

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CHAPEL  
MONROE, CONN. 06468

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Dear:

What Bishop Vezelis told you concerning the necessity of jurisdiction for fruitful reception of, or receiving grace from, the Sacraments is all well and good - I am quite familiar with it from my own training in Theology.

But the application of the principle or teaching is another matter. The fact of the matter is that neither Bishop Vezelis nor any of the other new Bishops can claim undisputed title to Apostolic Succession. Certainly the mere fact of their being validly consecrated bishops does not prove they have it. Otherwise the Greek Orthodox bishops could claim it too, as they are validly consecrated bishops; but not having received their office through the Catholic Church, they have no part in the Apostolic Succession.

Now the fact of the matter is, as you certainly know, that the bishops in question did not receive their appointment from a Pope (whether or not there happens to be one). Therefore their own jurisdiction or Apostolic Succession is not altogether certain - despite much evidence in their favor.

Consequently priests and faithful are not bound in conscience to recognize these bishops as having jurisdiction. As was the case before these new bishops came on the scene, we traditionalist

priests continue to receive whatever jurisdiction we need from Canon Law itself, which in cases of doubt supplies jurisdiction.

The reason I myself refused to accept the bishopric was that I saw I would not have absolute certainty of Apostolic Succession. I have even put this question to Bishop Vezelis and have received no answer. Am I to presume it is only because of his humility, which has so captivated you, that he does not answer?

By choosing to believe Bishop Vezelis rather than first ask me my view of the question, you have put yourself in an unnecessary crisis of conscience and deprived yourself of true and fruitful Sacraments here.

The fact is too that I have never repudiated Bishop Vezelis or withdrawn myself from his (possible) jurisdiction. If I was supposed to get my faculties renewed after three months, he never told me so. For that matter never has he answered any letter I sent him as a pastor under his authority. Why is he a bishop?

Sincerely,

