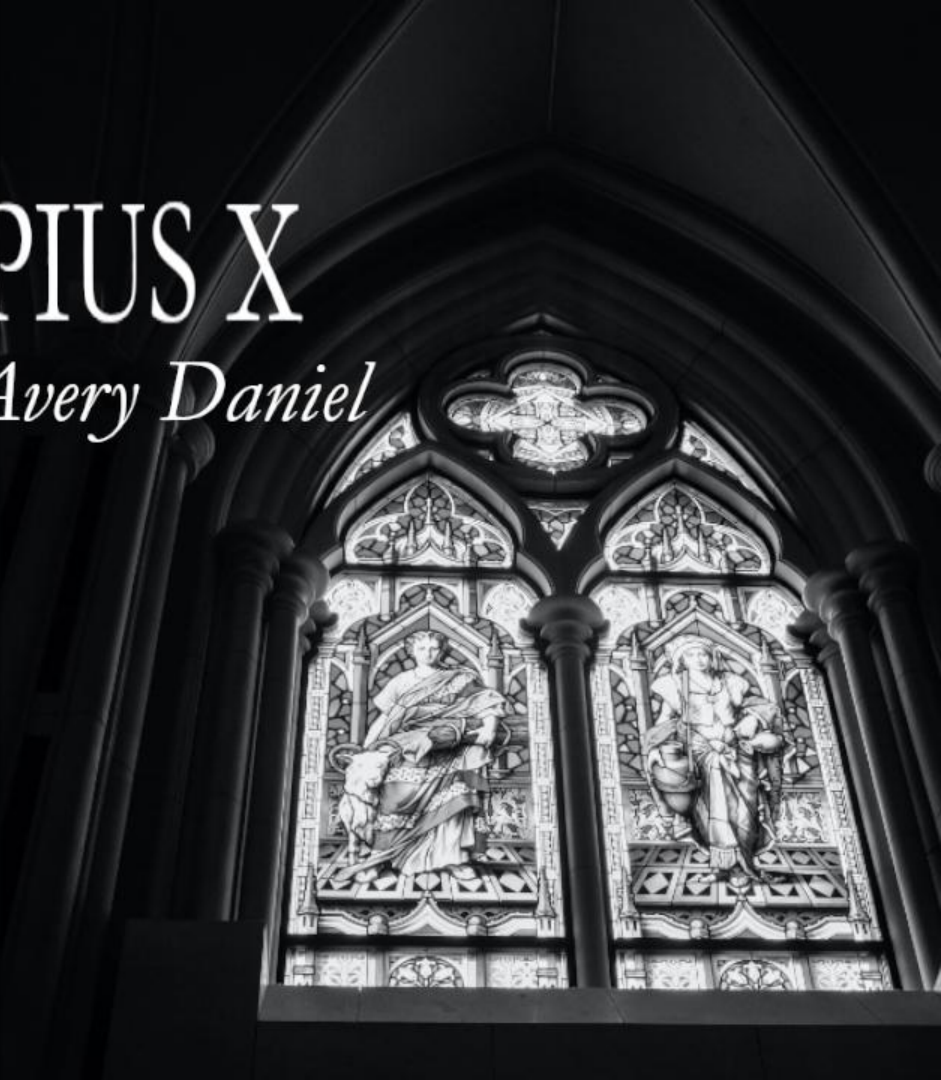
A Case Study on the

SOCIETY OF ST. PIUS X

with Father Avery Daniel



Thursday | September 17
6:30 PM
Parish Life Center

Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre



- Missionary priest in Africa since 1932. Became Archbishop of Senegal in 1948.
- Member of the preparatory commission for the Second Vatican Council
- After the bishops convened and rejected the pre-prepared documents, he was initially on board with the resulting documents
- As Superior of the Holy Ghost Fathers, he began implementing the council in 1968.
- Post 1968, he became increasingly rebellious and hostile towards the counciliar reforms

The Founding of the Society of St. Pius X



- Lefebvre founded a seminary in France 1969 after resigning as Superior General of the Holy Ghost Fathers.
- He felt that the new model of seminary formation was being implemented hastily and threw out important, time test principles (similar to his evolving views on the liturgy). This received approval of the Holy See
- In 1970, he founded an international seminary in Switzerland for any seminarian who wanted traditional formation.
- He also received approval from the local bishop and the Holy See to create a society of priests dedicated to pre-conciliar practice

Schism



- Lefevbre went down an increasingly dark path, upholding himself, as an individual bishop, of all that is true and good for the Church and what dogma and doctrine are.
- He also began accepting priests and seminarians who were publicly anti-Semetic and Holocaust deniers
- By 1976, he was suspended *a divinis* by St. Paul VI and the Society's approval was withdrawn.
- He ignored the suspension, and was formally excommunicated in 1988 by St. John Paul II for ordaining 4 bishops without mandate from the Holy See, an act of schism

Today

- The Society took root in various parts of the world, especially places where abuses in the implementation of the Second Vatican Council were (or were perceived to be) plentiful.
- It spread to 184 chapels, around 60,000 lay faithful, and 800 priests.
- Pope Benedict XVI clarified in 2009 that the society has no canonical status while lifting the excommunication incurred to facilitate diplomacy
- Pope Francis gave further outreach, but this was spat upon

Current Status

- The excommunication applies to those priests and lay faithful who “formally adhere” to the Society.
- This means a fully informed knowledge of what the Society is, the penalties they’ve incurred, and choosing to frequent anyway or to support them with the heart and mind.
- On July 1, 2026, the Society ordained more new bishops, in repetition of their 1988 schismatic act.
- The week before, Pope Leo XIV sent them a public appeal, as St. John Paul II did, not to do this.
- The letter is a masterclass on the nature of Papal authority.
- As of now, the Society has schismed from the Church. No faithful may attend their chapels, services, nor should their homilies and materials be read or distributed for spiritual value.