



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

St. Adalbert Parish
Attention: Parishioners
c/o Rev. Thaddeus Bocianowski
212 Stanislaus Street
Buffalo, NY 14212

* Please read at the end of
all Masses this weekend

January 28, 2011

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy in Rome, His Eminence Mauro Cardinal Piacenza, has written to me to say that "no obstacle exists" for the merger of St. Adalbert Parish and St. John Kanty Parish. The delay in receiving this decision seems due to the fact that the Congregation had considered the matter settled by their decree of December 4, 2007 and the subsequent decree of the *Apostolic Signatura* on February 13, 2008.

You have indicated to me that you are seeking clarification of this latest letter from Rome. However, the letter from His Eminence Mauro Cardinal Piacenza was itself a clarification of your appeal. Consequently, I have decided that the merger of St. Adalbert and St. John Kanty Parishes will proceed and become effective on March 7, 2011. At that time, all liturgical and pastoral services will become the responsibility of the merged parish of St. John Kanty. St. Adalbert church will become an oratory of St. John Kanty Parish and can be used for weddings, funerals, and occasional special liturgies. I will also allow one Mass to be celebrated there at 10:30 AM each Sunday until the church celebrates its 125th anniversary Mass on September 18, 2011. The anniversary Mass will be the last regular Sunday Mass to be celebrated in the oratory.

I know that this decision will be disappointing for you, but I have every confidence that the depth of your faith will give you the strength to accept this decision and to enter fully into the parish life of St. John Kanty Parish, or another parish of your choice. I would like to express my gratitude to you for the respect and courtesy you have shown to me throughout the appeal process. I understand that your appeal was prompted by the love you have for your parish community and for the church building itself.

You will remain in my daily prayers,

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Edward U. Kmiec

Most Rev. Edward U. Kmiec
Bishop of Buffalo