

Catholic Pastoral Center • 1615 West Washington Street • Springfield, Illinois 62702-4757 www.dio.org 217-698-8500 FAX 217-698-0802

Office of the Bishop

DECREE DECLARING THE EXCOMMUNICATION INCURRED LATAE SENTENTIAE BY MARY F. KELDERMANS

Whereas canon 1024 of the *Code of Canon Law* says that only a baptized male can receive sacred ordination validly;

Whereas Article 5 of the *Norms of the motu proprio "Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela,"* approved by Pope Benedict XVI on May 21, 2010, with due regard for canon 1378 of the *Code of Canon Law*, provides that the more grave delict of the attempted sacred ordination of a woman is reserved to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and that both the one who attempts to confer sacred ordination on a woman and she who attempts to receive sacred ordination incur a *latae sententiae* excommunication reserved to the Apostolic See;

Whereas a canonical warning was sent to Mary F. Keldermans by certified mail to her residence at in Springfield, Illinois on April 15, 2014, urging her to reconsider and cancel her contemplated course of action to attempt to receive sacred ordination; and

Whereas in fact Mary F. Keldermans attempted to receive sacred ordination in a ceremony at the Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Springfield, Illinois, on May 5, 2014;

Now therefore, I, the Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki, by the grace of God and the favor of the Apostolic See Bishop of Springfield in Illinois, hereby declare in accord with canons 1342 and 1720 of the *Code of Canon Law* that Mary F. Keldermans has incurred the censure of excommunication *latae sententiae* reserved to the Apostolic See.

In accord with canon 1331, §1, an excommunicated person is forbidden:

- (1) to have any ministerial participation in celebrating the Eucharistic Sacrifice or in any other ceremonies whatsoever of public worship;
- (2) to celebrate the sacraments and sacramentals and to receive the sacraments;
- (3) to discharge any ecclesiastical offices, ministries or functions whatsoever, or to place acts of governance.

Decree declaring the Excommunication of Ms. Mary F. Keldermans May 15, 2014 – Page 2

Since this excommunication has been declared, canon 1331, §2 also takes effect, which provides that the guilty party:

- (1) wishing to act against the prescriptions of §1, n. 1, is to be prevented from doing so or the liturgical action is to stop unless a serious cause intervenes;
- (2) invalidly places acts of governance which are only illicit in accord with the norms of §1, n. 3;
- (3) is forbidden to enjoy privileges formerly granted;
- (4) cannot validly acquire a dignity, office or other function in the Church;
- (5) cannot appropriate the revenues from any dignity, office, function or pension in the Church.

Remission of this penalty is reserved to the Apostolic See in accord with canon 1354, §3 and may be sought from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith through the Apostolic Nunciature to the United States of America in Washington, D.C., if the conditions for remission of a censure have been met per canon 1358, §1 of the *Code of Canon Law*.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois on this 15th day of the month of May in the Year of Our Lord 2014.

Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki Bishop of Springfield in Illinois

+ Thomas John Pagnocki

Cheuzl A. Kannall Ecclesiastical Notary