



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

June 25, 2012

Rev. Ronald A. Bagieski
and Parishioners
St. John Kanty Church
101 Swinburne St.
Buffalo, NY 14212-1998

Dear Fr. Bagieski and Parishioners,

From communications I have had over the past year with the Apostolic Signatura and the Congregation for the Clergy, it seems that there is confusion between the canonical meaning of the term "oratory" and the use of the term in our diocese to denote limited usage. At the same time, Rome does approve limited use of a church which is no longer the primary parish church. Thus, I have decided to issue a new decree to clarify the canonical status and use of St. Adalbert Church.

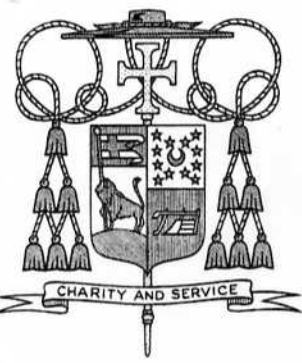
I have attached this decree and **I would ask that this decree be read to your congregation at all Masses the weekend of June 30-July 1, 2012.**

I continue to remember you in prayer, and wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward U. Kmiec". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

Most Rev. Edward U. Kmiec
Apostolic Administrator of Buffalo



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DECREE**Edward U. Kmiec****By the Grace of God and Favor of the Apostolic See****Apostolic Administrator, Diocese of Buffalo**

Whereas the merger of the parishes of St. John Kanty and St. Adalbert, using St. John Kanty as the primary parish church, was decreed on April 2, 2008;

Whereas, St. Adalbert Parish sought recourse against the merger;

Whereas the Congregation for the Clergy stated on December 16, 2010 that no obstacle to the merger existed;

Whereas the merger of St. John Kanty and St. Adalbert Parishes became effective on March 7, 2011 with the new parish being named St. John Kanty;

Whereas the Congregation for the Clergy in a letter dated May 24, 2012 expressed concern regarding reference to St. Adalbert as an "oratory" in the Decree of April 2, 2008;

Whereas there is a need to clarify formally both the canonical status of St. Adalbert church as well as its pastoral use;

I, the Most Reverend Edward U. Kmiec, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Buffalo, decree that the canonical status of St. Adalbert is that of a church (ecclesia) which is owned by, and will be used by St. John Kanty Parish in a limited way at the discretion of the local Bishop and pastor, while St. John Kanty Church will remain the primary parish worship site of St. John Kanty Parish. This is consistent with the January 11, 2010 decree of the Congregation for the Clergy which noted that "the selection of a parish Church for a site for Sunday worship is a local matter, subject to the Bishop's decision." This decree is effective as of July 2, 2012.

Given this day, June 21, 2012
at the Chancery of the Diocese of Buffalo.

Most Rev. Edward U. Kmiec
Apostolic Administrator, Diocese of Buffalo

Chancellor