



DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH
THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



**DECLARACIÓN DEL OBISPO MICHAEL F. OLSON A LOS SACERDOTES, DIÁCONOS,
RELIGIOSOS CONSAGRADOS, SEMINARISTAS Y FIELES LAICOS
DE LA DIÓCESIS DE FORT WORTH
CON RELACIÓN A
LA SUPRESIÓN POR PARTE DE LA SANTA SEDE
DEL MONASTERIO CARMELITA DE LA SANTÍSIMA TRINIDAD
DE ARLINGTON, TEXAS**

2 DE DICIEMBRE DE 2024

Me dirijo a ustedes para informarles que he recibido una notificación del Dicasterio para los Institutos de Vida Consagrada y las Sociedades de Vida Apostólica de la Santa Sede en la que se declara que el 28 de noviembre de 2024 se promulgó un decreto por el que se suprime el Monasterio Carmelita de la Santísima Trinidad de Arlington, Texas. Una copia de este decreto, junto con la carta dirigida a este servidor por el Dicasterio, han sido publicadas en nuestra página web diocesana. Por favor, lean ambos documentos.

Deseo recalcar que, desde que esta triste serie de acontecimientos comenzó a desarrollarse en abril del 2023, momento en que la exPiora me informara por sí misma de su grave falta al voto de castidad con un sacerdote, me vi obligado, conforme al Derecho Canónico, de iniciar la búsqueda de justicia y misericordia para todos los involucrados. La admisión de la exPiora fue registrada y se incorporó al registro público en una audiencia en el tribunal civil que tuvo lugar a causa de la primera demanda civil que la exPiora presentara contra mí y la Diócesis. A lo largo de todo este proceso, las exmonjas han sido tratadas con respeto por mi oficina y por su legítima superiora religiosa, la Reverenda Madre María de la Encarnación, O.C.D. Nuestra respuesta a sus calumnias y actos de desobediencia ha estado guiada constantemente por la caridad, la paciencia y ha sido acorde con las instrucciones de la Santa Sede. En estos momentos, como lo ha sido siempre, les deseo la gracia y paz en Nuestro Señor Jesucristo.

Es de vital importancia que los fieles recuerden los siguientes puntos:

En primer lugar, las mujeres que siguen ocupando las instalaciones de Arlington **ya no son monjas** porque han sido declaradas expulsadas *ipso facto* de la Orden de las Carmelitas Descalzas por motivo de su notoria deserción de la fe católica. No son ni monjas ni Carmelitas, a pesar de su continua y pública autoidentificación en sentido contrario.

En segundo lugar, la Santa Sede ha suprimido el Monasterio, por tanto, ya no existe como tal, a pesar de cualquier autoidentificación pública hecha en sentido contrario por las exmonjas que siguen ocupando las instalaciones.

THE CATHOLIC CENTER

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En tercer lugar, la Diócesis de Fort Worth nunca ha hecho ningún reclamo sobre la propiedad del antiguo Monasterio, ni lo haremos ahora.

En cuarto lugar, repito que todas las Misas y sacramentos celebrados en el antiguo Monasterio son ilícitos y los realizan sacerdotes sin facultades ni permiso para ejercer su ministerio en la Diócesis de Fort Worth. Es un grave error que los católicos asistan a sabiendas a estas Misas. Los católicos causan daño a la Comunión de la Iglesia Católica al asistir intencionalmente a estas ceremonias.

Por último, deseo indicar una vez más la gran tristeza que todo este asunto ha traído a nuestra iglesia local y más allá, y a mí personalmente. Las acciones de las exmonjas han infligido una herida profunda en el Cuerpo de Cristo. Les pido a todos que se unan a mí para orar por la sanación, la reconciliación y la conversión de estas mujeres que se han apartado de la vida religiosa consagrada y han desertado notoriamente de la comunión con la Iglesia Católica por sus acciones. Ofreciendo mis oraciones por las exmonjas y por todos los que hayan sido perjudicados a consecuencia de estos tristes acontecimientos, quedo,

Sinceramente suyo en Cristo,

+ Michael F. Olson

El Reverendísimo Michael F. Olson, S.T.D., M.A.
Obispo de Fort Worth

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DICASTERO
PER GLI ISTITUTI DI VITA CONSACRATA
E LE SOCIETÀ DI VITA APOSTOLICA

Vatican City, November 29, 2024

Prot. n. 2566/2020

Your Excellency:

This *Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life* writes to inform you that after having carefully examined your *votum* and that of the President of the Carmelite Association of Christ the King of the U.S.A., has determined that the community of the Discalced Carmelite Monastery of Arlington, Texas, U.S.A., is extinct, and given this finding this same Dicastery, in accordance with *Cor Orans*, 67-73 (cf. can. 616), decreed on November 28, 2024 the suppression of the Discalced Carmelite Monastery of the Most Holy Trinity, Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A.

Once again, this Dicastery of the Holy See acknowledges that the events of the past year and a half have caused you and the faithful of the Diocese of Fort Worth hardship and unwarranted public attention. Be assured that we are grateful for your heroic and thankless service to the local Church.

I welcome the occasion to greet you fraternally in the Lord.

Sr. Simona Brambilla, M.C.
Sr. Simona Brambilla, M.C.
Secretary

- Enclosure - J

His Excellency
THE MOST REV. MICHAEL OLSON
Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth
800 West Loop 820 South
Fort Worth, TX 76108
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SPEDITO 28 NOV 2024



DICASTERO

PER GLI ISTITUTI DI VITA CONSACRATA
E LE SOCIETÀ DI VITA APOSTOLICA

Prot. n. 2566/2020

DECREE OF SUPPRESSION

Whereas, in 2020 the Discalced Carmelite Monastery of the Most Holy Trinity, located in the Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A., was one of seven communities of Discalced Carmelite Nuns petitioning this Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life to erect a new association of Discalced Carmelite nuns in accordance with the norms of the Instruction *Cor Orans* on Women's Contemplative Life; and

Whereas, at the time of their petition the Arlington Monastery had been under the jurisdiction of the Provincial of the Discalced Carmelite Friars and observed the 1991 Constitutions; and

Whereas, on August 10, 2020, the Monastic community requested that this Dicastery allow them to join the new Association of Christ the King, that they be allowed to change their jurisdiction from the Discalced Carmelites Provincial "to that of the Diocesan Bishop, and that they be allowed to change from the observance of the 1991 Constitutions to the Constitutions of 1990"; and

Whereas, this request also received written approval, full support, and blessing from His Excellency, the Most Reverend Michael Olson, Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth, and the Provincial of the Discalced Carmelites Friars, indicating that they had no objection to the transfer of jurisdiction; and

Whereas, on October 23, 2020, this Dicastery issued a decree granting the request made with the consent of the Superior General of the Discalced Carmelite Friars and the acceptance of the Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth, to transfer from the special vigilance of the Order of Discalced Carmelite Friars to the Jurisdiction of the Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth, for the reasons submitted; and

Whereas, on April 18, 2024, convinced that every effort should be made to preserve the health and longevity of the Arlington Carmelite Monastic community and to restore order and proper ecclesiastical governance to the Monastery of the Most Holy Trinity, this Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, in accord with the Apostolic Constitution, *Vultum Dei Quærere*, art. 8 §3, and the Instruction, *Cor Orans* on Women's Contemplative Life, nn. 13, 54-64, entrusted *ad nutum Sanctæ Sedis* the government of the Monastery of the Most Holy Trinity to the President and Council of the Carmelite Association of Christ the King; and

Whereas, on October 28, 2024, the Reverend Mother Marie of the Incarnation, O.C.D., acting Major Superior of the Arlington Carmel, declared the *ipso facto* dismissal of the five solemnly professed nuns for reasons of their notorious defection from the Catholic faith (cf. can. 694 §1, 1° CIC) and further decreed the dismissal of the Carmel's only novice. (The vows of the only member of the Carmel in temporary vows expired in August 2024, and have not been validly renewed, thus, leaving the Monastery of the Most Holy Trinity with no members.);

SPEDITO 28 NOV 2024

WHEREFORE, the *Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life*, having carefully examined the *vota* of both the President of the Carmelite Association of Christ the King of the U.S.A., and the Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A., finds that the community of the Discalced Carmelite Monastery of Arlington, Texas, U.S.A., is extinct, and given this finding this same Dicastery does, in accordance with *Cor Orans*, 67-73 (cf. can. 616), hereby,

DECREE
the SUPPRESSION of the
Discalced Carmelite Monastery of the Most Holy Trinity,
Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A.

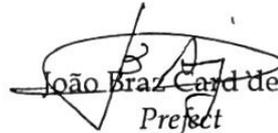
For the rights legitimately acquired by other people, the norms of universal and proper law will be respected.

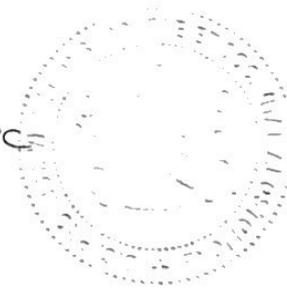
The President of the Association of Christ the King will execute this decree and inform this Dicastery and the Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth of the execution, after which her mandate and function as Major Superior of the Monastery will cease.

This Dicastery exhorts all the members of the Discalced Carmelite Order, as well as the faithful of the Diocese of Fort Worth, to pray earnestly, that the hearts of such as have erred may repent and return to the unity of the truth bestowed on the Church by Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Vatican, this 28th day of November 2024.


João Braz Card de Aviz
Prefect


Sr. Simona Brambilla, MC
Secretary