

4 January 2016
354 Hamilton Avenue
Bethlehem, PA 18017

Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Allentown
4029 West Tilghman Street, Suite 3
Allentown, PA 18104

Most Reverend and dear Bishop Barres,

In one of the sermons Father Seifert gave to prepare the parish for his absence on sabbatical he encouraged us to let you know how grateful we are for your pastoral concern for the community at St. Stephen's, and to express our hopes for its continuance. Today marking his last day as pastor prompts me to delay no longer.

We cannot thank you adequately in words alone for providing for the spiritual needs of those of us attached to the traditional Roman forms of liturgy, discipline and piety. But please permit me, also on behalf of many at the parish I know share my abiding sentiments, to say: thank you sincerely for granting the parish setting & *extraordinary* liturgical life we need to nourish that specifically Roman spirituality. Taken as a whole, the "legitimate aspirations" (as St. John Paul II declared it) of the so-called traditional faithful for those forms and spirituality is surely the richest legacy we parents & grandparents can pass on to our children & grandchildren.

And I believe you have personally observed during your visits the vitality of so many of the young, large and mature families living that spirituality at the parish.

Surely you will thus find it easy to understand our deep concern that the community be supplied the basic means or conditions to sustain it.

Besides the serious setback and grave concerns we are experiencing at present with the absence of Fr. Seifert, there is also the unanswered petition of June (which has only this week come to my attention) to allow the Fraternity of St. Peter to minister at the parish. Until now no one (that I am aware) has said it for fear of giving even the appearance of ingratitude or other offense, but now I believe it is time to open our mind to Your Excellency. With all due respect to our much-beloved, ever-capable, truly-good Pastor & dear Father Seifert, for the parish community to thrive – to say nothing, at this point, of merely surviving until April – there is genuine need for a pastor who has inherited and can pass on the same spirituality to our children and grandchildren.

When that happens, the parish is sure to grow and thrive as a garden of peace, hope, charity and other spiritual fruits at the service of and distributed to the Diocese.

Does not your Excellency wish that for the Diocese? And in your charity would you grant, please, that specific Ministry to us?

Yours faithfully in Christ,



Mrs. Wanda H. Tansey