



*Office of the Bishop
Diocese of Saint Cloud*

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Saturday, Aug. 29, I became aware of a social media post promoting a public meeting at the Opole Pub to “explore bringing the Latin Mass” to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, as well as an invitation to participate in a Latin Mass scheduled for the following day at the Opole Ballpark Pavilion. Neither of these events was sanctioned by the Diocese of Saint Cloud, nor were they licitly celebrated by a priest of the diocese. Rather, both events involved a priest of the Society of St. Pius X (SSPX), a group recently declared by the Holy See to be in schism with the Catholic Church because of the illicit ordination of four bishops without a papal mandate.

For this reason, Catholics in our diocese should not support or participate in SSPX-sponsored activities, including inviting SSPX priests to celebrate the sacraments. Such actions undermine the unity of the Church and can place individuals at risk of separating themselves from full communion with the Church. This is not a path any of us desires.

I recognize that this is a time of significant change in our diocese, and many people are experiencing anxiety and uncertainty about the future. Yet Christ remains with us on this journey and will never abandon us. He prayed for unity for those who believe in Him. Therefore, we must continue to walk together in faith as we embrace the renewal and revitalization to which the Holy Spirit is calling us through the All Things New planning process.

The faithful who wish to worship at a traditional Latin Mass may do so at one of the Masses authorized by the Diocese of Saint Cloud at St. Paul Church in St. Cloud and Sacred Heart Church in Flensburg.

In all things, I urge you to seek communion with the Church and to work collaboratively with your pastors, parish leaders, and fellow parishioners as we continue working for a vibrant future in the Diocese of Saint Cloud.

Yours in Christ,

+ Patrick M. Neary, C.S.C.

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Bishop, Diocese of Saint Cloud