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St. Adalbert's case pending at Vatican

The Congregation of the Clergy at the Vatican in Rome has issued a protocol number for the appeal filed by St. Adalbert Basilica in Buffalo.

A cross section of parishioners and friends of St. Adalbert's gathered on the steps of the church Wednesday to announce that they have successfully begun the process to appeal the decision of the Diocese of Buffalo to merge St. Adalbert's with St. John Kanty Parish and close the Adalbert church site.

"We are at the beginning of an intricate process," said Stanley Kowalski, Save St. Adalbert's Basilica Committee co-chair. The appeal process entailed filing with the Congregation of the Clergy at the Vatican in Rome. The Congregation issued a protocol number, which Kowalski says means the appeal is officially under consideration.

The parishioners are now building a case to file with the Congregation. "This will be a long journey, but our parishioners and friends are committed to it and will continue our effort to save St. Adalbert's," Kowalski said. "We can't predict the

outcome of course, but we have faith that the Congregation of the Clergy will be thoughtful and prayerful in their decision."

Kowalski added, "It took a lot of research to figure out that the diocese's decision was not necessarily final." He suggested that other churches that may be facing closure through the Journey in Faith and Grace process look at their options and use information posted on the website

www.futurechurch.org as a first step.

Kowalski did not know how long the process would take but said St. Adalbert's remains open and a "vibrant faith community."

About 100 people attended a recent prayer vigil held for all parishes affected by the Journey in Faith and Grace.

"We invite everyone to come join us for Doors Open the weekend of Oct. 13 and 14, worship at our regular weekend Masses, volunteer at the St. Adalbert's Response to Love Center, or simply stop by and be awed by our beautiful basilica," Kowalski said.