



DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG - OFFICE OF THE VICAR GENERAL

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August 20, 2012

Mr. David C. Smith
754 Edgegrove Road
Hanover, PA 17331

Dear Mr. Smith,

To answer your questions about Father Waters, given that he was ordained by John Cardinal Kroll, I would presume his ordination to be valid. However, as he is not a priest of the Diocese of Harrisburg and enjoys no faculties from Bishop McFadden, his celebration of the Mass at a schismatic church, Saints Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Mission, makes choosing him as your next chaplain extremely problematic.

While I am not trying to be uncharitable here, to put it another way, why would the organization want to choose a chaplain who is not a priest in good standing in the diocese, who operates outside of the authority of the local ordinary (he has no faculties to serve in public ministry in our diocese) and is affiliated with a schismatic church?

Perhaps Father Thomas can offer more information. Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions regarding this matter.

Peace and all good,

Very Rev. Robert M. Gillelan Jr.
Vicar General