

July 14, 2010

Dear Members of the Latin Mass Community:

Pax vobiscum!

As most of you know, complaints were filed some months ago by members of the Latin Mass Community, alleging that the former Chaplain, Father Thomas Acklin, OSB, engaged in inappropriate touching of several female members. In response, under the direction of the Diocesan Review Board, we hired a private investigator from Decision Point, LLC. Father Acklin himself insisted on the investigation, since he felt he had not done anything wrong or inappropriate. The investigator interviewed all the parties involved and offered the following opinions:

- All women reported feeling that Father Acklin had violated their personal space. However, the women were unanimous in saying they did not believe Father's actions were sexual in nature.
- It appears no matter how Father acted, some felt he could not do anything right, and the problem became an enormous conflict of personalities.
- Although Father may have had good intentions when he first arrived to minister to the Latin Mass Group, his outburst of May 2nd, following the First Communion Mass, was certainly unprofessional and disruptive to most of the congregation present. [Father Acklin notes that his only intention was to defend his own good name. He apologizes that his remarks made after Mass on May 2nd became emotional and disruptive to a portion of the congregation.]
- In the opinion of the investigator all parties are collectively responsible for the events that transpired, whether it was a lack of understanding or an inability to be impartial.

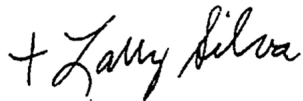
While the investigation concluded that Father Acklin's interactions with the women in question were not sexual in nature, there is another issue that contributed to the consternation this issue brought to the Community. It was clear to me that, even though Father Acklin willingly offered his services to the Latin Mass Community and in fact provided the Community with a level of service it had not previously experienced, a few members of the Community did not want him to be the Chaplain because he is not a "traditional priest," as they put it. I was appalled at the ease with which a small number of people in the Community were willing to ruin a priest's reputation in order to force him out, even capitalizing on the recent news of clergy sexual of abuse of minors throughout the world and more than insinuating a link between these tragic cases and the behavior of Father Acklin. It was also obvious that a small number of people were eager to involve me because I had the power to remove Father Acklin, while at the same time demonstrating a general contempt for the office of bishop. I even wondered whether a few members of the Community had forgotten that the traditional Latin Mass is a means for worshipping God, not a god to be worshipped.

It was because of these conflicts and errors, and the necessity to assure unity within the Church, that I decided an entire change of leadership was needed, including Father Acklin and the lay leaders of the community. I pray that now these things can be left behind, and that all can continue to worship the Lord and proclaim the Kingdom of God in the peace of the Holy Spirit as one family in the Lord, whether we worship in the ordinary or the extraordinary form of the Mass.

Be assured of my continued prayers for the Latin Mass Community and your continued witness to Jesus.

Our Lady, Queen of Peace, Patroness of the Diocese of Honolulu, pray for us!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry Silva".

Most Reverend Larry Silva
Bishop of Honolulu