DECREE

Re: Archdiocesan Policy Concerning Marriages Witnessed by Priests of the Society of the St. Pius X

In accord with the provisions found in the letter of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith of 27 March 2017 (Prot. N. 61/2010), I, Most Reverend Gregory Aymond, Archbishop of New Orleans decree the following:

Priests of the Society of Saint Pius X (SSPX) are able to receive the faculty to witness marriages within the jurisdiction of the Archdiocese of New Orleans on an ad hoc basis.

1. In order to request this faculty, the following is required:

   a. A letter from the SSPX Prior requesting this faculty for himself or another priest of the SSPX, written to my delegate at least 30 days before the scheduled wedding. The name and contact information of my delegate for SSPX marriages will be specified by a separate decree of appointment. The letter from the Prior must include the following:
      i. The name of the witnessing priest,
      ii. The names of the parties to be married,
      iii. The date and place of the ceremony,
      iv. Any permission or dispensation requests, which will need to be granted by the Archbishop of New Orleans, or his delegate,
      v. A short summary of the witnessing priest’s opinion on the couple’s preparedness for the marriage. This summary is to be composed after the couple has completed the prenuptial requirements and classes provided by the SSPX,
      vi. Assurance that the ecclesiastical witness has been authorized by the State of Louisiana to officiate at marriages.

   b. Enclosed with the above letter must be included:
      i. Letter of good standing for the witnessing priest, with signatures and seal; this letter must be dated within one year and enclosed with each request of marriage faculties,
      ii. Copy of the Nihil Obstat granted by the SSPX, United States District Canonical Commission,
      iii. Copy of the Investigatio de Statu Libertatis a Parocho Facienda for both parties,
      iv. Copy of death certificate(s) or decree(s) of nullity, if applicable. Only decrees of nullity granted by a lawfully erected tribunal will be accepted.
2. If the delegation of faculties is approved, my delegate will respond by providing a written Decree of Delegation of Faculties. The Prior will retain the decree in the prenuptial file for the couple. A copy of the Decree will be retained at the Archdiocesan Chancery.

3. Following the celebration of the marriage, the Prior will send the complete original marriage file, including a certificate of marriage to my delegate for recording. A copy of the complete file will be retained in the records of the Priory.

4. My delegate will send notification to the territorial parish where the marriage occurred. My delegate will send the original prenuptial file to the appropriate territorial parish for permanent filing. My delegate will send notification of the Sacrament received to the parish or priory of baptism. My delegate will maintain a record of the marriage located at the Chancery.

5. This present decree will be retained in the original in the Chancery of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. A copy is to be kept by the SSPX priory.

Given at the Chancery of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, Louisiana, on this 14th day of February in the year of our Lord 2019.

Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond
Archbishop of New Orleans

Very Reverend Peter O. Apkoghiran
Chancellor