

SOCIETY OF ST PIUS X TEACHING	CATHOLIC TEACHING
In cases of necessity, it is legitimate to consecrate a bishop in defiance of an explicit order from the Pope not to do so. This is merely a question of the Church's discipline. (1)	It is absolutely forbidden to consecrate a bishop in defiance of an explicit order from the Pope not to do so. Whilst such consecrations may be valid they are 'gravely illicit i.e. criminal and sacrilegious' (2)
The SSPX's refusal to submit to the authority of the Pope and those bishops in communion with him does not mean that it is in schism. (3)	Schism is the refusal of submission to the Roman Pontiff or of communion with the members of the Church subject to him. (4)
It is not necessary to obey the Pope in matters appertaining to the discipline and government of the Church. (5)	Catholics, both clergy and lay, are bound to submit to the Pope in matters appertaining to the discipline and government of the Church. (6)
A sentence pronounced by the Pope is invalid if the individual subjectively believed they were not in mortal sin. (7)	No appeal or recourse is permitted against a sentence or decree of the Roman Pontiff. (8)
An excommunication pronounced by the Pope can be ignored if the recipient of the excommunication considers the penalty to be unjust. (9)	The idea that an excommunication pronounced by a lawful prelate can be ignored is to be condemned. (10)
"The See of Peter and the posts of authority in Rome being occupied by anti-Christ..” (11)	The Pope is the true Vicar of Christ. (12)
Rome has fallen into heresy. (13)	The Pope is the <u>perpetual</u> principle of unity, both of faith and communion. (14)
The SSPX was raised up by God to perpetuate the true faith. (15)	The Catholic Church will always be visible. (16)
It is lawful for clergy to celebrate the sacraments despite being suspended 'a divinis'. (17)	Those who have not received a canonical mission cannot be lawful ministers of the word and the sacraments. (18)
It is not necessary for a bishop to be in communion with the Pope. (19)	It is absolutely necessary for a bishop to be in communion with the Pope. (20)

“The fact that the Society of Saint Pius X does not possess a canonical status in the Church is not, in the end, based on disciplinary but on doctrinal reasons.”

- Pope Benedict XVI, Letter to Bishops 2009

“They, therefore, walk in the path of dangerous error who believe that they can accept Christ as the Head of the Church, while not adhering loyally to His Vicar on earth.”

- Pius XII, *Mystici Corporis*

Notes

Whilst the Society of St Pius X does not have any official ‘teaching’ as such, its position can be gleaned from the writings and actions of its founder Archbishop Lefebvre and the positions espoused in its official publications. A justification of the SSPX positions can be found on their USA website under the heading ‘Frequently asked questions about the SSPX’.

- (1) SSPX FAQs Question 11 - justification of the illicit consecration of bishops.
- (2) *Ad Apostolorum Principis* 1958 (Pope Pius XII) - sections 37 to 48
- (3) SSPX FAQs Question 12 - denial that SSPX is schismatic
- (4) Code of Canon Law - 751
- (5) Since the SSPX operates independently from Rome, this is self-evident
- (6) First Vatican Council One, Session 4 (*Pastor Aeternus*)
- (7) SSPX FAQs Question 11 - erroneously claims that “no penalty is ever incurred without committing a subjective mortal sin”
- (8) Code of Canon Law - 333.3 - see also *Pastor Aeternus*
- (9) SSPX FAQs Question 11
- (10) *Quartus Supra* - Section 10 (Pope Pius IX compared this error to that of the Jansenist heretics)
- (11) Excerpt from a letter written in August 1987 from Archbishop Lefebvre to the future bishops - the letter is published on the SSPX Asia website
- (12) First Vatican Council One, Session 4 (*Pastor Aeternus*)
- (13) “we refuse and have always refused to follow the Rome of **neo-Modernist** and **neo-Protestant** tendencies” - declaration of Archbishop Lefebvre in 1974 - see SSPX Asia website
- (14) First Vatican Council One, Session 4 (*Pastor Aeternus*)
- (15) See letter of August 1987
- (16) First Vatican Council One, Session 4 (*Pastor Aeternus*)
- (17) Since the SSPX clergy are all suspended, this is self-evident
- (18) Council of Trent - Session 23
- (19) Since the three SSPX bishops are not in communion with the Pope, this is self-evident
- (20) *Satis Cognitum* - Section 15. ‘the episcopal order is rightly judged to be in communion with Peter, as Christ commanded, if it be subject to and obeys Peter’