



**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE
DIOCESE OF ST. AUGUSTINE**

FOR THE AWARENESS OF THE FAITHFUL

Please be aware that there are churches that call themselves “Catholic” but are not in full communion with the Holy Father Pope Francis nor do they recognize his authority. This is provided for your awareness as your parishes are proximate to the Society of St. Pius X (SSPX) church or chapel. The bishop’s guidelines regarding Catholic Churches of the diocese are not embraced by the Society of St. Pius X (SSPX) chapel as they operate here in the Diocese of St. Augustine without the permission of the Ordinary and they are not fully in communion with Rome. Although Pope Francis continues initiatives in order to bring the Society of St. Pius X (SSPX) into full communion, we are not there yet.

This means that the Masses offered by the priests of the Society of St. Pius X (SSPX) are valid, but illicit. While it is true that participation in the Mass at chapels of the Society of St. Pius X does not of itself constitute 'formal adherence to the schism' (cf. *Ecclesia Dei* 5, c), such adherence can come about over a period of time as one slowly imbibes a schismatic mentality which separates itself from the teaching of the Supreme Pontiff and the entire Catholic Church.

We hope that parishioners understand the relationship of the Church and the Society of St. Pius X (SSPX) regarding their attendance, Mass, and the sacraments. If it is the extraordinary form of the Mass you seek, parishioners will do well to attend Masses offered by parishes of the diocese and celebrated by a priest who is in good standing with the Roman Catholic Church. Even if some further resolution to the status of the SSPX community is achieved, Catholics in the Diocese of St. Augustine are strongly encouraged to attend their local parish to fulfill their Sunday obligation.