



THE ARCHDIOCESE OF AGAÑA

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Concerning the Celebration of Mass at St. Fidelis Friary Chapel

After much prayer and reflection followed by positive and constructive dialogue with the leadership of the Capuchin Franciscan Friars, we hereby jointly announce the decision concerning the celebration of Mass at St Fidelis Friary:

The Capuchin Friars and I affirm that St. Fidelis Friary is a legitimately erected religious house with an oratory (chapel), but it is not a parish.

- The weekday Mass, currently held at 12: 10 p.m., will be the Conventual Mass (the daily Mass that the Friars celebrate as a community) at which the lay faithful are welcomed to attend.
- The celebration of the Sunday Latin Mass, currently held at 11 a.m., will continue at the Friary Chapel.
- The devotional Masses held in honor of St. (Padre) Pio, Capuchin Stigmatist, will be celebrated monthly at the Friary Chapel; currently is celebrated at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month.
- The friars' annual celebration of the Feast of St. (Padre) Pio held in September and to include nobena, Mass and procession, may be observed.
- Since St. Fidelis Friary is not a parish, the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation, marriages, funerals (except for friars), anniversary Masses for weddings and deaths, may not be celebrated at the Friary Chapel except in rare circumstances and only with the express written permission of the local ordinary (Archbishop). The faithful should avail themselves of the Sacraments of Initiation at their respective parishes.

- Events which have been scheduled months earlier, before my directive of April 14, 2009 may be fulfilled.

Finally, I wish to thank the Capuchin Franciscan Friars on Guam for their tireless ministry to the people of Guam and the Marianas and devotion to God for more than a century now.

To the Faithful of Guam and all who have prayed for me, the Friars and the entire Church, I also humbly express my sincerest gratitude.

For those who have been angered or pained or inconvenienced by any of the actions the Church may have taken in this process, I offer my sincerest apology. In all circumstances we rely on the grace of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us and direct us as we seek clarity of mind, heart and will. No doubt the Holy Spirit is very much present in our midst. Let us thank God for his constant and watchful care over his Church.

Again, *Dangkolo na si Yu'os ma'ase'* (sincere thank you) for your prayers and your patience.

Given this 16th day of May, 2009, in Hagatna, Guam, we affix our signatures:

/s/ Most Rev. Archbishop Anthony Sablan Apuron OFM Cap., D.D.

Metropolitan Archbishop of Agaña

/s/ Very Rev. Fr. Joseph English OFM Cap.

Vice Provincial, Vice Province of Star of the Sea