Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Society of Saint Pius X (SSPX) Following the Holy See's Decree of 2 July 2026

On 2 July 2026, following the illicit episcopal consecrations carried out by the Society of Saint Pius X (SSPX) without a pontifical mandate, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith declared that the SSPX has entered into schism. In an accompanying explanatory note, the Holy See clarified the canonical consequences for the SSPX, its clergy, and the Catholic faithful.

The following questions address the concerns most frequently raised by Catholics. They are intended to assist the faithful in remaining in full communion with the Catholic Church and to encourage those who have become involved with the SSPX to seek reconciliation with the Church.

1. May I attend Mass celebrated by the SSPX to fulfill my Sunday or Holy Day obligation?

No. The Holy See has made clear that Catholics are not to participate in the liturgical life of the SSPX. Attendance at an SSPX Mass does not fulfill the obligation to participate in Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation. Catholics should instead participate in Mass celebrated in full communion with the Catholic Church, whether in the Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite or in any lawfully authorized celebration of the Traditional Latin Mass.

2. Are the sacraments celebrated by priests of the SSPX valid?

Confessions are invalid, except in danger of death. Marriages witnessed by SSPX clergy are invalid. Any sacrament requiring jurisdiction or faculties from the Church cannot be validly celebrated unless expressly provided by law. For this reason, Catholics are obliged to receive the sacraments only from ministers who are in full communion with the Catholic Church. According to the Holy See's explanatory note, the SSPX Eucharist is valid but illicit. Participation in an SSPX Eucharist fulfills no ecclesial obligation and may be considered a schismatic act. SSPX Baptisms are valid when celebrated with the proper matter, form, and intention, but illicit except in danger of death. Restoration to full communion with the Roman Catholic Church would require a profession if faith. Anointing of the Sick is administered validly but illicitly, except in danger of death. Confirmations conferred by SSPX bishops are valid but illicit.

3. I have been going to an SSPX chapel. Am I automatically excommunicated?

There is grave danger of formal schism. Anyone who has become involved with the SSPX or regularly attends liturgical celebrations of the SSPX should immediately

cease participating in its liturgical and ecclesial life and speak with a Catholic priest if they have questions about their own situation.

The Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, in an article published on 2 July 2026 in Vatican News, stated that lay people could be imputable or culpable of the delict or crime of schism if they belong to the Third Order of the SSPX, or who habitually participate in celebrations of the SSPX and formally share its doctrinal positions. Such an adherence to the SSPX constitutes the canonical crime of schism and carries the penalty of excommunication. For such a person who with such an affiliation to the SSPX to return to full communion with the Catholic Church, they must present a formal profession of faith and an act of full adherence to Catholic doctrine and obedience to the Catholic hierarchy to the diocesan bishop.

The Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith says that for those laity who participated in the life of the SSPX only for liturgical or spiritual reasons, while aware of the tensions with the Holy See, do not reject the Magisterium or the authority of the Roman Pontiff, it will be sufficient for them to approach a priest in full communion, with the decision not to attend the SSPX in the future.

4. May I attend the wedding, funeral, First Communion, Confirmation, or other liturgical celebration of a family member celebrated by the SSPX?

Catholics should not participate in liturgical celebrations conducted by the SSPX. The Church recognizes that family situations can be difficult and emotionally painful. Anyone facing a particularly serious circumstance should consult his or her parish priest for pastoral guidance.

5. May I serve as a sponsor, godparent, witness, altar server, cantor, or otherwise participate in an SSPX ceremony?

No. Catholics should not exercise any liturgical ministry or ecclesial role in celebrations conducted by the SSPX, as doing so publicly associates one with its ecclesial life.

6. I appreciate the Traditional Latin Mass. Does this mean I have nowhere to go?

No. Those who wish to worship according to the liturgical books approved for use by the Church should attend celebrations that are lawfully authorized and celebrated in full communion with the Catholic Church. In the Archdiocese we have two communities that offer the Traditional Latin Mass and are cared for by the Fraternity of St. Peter: St. John Vianney Latin Mass Community, 14611 Waterman Crossing

Rd, Maple Hill, KS 66507 and Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne Catholic Church, 5035 Rainbow Blvd, Mission Woods, KS 66205

7. What should I do if I have family members or friends who belong to the SSPX?

Continue to love them and pray for them. Avoid arguments or hostility but also avoid participating in the SSPX's sacramental or ecclesial life. Instead, encourage them with patience and charity to seek full communion with the Catholic Church. If they have questions about the Holy See's decree or about returning to full communion, encourage them to speak with a priest in full communion with the Church. The Church's desire is always reconciliation, healing, and unity.

Sources:

- Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Decreto del Dicastero* (2 July 2026), Decreto del Dicastero per la Dottrina della Fede (2 luglio 2026)
- Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Nota Esplicativa* (2 July 2026), Nota esplicativa del Dicastero per la Dottrina della Fede (2 luglio 2026)
- Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts, *Nota Esplicativa* (24 August 1996), Sulla scomunica per scisma in cui incorrono gli aderenti al movimento del Vescovo Marcel Lefebvre
- Lefebvrite priests and lay faithful: Procedure to return to Catholic communion https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2026-07/fraternity-saint-pius-x-ways-to-repent-return-full-communion.html