



July 27th, 2021

Dear Friends,

Our Lady of Fatima Chapel has officially relocated to Vancouver, Washington on June 4th, 2021. We have already had several Masses there and as is well known, will start a permanent Mass schedule on August 1, 2021. The Society of Saint Pius X (SSPX) has learned of an unfortunate statement issued by the Archdiocese of Seattle which, among other things, is intended to discourage Catholics from attending this chapel to receive sacraments according to the traditional Roman Rite.

While currently having an irregular canonical status, the SSPX *in fact do* recognize the authority of the Pope and *always* have. Therefore, the SSPX has always and will continue to reject all accusations of “schism” levied against it. In a spirit of filial charity, in each and every Mass we celebrate we acknowledge the authority of and pray for the Holy Father Pope Francis by name, and also the local Bishop His Excellency Archbishop Paul Etienne.

Priests of the SSPX *in fact do* exercise a legitimate ministry in the Church. During the “Year of Mercy” in 2016, the Holy Father granted to all priests of the Society the ability to legitimately hear confessions and legitimately and validly absolve the sins of those penitents who approach us. Moreover, in April 2017, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith issued guidelines to the SSPX and the Bishops of the world to remove any doubts about the validity of marriages conducted by SSPX priests: “[...] despite the objective persistence of the canonical irregularity in which for the time being the Society of St. Pius X finds itself, the Holy Father [...] has decided to authorize Local Ordinaries the possibility to grant faculties for the celebration of marriages of faithful who follow the pastoral activity of the Society¹ [...] .” This same document also acknowledged that our priests may celebrate Masses for such marriages. Such permissions were given without declaring that our previous marriages and confessions were invalid. This is because the SSPX has always been a Catholic work directed toward the preservation of the holy priesthood and the salvation of souls.

The SSPX, and in particular Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, rejoiced for the Church at large when Pope Benedict XVI freed the Immemorial Mass in 2007, and laments the recent restrictions on it issued on July 16, 2021. True to the Society’s charism, and our founder Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, we will continue to administer the sacraments in accordance with the liturgical books promulgated by Pope John XXIII in 1962 and preach the unfailing doctrine of the Church – undeterred by unreasonable government lockdowns and regulations. Thus, we are dedicated to serving Christ in His Church, while maintaining loyalty to the Faith and communion with the Church and the Successor of St. Peter.

Please continue to pray with us for our Catholic Church, the Holy Father, our bishops – especially Archbishop Paul Etienne, and the work of the SSPX. Be assured of the Society’s prayers for you.

In the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Fr. Rami Madanat SSPX
Pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Chapel

¹Letter of the Pontifical Commission “Ecclesia Dei” to the Ordinaries of the Episcopal Conferences concerned on the faculties for the celebration of marriages of the faithful of the Society Saint Pius X, 04.04.2017
<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2017/04/04/170404d.html>