



CONGREGATIO
PRO CLERICIS

Prot. N. 20110623

Vatican City, 28 March 2011

Mr. Ronald Suchocki *et al*

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Mr. Suchocki *et al*:

This Congregation has received your letter of 21 January, 2011 regarding the status of St. Adalbert Church, once it is merged into the parish of St. John Kanty, Buffalo, New York, in the Diocese of Buffalo. As you know, the Congregation had previously decreed, on 4 December, 2007 (Prot. N. 20072559) that no obstacle existed to the merger of the parishes, and your appeal to the Apostolic Signatura was denied, by decree of 13 February, 2008.

This Dicastery reminds you that your recourse regarded only the matter of the merger of the two parishes, not the status of the Church building. In our letter to you of 16 December, 2010 (Prot. N. 20108275) you were informed that the Church would remain a place of worship, even after the merger. In stating this, the Congregation noted that, in the absence of the reduction of the Church to profane but not unbecoming use by the Bishop of Buffalo, according to c. 1222§2, the Church remained a place of worship, accessible to the faithful, according to c. 1214. This implies that sacred services should take place there, according to the norm of the law, but does not imply that Holy Mass must needs be celebrated there on a weekly basis. Decisions such as those regarding the scope of sacred use of the Church, times when the Church should be open, etc. remain at the discretion of the local Ordinary. You are encouraged to become involved in St. John Kanty parish, and through your support of that parish, support your beloved Church, which will continue to be available for religious observances.

With assurance of prayers and cordial best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

✠ Celso Morgia Iruzubieta

Titular Archbishop of Alba marittima

Secretary