



DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH  
THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



**Statement to the Faithful of the Diocese of Fort Worth by Bishop Michael F. Olson  
regarding the Arlington Carmelite Monastery**

July 18, 2024

Mother Marie of the Incarnation, OCD, President of the Association of Christ the King and Superior of the Arlington Carmel, has informed me that the Reverend Christopher Clay, a priest of the Diocese of Scranton who has been prohibited from the exercise of priestly ministry since June 2004, and who has previously been denied permission to exercise priestly ministry in the Diocese of Fort Worth, has celebrated Mass at the Arlington Carmel at the invitation of the former prioress. He did so without my knowledge and without requesting permission or faculties from me or any official of the Diocese of Fort Worth or from the Diocese of Scranton. The Diocese of Fort Worth has been in contact with officials in the Diocese of Scranton, and learned Father Clay is included on its list of “Credibly Accused Individuals” and confirmed he remains prohibited from presenting himself as a priest, wearing clerical attire, celebrating Mass publicly, and celebrating any other sacraments.

I have also been informed that the Reverend Marshall Roberts, a priest of the Diocese of Scranton without faculties for ministry, has celebrated Mass at the Arlington Carmel at the invitation of the former prioress. He did so without my knowledge and without requesting permission or faculties from me or any official of the Diocese of Fort Worth or from the Diocese of Scranton.

I continue to work with Mother Marie of the Incarnation to restore the sacramental life of the Arlington Carmel. However, until the Sisters accept her appointment as their legitimate Superior, I am unable to grant permission or faculties for the celebration of the sacraments to any priest of the Diocese of Fort Worth or from another Diocese or Religious Institute.

I ask the faithful of the Diocese of Fort Worth and all people of good will to continue to pray with me for the Catholic Church in North Texas, in particular the Arlington Carmelites.

THE CATHOLIC CENTER

800 West Loop 820 South • Fort Worth, TX 76108 • (817) 560-3300 • Fax (817) 244-8839 • [fwdioc.org](http://fwdioc.org)  
[officeofthebishop@fwdioc.org](mailto:officeofthebishop@fwdioc.org)