



## ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

OFFICE FOR CLERGY

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July 18, 2013

VICAR FOR CLERGY



Reverend Samuel M. Waters  
2440 Fairway Drive  
West Manchester Twp., PA 17408

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Dear Father Waters,

I am writing to advise you one last time that should you not immediately end your acknowledged affiliation with "Ss. Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Mission" in York, Pennsylvania, your excommunication from the Roman Catholic Church will be declared *latae sententiae*. This measure is meant to persuade you about the errors causing your affiliation and to motivate you to be restored to full communion with the Roman Catholic Church.

In terms of errors, I can offer these observations. We agree that all Catholics are obliged to inform and obey conscience. Please recall, however, that conscience can become erroneous, albeit sincere. In light of Canon 209§1, Catholics are also obliged "always to maintain communion with the Church." The truth is that your Mission has never been in communion with the Bishops of Harrisburg after repeated exhortations to regularize the situation. Canon 751 indicates that schism applies not only to refusal of submission to the Roman Pontiff but also to refusal of "communion with the members of the Church subject to him," such as the Bishops of Harrisburg. While it is laudatory for anyone to pray for Pope and Bishop, such seems inadequate to express genuine ecclesiastical communion in light of your Mission's disciplinary inclinations.

Allow me now to draw your attention to Canon 1417 which notes that anyone of the faithful may introduce a case before the Holy See. Neither the Diocese of Harrisburg nor the Archdiocese of Philadelphia is obliged to make an appeal for you. It puzzles me how you refer to the infallible Chair of Peter and at the same time your Mission website contains references to "Modernist Rome." Canon 1417 supports the principle of subsidiarity whereby issues can be resolved at the level of the local Church.

You perhaps have become indifferent to the fact that Catholics in the Diocese of Harrisburg have formally and consistently been advised not to attend or support your Mission. The Mission has in fact refused to celebrate Holy Mass according to the extraordinary form approved by Benedict XVI. Your pre-Vatican II calendar can be confusing to the faithful. I am concerned about the preaching that occurs at the Mission because your website references "The heresies of Vatican II." I am also concerned about the possibility that some of the Sacraments are not being administered validly. You know that you lack priestly faculties at this time.



Finally, let me draw your attention to a publicized letter of August 8, 2010, from Dr. David Drew to Bishop Joseph McFadden, of happy memory. Your Mission has never been erected as a Parish or Mission according to Canons 515 and 516. If your Mission actually is a pious union of lay Catholics, then it should be following the norms on Catholic associations of lay faithful consistent with Canon 298§2. Your Mission has never been erected, praised, or recommended by competent ecclesiastical authority. Your Mission, therefore, should desist from calling itself *Catholic* in light of Canon 300 and you should end your affiliation with it.

You deserve adequate time to ponder these serious matters and the possibility of excommunication with the assistance of qualified canonical counsel. I ask you to respond to me in writing by August 19, 2013.

You remain in my prayers.

Sincerely in Christ,



Reverend Monsignor Daniel J. Sullivan  
Vicar for Clergy

c: Very Reverend Robert M. Gillelan, Jr.  
Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia  
Diocese of Harrisburg

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