

Ss. Peter & Paul Roman Catholic Mission

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April 1, 2016

BACK

HOME

Bishop Ronald Gainer
Bishop the Diocese of Harrisburg
4800 Union Deposit Road
Box 2153
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2153

Dear Bishop Gainer,

The York Daily Record recently ran a nice article on Ss. Peter & Paul Roman Catholic Mission after the reporter observed Fr. Samuel Waters offering the holy sacrifice of the Mass according to the "received and approved rite customarily used in the solemn administration of the sacraments" on Palm Sunday. You perhaps did not recognize it as a Catholic rite. Fr. Waters did not offer the Bugnini Indult of 1962, also known as the "extra-ordinary form" of the Novus Ordo, that only exists by grant of legal privilege. That rite shares a common provenance with the "ordinary form" since both are derived from the same artificial mechanical principles of deconstruction adopted by Bugnini and the Pian commission in 1949. Such terms are liturgical novelties attempting to describe what has never existed before in the Roman rite. They will appear in no index of any authoritative textbook.

After receiving an email communication from the diocesan "spokesman," the York Daily Record article was amended to contain the following:

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg, in an email to the York Daily Record on Wednesday, stated that the chapel is not part of the diocese.

"The fact that this group includes the words Roman Catholic in their title is totally gratuitous on their part," spokesman Joseph Aponik wrote. "They do not have communion with the Roman Catholic Church and operate their program in complete independence of the local bishop, the diocese and the universal (sic) Catholic Church."

Aponik added that a Latin Mass recognized by the diocese and the church is celebrated at Saint Lawrence Chapel, located at 110 State Street, Harrisburg, by priests of the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter.

The story does not identify who is pulling the strings for the dummy, Aponik, so, by default, the responsibility falls upon you. You have now made the charges leveled by your predecessors your own, that is, that the members of Ss. Peter & Paul Roman Catholic Mission are guilty of "heresy" and "schism" for your claim that we have "complete independence" and "do not have communion with the Roman Catholic Church," can have no other meaning. Now that you have made the same charge, I hope that you will not be as obtuse as your predecessors and think that you can make charges without specifically identifying the body of the crime. I know it is the kind of irresponsible charges that Novus Ordo clerics like to make because they appear very officious and deny the accused any possibility of defense. A person cannot defend himself against the charges that he is a liar if the accuser does not state the time, place and specifics of the crime. Any charge of this nature is nothing more than name calling, calumny,

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and detraction. If I were to call you a liar, I would state this specific email sent to the York Daily Record and you would then have the opportunity to prove that you were telling the truth. Well, that is what is needed to clear your name.

Let's make this as simple as we can. If you believe that no Catholic possesses a right by virtue of his baptism to the "received and approved rites customarily used in the solemn administration of the sacraments," as dogmatically defined at the Council of Trent then plainly say that this "article of faith" that the Mission holds is "heresy." If you hold that the Mission is in "schism" because we profess that no Catholic is obligated to participate in any act that injures the faith, then plainly say so as well. You see, if you could only speak with clarity we would be making real progress. For example, explain briefly how it is possible to be in "complete independence" without "communion" with the Roman Catholic Church while actively pursuing a case on the nature of the Catholic Faith placed before the Holy Father in Rome through the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith? It is in answer to such questions that every Catholic will be able to see what kind of mind we are dealing with.

You were copied in a letter sent by Fr. Samuel Waters to Cardinal Gerhard Müller at the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith last December 15, 2015 because the letter identifies you as possibly having the same malady as Pope Francis, that is specifically, the denial that there is such a thing as "Absolute Truth" that can be known and communicated to others. This specific **heresy** of Pope Francis was offered as an explanation to Cardinal Müller to explain why the bishops of the Diocese of Harrisburg, now including yourself, have never been able to state specific factual evidence which constitute the very matter for a charge of "heresy" and "schism." When you deny truth you can only appeal to authority and that is the one and only note the diocese of Harrisburg has played. But the problem is this: Authority is subject to Truth. Without Truth, Authority cannot stand, for ultimately, Absolute Truth and Absolute Authority are one and the same. When evidently divided you can be certain that you have made a wrong turn in the road.

There has been a standing challenge to the bishops of Harrisburg to engage in, or task a responsible and intelligent cleric to engage in, a written debate in the public forum regarding the doctrinal, liturgical, moral, and canonical claims of Ss. Peter & Paul Roman Catholic Mission. It was in fact, responsible and intelligent clerics that contributed to the formation of our first principles of our Mission. This challenge is nothing more than a duty incumbent upon your office. There are many, many examples of saints working among heretics and schismatics to restore them to the Roman Catholic Church even to the point of martyrdom such as St. Maximus the Confessor by the Monothelists, St. Peter Martyr by the Manicheans, St. Josephat Kunccevyk and St. Andrew Bobola by the Orthodox and Protestants. This list goes on and on: St. Augustine with the Donatists and Pelagians, St. Dominic among the Albigensians, St. John Capistran among the Fraticelli and the Hussites, St. Francis de Sales among the French Calvinists, St. Peter Canisius among the German Lutherans, and recently, Fr. Leonard Feeney among the Americanists, etc., etc., etc., and many of these had several attempts made upon their lives as well. But for you it is hardly a question of not having "resisted unto blood" but perhaps of having to endure a few harsh words. Yet, you and your predecessors have done nothing. The saints were motivated by charity which overcame every danger. Your charity cannot even overcome obstacles of your own imagination.

Pope John Paul II's first encyclical, *Redemptor Hominis*, was addressed primarily to the "sons and daughters of the Church." What Church? Not once does the word "Roman" or the word "Catholic" appear in the letter. The letter is addressed to the "Church of the New Advent." This new Church is referenced by name four times in the document. The Church of the New Advent traces its roots to Vatican II Council. Pope John Paul II said that, "I am entering into the rich inheritance of the recent

pontificates. This inheritance has struck deep roots in the awareness of the Church in an utterly new way, quite unknown previously, thanks to the Second Vatican Council." The Church of the New Advent, in "an utterly new way, quite unknown previously," has its own new worship, new doctrines, new morality and new traditions which are entirely foreign to the Roman Catholic Church. Perhaps if we enter into open discussion we can find out who is entitled to the name, "Roman Catholic" and who is using the term, "gratuitously." You might be surprised to find that you are a bishop in "The Church of the New Advent."

I am putting before you two tasks as my bishop that are duties incumbent upon your office. Your duties constitute the very meat of your personal judgment by God. I want you to demand from Cardinal Gerhard Müller, CDF that he obtain a formal definitive answer from Pope Francis regarding the doctrinal and liturgical claims of our Mission grounded upon the attribute of infallibility that Jesus Christ has endowed his Church. And while awaiting for this definitive answer, you or your direct representative engage the Mission in a written exchange on the charges of "heresy" and "schism" that the diocese has made for the end of reconciling those in error to the true Church, outside of which there is neither forgiveness of sins or the possibility of salvation.

I certainly hope that asking you to do your duty is not too great an imposition. Until we get what we are asking we will continue to do what every Catholic is morally obligated, that is, to expend every effort to insure the proper formation of a true and certain Catholic conscience and then act upon that conscience as required.

Sincerely in Christ,



D. M. Drew
Chairman
Ss. Peter & Paul Roman Catholic Mission

BACK

HOME

cc: Cardinal Gerhard Müller, CDF