

# PARISH APPEAL TO ROME\*

(Sample)

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PARISHONERS AND PARISH OF ST. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of a designated representative)

Address

CITY/State/zip

Date:\*\* \_\_\_\_\_

His Eminence, Dario Cardinal Castrillon-Hoyos  
Prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy  
00129 Vatican City State  
Europe

Re: Hierarchical Recourse against the Degree of Suppression and Confiscation (or other)

Your Eminence:

We are members of the Catholic Faithful and members of (Parish Council, Parish Finance Committee) of the parish of St. \_\_\_\_\_, Arch/Diocese of \_\_\_\_\_, of the State of \_\_\_\_\_ in the United States of America. By Decree executed on \_\_\_\_\_, 200\_ and effective \_\_\_\_\_, 200\_ Arch/Bishop \_\_\_\_\_ ordered that St. \_\_\_\_\_ Parish be suppressed and that the goods and obligations of St. \_\_\_\_\_ Parish become the goods and obligations of the Arch/Diocese of \_\_\_\_\_ (transferred/merged etc with \_\_\_\_\_). St. \_\_\_\_\_ Parish petitioned Arch/Bishop \_\_\_\_\_ to revoke the Decree of \_\_\_\_\_. By a letter dated \_\_\_\_\_ and received \_\_\_\_\_, Arch/Bishop \_\_\_\_\_ refused to revoke his Decree.

(Describe the process of negotiations with the bishop which have failed and why the parish is not only viable financially, but needed by the community. Mention the decree of the Sacred Congregation of the Council to the U.S. bishops of July 29, 1911 on parish corporations, and cite the canons on parish as a juridical person (C 373), the right of parishes to own their own property, (C 1256) and the role of the Finance Committee (CC 537 and 1280), and use of designated gifts by parishioners as indicated by the parish Sunday envelopes (C 1267 #3).

We therefore, hereby exercise our right to Hierarchic Recourse as provided in the Code of Canon Law, canons 1732-1739, and request that the Congregation for the Clergy to declare Arch/Bishop \_\_\_\_\_'s Decree to be null and void and of no juridical effect or rescind or revoke the Decree of \_\_\_\_\_.

## Factual History

(Provide a history of the Parish and attach exhibits and documents along with the step by step events that led up to the Decree. Include meetings with the Arch/Bishop and their results.)

## Failure to consult with the Presbyterial Council

(If this is the case, document it here, quoting the appropriate canons)

## Suppression of a vibrant, viable parish is contrary to Canon Law

(Again show how vibrant and viable St. \_\_\_\_\_ Parish is and again quote canon laws)

**Failure of the Process as applied to St. \_\_\_\_\_**

**Conclusion**

In view of all the forgoing, we respectfully request that the Congregation issue a decree declaring the Decree imposed by Arch/Bishop \_\_\_\_\_ to be null and void and of no juridical effect or otherwise reverse, rescind or revoke the Decree for a lack of adherence to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and in that it lacked basis in law and fact.

Sincerely in Christ,

\_\_\_\_\_ (Signed by Parish Council and Finance Committee members)

CC: Arch/Bishop \_\_\_\_\_

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\* See Code of Canon Law: Canons 1733-1739

\*\* see Canons 1734 and 1736 **NOTE: IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT THE DEADLINE DATE FOR FILING THE APPEAL BE OBSERVED PRECISLY. A day late and you have lost it.**  
Preparation of the appeal can begin before the decree has been issued.

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