCP and all canceled priests.

Tax-deductible contributions on behalf of Fr. Lovell can be made at [www.ProtectOurPriests.com](http://www.ProtectOurPriests.com). We have two funds for Fr. Lovell, one for living expenses, and another for legal defense. Please indicate which fund you are giving to on checks (memo line) or credit card donations (comments section).

We support all worthy canceled priests.

Respectfully submitted,

James Michael Francis Komaniecki, P.E.

President & CEO

[www.ProtectOurPriests.com](http://www.ProtectOurPriests.com)

Protect Our Priests 501(c)3

[JMFK@ProtectOurPriests.com](mailto:JMFK@ProtectOurPriests.com)

---