

Statement to Mr. Thomas Droleskey

The members of the Society of St. John are a dedicated, talented, intelligent group of men who have my permission to live in the Diocese of Scranton as a clerical association of the Christian faithful (Canon 302). They are hard working, industrious, and ambitious. They want only what is best for the Church and for the work they hope to accomplish. They have my wholehearted support.

I can understand that there may be a difference of opinion as to how contributed funds have been spent or are to be spent. But, there is no question that what they have done so far is for the furthering of their apostolate which is to promote the love of the Sacred Liturgy and education.

In their youthful exuberance, they have made mistakes but never intentionally or maliciously. Moreover, they have learned a great deal from these same mistakes and have taken all necessary measures to both correct past errors or judgment and prevent them from occurring again. They have done this working in close collaboration with the Diocese of Scranton, its finance office and auditors.

I am morally certain that there has been no wrongful, unlawful, or capricious use of funds on the part of the Society of St. John.

As far as the "Tridentine Mass" is concerned, the members of the Society have permission to use this Liturgy, and they do use it. Very simply, they are open to the *Novus Ordo* Liturgy, as every Catholic must be, but they are committed to preserving the Sacred Liturgy according to the regulations of the *Ecclesia Dei* Commission.

It behooves all people of good will to do all they can to support this fledgling community in the Church and not tear it down.

Most Reverend James C. Timlin, D.D.
Bishop of Scranton

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