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September 28, 2021

Notice to the Roman Catholic Clergy and Faithful of the Diocese of Las Vegas

On July 28, 2021, Father Adam Kotas abandoned his parish in the Diocese of Santa Rosa and defected from the Roman Catholic Church. At present, he is a member of the schismatic Polish National Catholic Church (PNCC) founded in 1897 by Reverend Francis Hodur, who led Pennsylvania parishioners away from the Roman Catholic Church.

For a period of three years, Father Kotas was "on loan" to the Diocese of Las Vegas before voluntarily returning to his home Diocese of Santa Rosa. He is using his prior association and charismatic preaching style to entice uninformed Catholics into the PNCC.

As a dissident priest, he has returned to the City of Las Vegas and has founded a breakaway church called "Divine Mercy Catholic Church." Father Kotas' "parish" is masquerading as a Roman Catholic Church, with no reference to its schismatic PNCC roots.

Father Kotas is publicly and contumaciously misleading the faithful about the true nature of the PNCC and its relationship with the Roman Catholic Church.

By this letter, I am definitively informing Roman Catholics of the following:

- The PNCC is not in union with Rome, nor does it recognize the Petrine authority of our Holy Father Pope Francis or the Church's teaching on Papal infallibility;
- The PNCC denies a number of important truths of the Roman Catholic Church, including the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and her glorious Assumption into heaven;
- Baptisms performed in the PNCC are not recognized as Roman Catholic;
- Roman Catholics may not receive Communion in the PNCC, except under highly restricted conditions, which at present do not exist in the Diocese of Las Vegas;
- Weddings performed in the PNCC, while they may be civilly valid, are invalid in the eyes of the Roman Catholic Church;
- Confirmations in the PNCC are not recognized as Roman Catholic; and
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation in the PNCC may be celebrated by Roman Catholics only in danger of death or in emergency situations.

Father Kotas' former Bishop, the Most Reverend Robert Vasa, has consistently appealed to Father Kotas to return to the Diocese of Santa Rosa.

Instead, Father Kotas has persisted in his public defection from communion with the Church of his Ordination, and has made himself subject to excommunication from the Roman Catholic Church.

I appeal to the members of the Diocese of Las Vegas to pray for Father Kotas, that Christ the Good Shepherd will lead him back to the one true fold, that he might stop deluding and deceiving faithful Catholics into believing that the PNCC is a valid and viable alternative to the one true faith.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend George L. Thomas, Ph.D.
Bishop, Diocese of Las Vegas