



CONGREGAZIONE
PER LA DOTTRINA
DELLA FEDE

00120 Città del Vaticano,
Palazzo del S. Uffizio

May 15, 2008

PROT. N. 78/2006.-27304

(Si prega citare il numero nella risposta)

Your Excellency,

On March 23, 2006, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith received documentation regarding the recourse presented by the *Board Members of St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish in the Archdiocese of St. Louis*. This recourse was sought against Your Excellency's decrees of 15 December 2005 in which you had imposed the censure of excommunication on each member of the Board because of their persistence in a schismatic act.

This Dicastery, after a careful study of the entire *Acta* and in light of the arguments presented by both parties, has determined to reject the recourse presented by the *Board Members of St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish* and to confirm the decrees of 15 December 2005 issued by Your Excellency. This decision is based on the fact that those bringing the recourse not only have failed to respect the time-limits set by law but also were negligent in completing the formalities of the recourse. Moreover, it is evident that the *Board Members* have committed the delict of schism by constituting *St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish* as an independent entity capable of appointing its own clergy apart from the hierarchy of the Church. In a gradual process the parish has been removed from the jurisdiction of the local Ordinary. This can be seen as an expression of the refusal of the members of the Board to subject themselves to the lawfully constituted Ecclesiastical authority.

Consequent to this grave determination, Your Excellency is asked to inform the *Board Members of St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish* of this decision and their right to present recourse against it to the Ordinary Session of the Cardinal and Bishop members of this Congregation (*Feria IV*) within the peremptory time-limit of thirty useful days (*tempus utile*) of the receipt of a copy of this letter.

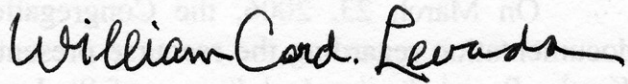
./.

His Excellency
The Most Reverend Raymond L. BURKE
Archbishop of Saint Louis
4445 Lindell Boulevard
Saint Louis, MO 63108-2497
U.S.A.

In communicating this decision to the *Board Members of St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish* and in helping them to accept its conclusion in a spirit of Christian faith, we would ask you, on behalf of this Congregation, to offer them special pastoral care and kindness, encouraging them to recede from the contumacy of schism. This Dicastery hopes that every effort will be made to assist them in reconciling with the Catholic Church and in offering a valuable Christian witness of repentance.

With fraternal regards and prayerful best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,



William Cardinal Levada
Prefect



✠ Angelo Amato, S.D.B.
Titular Archbishop of Sila
Secretary

His Excellency
The Most Reverend Raymond J. Burke
Archbishop of Saint Louis
4445 Lindell Boulevard
Saint Louis, MO 63103-2497
U.S.A.