



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

July 26, 2026

DIOCESAN ADVISORY FROM BISHOP STEPHEN BERG

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In fulfillment of my pastoral responsibility to guide, protect, and oversee the spiritual and temporal affairs of the People of God in the Diocese of Pueblo, I am issuing a critical pastoral directive regarding recent events within our diocese and the universal Church.

Notice Regarding the Declaration of Schism of the Society of Saint Pius X (SSPX)

I wish to bring to your attention a solemn matter concerning the universal Church. Following the illicit episcopal consecrations conducted in Écône, Switzerland, without a pontifical mandate and against the direct warnings of the Holy See, the Vatican's Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith issued a formal decree declaring the **Society of Saint Pius X (SSPX)** to be in a state of formal schism.

The Holy See has made it clear that this deliberate act of disobedience has severed communion with the Roman Pontiff and the Catholic Church. Consequently, the faithful are strictly admonished of the following:

- The bishops involved and the ministers belonging to the SSPX are considered schismatic and have incurred automatic (*latae sententiae*) excommunication.
- The sacraments administered by SSPX ministers are illicit; furthermore, the Holy See has explicitly declared that **the sacraments of Penance (Confession) and Matrimony administered by SSPX priests are invalid.**
- Clerics and lay faithful are warned not to formally adhere to or participate in the celebrations and activities promoted by the SSPX, as doing so carries the grave risk of incurring the same penalty of automatic excommunication.
- It has come to my attention that the Society of Saint Pius X (SSPX), as well as other schismatic sects representing themselves as Roman Catholic, may be celebrating illicit or invalid sacraments within our diocese. Therefore, for the supreme good of souls and the protection of your spiritual well-being, it is my bounden duty to advise the faithful of this situation so that you are not misled by those lacking lawful jurisdiction and communion with the Chair of Peter.

I exhort all the lay faithful of the Diocese of Pueblo to remain steadfast in full communion with the Universal Church and the Roman Pontiff. Let us lift our prayers for unity, reconciliation, and the healing of this painful rupture in the Body of Christ.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Stephen J. Berg
Bishop of Pueblo