



Office of the Bishop
Phone: (702) 735-9605
Fax: (702) 735-8941

August 19, 2021

Dear Priests, Deacons, Religious and Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Las Vegas

Please see the statement below released by the Diocese of Santa Rosa in California regarding **Adam Kotas**, formerly one of their priests, who had served in the Diocese of Las Vegas from 2015 to 2018.

2 August 2021

Memo regarding Adam Kotas

On 28 July 2021, the Diocese of Santa Rosa learned that Adam Kotas posted a video on his blog. In the video, he states that he has joined the "Polish National Catholic Church" and been incardinated with them. He has previously stated that he was leaving the "Church of the Roman Jurisdiction." The Roman Catholic Church is not in communion with the Polish National Catholic Church which was founded in the late 19th Century in the United States of America. The USCCB is in dialogue with the Polish National Catholic Church, but communion has not been re-established.

We understand that there is a great deal of confusion and concern at this time. We do not know why Adam Kotas has chosen to leave the Catholic Church. He stated in a video posted on his blog that he desires to start a new "parish" of the Polish National Catholic Church in the Diocese of Las Vegas. Starting such a parish will cause confusion for the People of God as it makes it appear that there is a "new Catholic Church" they can attend. This action is not approved by ecclesiastical authorities. It will have no ecclesial standing within the Catholic Church.

Given this situation, Adam Kotas is prohibited from performing any sacraments or any other ministry in the name of the Catholic Church. The People of God should not approach him for any religious ceremony.

PO Box 1297, Santa Rosa, CA 95402-1297 (707) 566-3300 WWW.STOIOCESE.ORG

Please underscore the prohibition contained in the Santa Rosa communique, and ensure that the lay faithful in your community are duly informed:

"Adam Kotas is prohibited from performing any sacraments or any other ministry in the name of the Catholic Church."

"The People of God should not approach him for any religious ceremony."

Diocese of Las Vegas
336 Cathedral Way + Las Vegas, Nevada 89109

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It is important for all of us to pray for those who have left the communion of the Catholic Church, asking the Good Shepherd to seek them out and return them to the fold.

Bishop Robert Vasa informed us that officials in the Diocese of Santa Rosa are presently studying Adam Kotas' situation, and will be preparing a Q&A within the next two weeks that we will share with you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ George L. Thomas".

Most Reverend George L. Thomas, Ph.D.
Bishop, Diocese of Las Vegas

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Gregory W. Gordon".

Most Reverend Gregory W. Gordon
Vicar General, Diocese of Las Vegas