

Ss. Peter & Paul Roman Catholic Mission

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November 18, 2013

+ Dedication of the Basilicas of Ss. Peter & Paul

Archbishop Gerhard Ludwig Müller
Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
Piazza del S. Uffizio, 11, 00193
Roma, Italy

Enclosures:

1. Decree of Excommunication from Archbishop Charles Chaput against Fr. Samuel M. Waters
2. Arguments for judgment to nullify the Decree of Excommunication of Archbishop Charles Chaput against Fr. Samuel M. Waters with a petition to the Holy Father for an infallible judgment on matters of doctrine and worship that we hold to be necessary attributes of the Catholic faith.
3. Letters exchanged (9) between the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and Fr. Samuel M. Waters

Your Eminence,

Pope Benedict in an address to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in January of this year said, "As we know, in vast areas of the world the faith is in danger of being extinguished, like a flame that has lost its fuel. We are facing a profound crisis of faith, a loss of the religious sense, that constitutes the Church's greatest challenge today." I know about this "profound crisis of faith" because I have experienced it in my own life as a Catholic and as a priest. It was in addressing my part in this "crisis" that I came to know and embraced the ecclesiastical traditions of our Catholic Church and understand their necessary relationship to the faith. And it is for this reason that I have become associated with Ss. Peter & Paul Roman Catholic Mission to help, as is my duty as a priest, other like-minded Catholics in their spiritual needs. It is also for this reason that I have incurred the enmity of Archbishop Charles Chaput and his "Decree of Excommunication."

I submit to your office two grievances for which I pray to obtain redress. The first concerns a "Decree of Excommunication" declared against me without judicial hearing by Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia that in his judgment the penalty of excommunication has been incurred *latae sententiae* for the crime of being associated with a "schismatic organization" in violation of particular canon law. I petition that this decree be nullified on the grounds that he fails to prove his accusation of schism against me or against Ss. Peter & Paul Roman Catholic Mission. This action can be done with or without addressing the fundamental doctrinal, moral, canonical, and liturgical grounds on which my conscience has been formed that justify my particular actions. I also oppose formally any effort by Archbishop Chaput to involuntarily impose laicization as an additional punitive and vindictive measure against me.

The second concerns those "fundamental doctrinal, moral, canonical, and liturgical grounds" themselves that pertain directly to our Catholic faith for which we appeal directly to the Holy Father for an definitive and infallible resolution based upon the attribute of infallibility which Jesus Christ has endowed His Church. My actions, as well as those of Ss. Peter & Paul Roman Catholic Mission, are, as we admit, in violation of particular canon law, but we affirm that this violation is necessary in the fulfillment of a higher obligation to God. Archbishop Chaput refuses to address, or is simply incapable of addressing, these grounds.

Saints Peter & Paul Chapel, 129 S. Beaver Street, York, PA 17401

We affirm that by virtue of our baptismal character, which morally obligates us to offer public worship to God, we necessarily possess the right from God, and not a concession by indult or privilege of positive human law, to the immemorial traditions of our Church which make our faith known and communicable. In particular, we claim the right to the "received and approved rites of the Catholic Church used in the solemn administration of the sacraments" (Tridentine Profession of Faith), which are the perfect outward manifestation of that Faith that we hold in the internal forum, without which "it is impossible to please God" (Heb. 11, 6). Furthermore, we affirm that these immemorial ecclesiastical traditions are not simple accidents of the faith that are purely matters of discipline but rather constitute necessary attributes of the faith since without them, the faith cannot be known or communicated. And, while acknowledging that these rights to the immemorial ecclesiastical traditions can be duly regulated by competent authority, they can never be conditionally exercised at the price of compromise of any Catholic doctrinal or moral truth.

The first enclosure is the "Decree of Excommunication" itself and the second enclosure presents my arguments against the Decree documenting the evident canonical and moral defects in the judgment. It also defends Ss. Peter & Paul Roman Catholic Mission against the unfounded charge of schism which is the unproven assumption from which Archbishop Chaput has based his decree against me. The third enclosure are the communications between myself and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. I have not included the Ss. Peter & Paul Roman Catholic Mission letters to the Diocese of Harrisburg and Rome which can be viewed on the Open Letters of the Mission web page, (http://www.saintspeterandpaulrcm.com/open_letters.htm).

On February 7, 2004 Ss. Peter & Paul Roman Catholic Mission submitted a in a letter to Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger as Prefect for the CDF for a judgment regarding the public charge of heresy and schism made by the late Bishop Nicholas Dattilo of Harrisburg. A second letter was sent on March 24, 2004 for the same purpose. These letters are posted on the Mission "Open Letters" web page. I now bring my case with theirs before the CDF to obtain a definitive judgment from the Holy Father on the arguments presented by the Mission and myself to the Letters to Dioceses of Harrisburg and Philadelphia and specifically addressed in my general petition to nullify the Decree of Excommunication. I also request that this infallible judgment include a declaration on the errors that constitute the "hermeneutic of rupture" on the proper understanding of the documents of the Second Vatican Council.

Archbishop Charles Chaput has conducted himself in this case with a shameless and hypocritical disregard for matters of conscience, matters of fact, matters of norms of Catholic morality, matters of due process, matters concerning the hierarchy of canon law, matters of Church dogma, and matters of the rights of the faithful to worship God according to "the received and approved rites of the Catholic Church customarily used in the solemn administration of the sacraments" (Council of Trent). I petition that this Decree of Excommunication, which is grounded in the unsubstantiated accusation of "schism," be nullified and, I petition through your office for a definitive declaration as formal objects of divine and Catholic faith resolutions that will hopefully address for our time, as the Council of Trent did for the 16th century, the "profound crisis of faith, a loss of the religious sense, that constitutes the Church's greatest challenge today."

Sincerely in Christ,



Rev. Samuel M. Waters
Ss. Peter & Paul Roman Catholic Mission

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cc: Archbishop Charles Chaput