



Diocese  
of  
Cleveland

Cathedral Square

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

404/2009

21 April 2009

Mr. Miklos B. Peller  
1785 King James Parkway  
Westlake, Ohio 44145

Dear Mr. Peller:

I write in response to your petition dated 24 March 2009 asking me to revoke the decree ordering the suppression of St. Emeric Parish and if I do not revoke that decree, that I would order the suppression of the Parish be suspended pending hierarchical recourse.

Having carefully reviewed all the information that you have provided and having again carefully considering this matter, as I have on several occasions with members of the Hungarian Catholic community in our Diocese, I now write in response to your petition.

Please know that the idea of clustering St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish, St. Emeric Parish, and St. Margaret of Hungary Parish was the idea of the Pastors, which I acceded to. In the course of the discussions knowing that my May 2007 letter clearly indicated that the mandate was to go from three parishes to one parish, I found that their reply submitted this past November was inappropriate. Please allow me to explain.

In my May 2007 letter it was clearly stated that those who felt that parts of the mandate of the process were difficult were free to contact me through the appropriate persons so that I could hear their difficulties. I never was contacted. Thus, I can only have presumed that the cluster comprising the above named parishes was hard at work addressing the mandate that they had received from their Bishop. You can only imagine the surprise that I had when I received their recommended plan that ignored what I had set forth.

Moreover, in a conversation with the Pastors and with two lay leaders we discussed very openly the figures that they had provided the Diocese with regarding liturgical and sacramental activity at the three parishes. As we go forward one can only hope that there will be awareness that all parishes are part of the larger entity of the Church in Cleveland. Thus, in light of the prudent use of ecclesiastical goods and the legitimate religious, liturgical, and sacramental needs of the Hungarian community it is my prudent judgment that one parish more than adequately takes care of that. Thus, I will not revoke my decree regarding the suppression of St. Emeric Parish, nor will I order the suppression of the parish to be suspended pending hierarchical recourse. I fully expect that other directives in my 12 March 2009 letter will be adhered to.

Sincerely,

*+ Richard Lennon*  
Bishop of Cleveland

RGL/jj



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of  
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