

MEDIA RELEASE

ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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RESPONSE TO COURT RULING ON ST. STANISLAUS *Archdiocese of St. Louis plans to appeal the decision*

St. Louis, MO - The court's decision today is a disappointment for Polish American Catholics who wished to see St. Stanislaus returned to communion with the Roman Catholic Church. At the same time, it brings great sadness to all in the Archdiocese of St. Louis who had hoped for reconciliation and healing in this matter.

In this opinion, the judge has agreed that the corporate purpose of the parish corporation is to maintain a Roman Catholic Church. The Vatican has determined that the corporation by revising its bylaws in 2001 and 2004 has transformed St. Stanislaus into an entity which has no resemblance to a Roman Catholic parish. Archbishop Robert J. Carlson has supported the determination of the Vatican and has tried to work with the parish to bring it in communion with the Roman Catholic Church once again.

Judge Hettenbach, in the opinion issued today, has disregarded these ecclesiastical determinations and has substituted his own analysis of Church law, finding that the bylaws are not in conflict with the parish corporate purpose of maintaining a Roman Catholic Church. We plan to appeal this decision and will take this case all the way to the Supreme Court if necessary.

We are committed in prayer and pastoral outreach to reconcile the members of St. Stanislaus to full communion with the Roman Catholic Church.

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MISSION STATEMENT OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

*As Catholics in the
Archdiocese of St. Louis,
in communion with the
Bishop of Rome we are called
by our Lord Jesus Christ to be
His Church and live His
Gospel.*

*With joy, we strive to fulfill our
Baptismal calling by prayer
and worship, teaching and
sharing our faith, serving
others, and fostering unity in
diversity.*

*Guided by the Holy Spirit.
We commit ourselves to the
responsible stewardship of all
God's gifts.*

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