



ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI

Office of the Archbishop

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July 2, 2026

Dear Brothers in Christ,

I write to you today with a heavy heart. The recent illicit episcopal ordinations by the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Pius X (SSPX) are a cause of great sadness. Through this act of deliberate disobedience to the Holy Father, the unity of the Church established by Jesus Christ has again been wounded. The Vatican has declared the action to be schismatic and that the bishops involved, the consecrators and the ordained, to be excommunicated.¹ Additionally, the sacred ministers of the SSPX have been declared to be in schism and, therefore, excommunicated. Furthermore, the Vatican has also declared that lay faithful who formally adhere² to the SSPX are to be considered schismatic and, therefore, excommunicated.

Additionally, the faculties previously granted to the priests of the SSPX to validly witness marriages and celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation have been revoked. The other sacraments are celebrated illicitly by clerics of the SSPX.³

As I have come to know this archdiocese since arriving last spring, I have met many faithful parishioners and priests who have a strong devotion to the Church's Tradition and to the liturgy as celebrated prior to the reforms of the Second Vatican Council. To this end, I know that some have worshipped with the SSPX communities within or near the territory of the archdiocese. The present actions and consequent excommunications are likely troubling for many of these individuals and families. I pray that through reverent worship in our parishes and with the availability of the Mass celebrated according to the Missal of 1962 at three locations in our archdiocese, all those who seek will find a home of welcome and devotion while remaining in full communion with the Successor of Saint Peter, our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, and with the Catholic Church.

Please join me in praying for healing and unity in our Church: may Mary, Mother of the Church, intercede for us at this difficult moment; that we may all journey together under the humble shepherding of our Holy Father, and may God grant him the grace to faithfully carry out his work for the salvation of all.

In Christ,

Most Reverend Robert G. Casey
Archbishop of Cincinnati

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¹ Cf. Decree of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, July 2, 2026

² Cf. Explanatory Note of the Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts, 1996

³ Cf. Explanatory Note of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, July 2, 2026