ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
SAINT PETERSBURG
COURAGEOUSLY
Living the Gospel

July 8, 2026

Information and Instructions Pertaining to
the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Pius X (SSPX)

On July 2, 2026, the Dicastery of the Doctrine of the Faith (DDF) issued a decree and explanatory note that recent actions on the part of SSPX constituted a delict of schism (grave canonical violation) which has an attached penalty, namely the automatic ("*latae sententiae*") penalty of excommunication.

Who is Excommunicated and Who is Not?

Those who **are** excommunicated:

- All clergy of SSPX (bishops, priests, and deacons);
- Lay Faithful who are part of the Third Order of the SSPX;
- Lay Faithful who habitually participate in the celebrations of the SSPX, formally sharing its mistaken doctrinal positions.

Those who **are not** excommunicated:

- Lay Faithful who attended the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Pius X only for liturgical or spiritual reasons;
- Lay Faithful who, while aware of the tensions with the Holy See, do not reject the Magisterium or the authority of the Roman Pontiff.

Sacraments

The Holy See also declared that going forward, the Sacraments of Marriage and Confession administered by SSPX clergy are no longer considered valid for the members of the Catholic Church.

How to Remedy Excommunication

The Dicastery for the Doctrine of Faith provided guidelines to dioceses on how to receive those who wish to return to the full communion of the Catholic Church and be freed from excommunication:

Bishops: need to contact the Holy See directly.

Priests and Deacons: need to find a willing Ordinary to accept them and follow the process designed by Dicastery for the Doctrine of Faith via local diocese.

Lay Faithful excommunicated: removal of excommunication is done via the Office of the Bishop.

- Lay persons seeking reunion with the Catholic Church need to find a parish where they intend to become parishioners.
- The pastor will then need to contact the Chancellor for Canonical Affairs (727-344-1611) to receive two documents:
    1) Profession of Faith
    2) Formula of Adhesion
- After these documents are signed and dated by the lay faithful, the documents are submitted to the Office of the Bishop for the approval of the Ordinary.
- After the approval is granted, the pastor who submitted these documents on behalf of the Lay Faithful seeking reunion with the Catholic Church, will be instructed to arrange in their parish a ceremony.

Lay Faithful not excommunicated but seeking spiritual peace: It is sufficient that they present themselves to a Catholic priest in full communion with the decision not to attend SSPX in the future. It can be done via an appointment, in spiritual direction, or confession. Nothing further is required from the lay person or the priest.

Other Provisions

For those seeking an opportunity to attend Latin Mass, the Diocese of Saint Petersburg offers the ministry of the Institute of Christ the King, which is in union with the Holy See. The Masses are celebrated at the Epiphany of Our Lord Shrine in Tampa. The traditional Latin Mass is also validly offered by diocesan priests at St. Justin Parish in Largo and St. Anthony the Abbott in Brooksville.