

Miklos B. Peller
Procurator for St. Emeric Parish
1785 King James Parkway, Westlake, Ohio 44145, USA

27 November 2009

His Eminence Mauro Piacenza
Titular Archbishop of Vittoriana
Congregation for the Clergy
00120 Città del Vaticano

Re: Suppression of St. Emeric Parish
Diocese of Cleveland, Ohio, USA
Recourse to the Congregation for the Clergy
Protocol Number: 20091366

Your Eminence,

Pursuant to my previous letters including the 21 October 2009 letter to Your Eminence regarding the Congregation's review of our recourse against Bishop Richard Lennon's decree of suppressing St. Emeric Parish in the Diocese of Cleveland, Ohio, USA, I now submit this letter to Your Eminence, co-signed by our pastor Father Sandor Siklodi. I do so as a baptized Catholic and as the Procurator for our parish and for 265 parishioners. We understand that the Congregation for the Clergy was or is in the final process of formulating a decision over our Recourse contesting Bishop Lennon's decree to suppress our Parish.

I would like to respectfully convey our pastor Father Sandor Siklodi's, our parishioners' and my request for the Congregation to give its utmost consideration to prevent the harming of our souls resulting from the suppression of our parish. We incorporated this request in our recourse as the central issue of that document.

Our parish is viable as it has over 600 registered parishioners. Our parish's administrator is an extern priest, not a diocesan one. Father Sandor Siklodi is a citizen of the United States. As he came from the diocese of Alba Iulia, a Hungarian-speaking province of Romania and as he has always served Hungarian-speaking parish congregations, his command of the English language is not extensive enough to give spiritual guidance to English-speaking congregations within the United States. If our parish is suppressed, he will not be able to serve another parish here, in the country of his citizenship. Furthermore, he is only 62 years old, not ready to retire for some years to come. It would be a shame to silence a perfectly capable Hungarian priest and deny his services to our Hungarian-speaking faith community. Also, the finances of our parish are in order, we have bank savings sufficient to cover expected and unexpected expenditures for many years to come. Our parishioners are willing to sacrifice well beyond normal limits in order to keep our parish alive for many years yet to come.

As we stated in our recourse, Bishop Lennon has to this date not communicated to us his reasons for his decree to extinguish our parish. Our repeated attempts to meet with him for eye-to-eye discussing have been denied by him. His demeanor toward us has caused grave harm to our soul. As the churches of the parishes Bishop Lennon decreed to be suppressed are being closed one after the other, it is becoming increasingly clear

to the faithful of our diocese that many of Bishop Lennon's pastoral decisions have been ill-advised or "non-advised", and that much unnecessary suffering has been inflicted on the good and faithful people of this diocese as a result. His decisions have been unfair to us, faithful people of our diocese, who just a few years ago never suspected that their contributions, sacrifices, fidelity and good will to their churches would be so senselessly devalued and their appealing voices would be so arrogantly dismissed and ignored by just one man alone, by the one who came our diocese with the assigned and mandated duty to shepherd us.

Our only hope is that the Congregation considers the arguments in our recourse and makes a decision that will enable our parish to remain in existence, even if such decision would involve a just but reasonable effort at a compromise. We sincerely believe that, for the supporting reasons presented above and in our recourse, a viable, well functioning parish such as St. Emeric should not be merged, suppressed or extinguished as such an act deeply harms the soul.

We again repeat our request in our 21 October 2009 letter that we be allowed to submit our response to His Excellency's answers as we consider it of utmost importance that the Congregation for the Clergy be in the possession of all the facts relating to the suppression of our parish. The salvation of the souls of our parishioners is at stake and for this reason we would like to assure that the information Bishop Lennon may have submitted to the Congregation for the Clergy is in accordance with true facts as we know them in order to assure a just and equitable evaluation of our recourse. Once again, we St. Emeric parishioners would like to offer our full cooperation to the Congregation for the Clergy during the remaining days of this review process.

Please share this letter with the eminent members of the Congregation.

Your Eminence, once again Rev. Sandor Siklodi, pastor-administrator of our parish, our parishioners and I would like to renew our highest esteem for you and the Congregation for the Clergy.

Respectfully yours in Christ,

Miklos B. Peller
Procurator for St. Emeric Parish

cc: His Eminence, Archbishop Pietro Sambì, Apostolic Nuncio, Washington, D.C., w/ enclosure