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**Statement to the Faithful of the Diocese of Fort Worth
Regarding the Holy See's Decree Entrusting the Arlington Carmel
to the Association of Christ the King**

22 May 2024

The following statement had been prepared for posting on the Fort Worth Diocesan website on April 20th, but the Arlington Carmel's filing of a lawsuit against the Bishop, the Diocese, and the Association of Christ the King, on that same day, hindered its publication. However, it is now possible to post this statement, since the lawsuit has been dropped.

Today, in obedience to the Decree of the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, I visited the Arlington Carmel and attempted to present to each Sister the letters which the Dicastery had directed me to give to each individually. Unfortunately, I was rejected and not granted admittance.

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Víctimæ Pascháli laudes ímmolent Christiáni!

20 April 2024

During the Paschal season, Holy Mother Church places upon the lips of her children praises to the Paschal Victim, Jesus Christ, our Savior. The liturgy sings of the new life and hope given to mankind through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. How fitting that, at precisely this time, a renewal of life be undertaken within the hearts of all who believe in Christ, and, to the matter at

hand, within the Carmelite Monastery of the Most Holy Trinity, in Arlington, Texas.

Traditionally, religious life calls its members to a *conversio morum*, a daily greater conformity to the pattern of life shown us by the Incarnate Word. The *Primitive Rule of the Order of Carmel* does no less, setting before its members the ideal of a life lived in obedience to Jesus Christ, serving Him "faithfully with a pure heart and a good conscience." However closely we have been following Him already, we can and should daily strive to make yet greater progress in our discipleship of Jesus Christ. Within the context of a properly contemplative life, the *Constitutions of the Discalced Nuns of the Order of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel* (1990) enshrine this ideal as the kernel of Carmelite religious observance, charging the Nuns to "strive to make progress each day in divine intimacy by means of conversation with God, converting their whole life into prayer."

I know that the Nuns of the Carmel of the Most Holy Trinity in Arlington cherish this, their Carmelite way of life, and I know that the Sisters, cooperating generously with the grace of God, are themselves the best resource for the renewal that will deepen their community's peace and stability after a tumultuous year. Their professed desire is to be faithful to the vocation given them by God, in His mercy. The Nuns wish to live fully the Carmelite traditions, praying as Saint Teresa herself prayed and following her inspired teaching, so as to arrive at union with God, for the benefit of Holy Church and for the salvation of countless souls. Their intention in joining the Association of Christ the King was precisely so that they might continue to pursue and attain these ends, in the company of our member monasteries, with whom they feel an affinity. We are grateful, therefore, to be able to assist them in fulfilling their holy desires, by accepting and laboring to carry out the Decree of 18 April, by which the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life has entrusted the Carmel of Arlington to the Association of Christ the King.

Undoubtedly, the Arlington Carmel is a blessing and a source of grace for the Diocese of Fort Worth. I pledge to do all I can to preserve and increase this blessing for you, the faithful of Fort Worth. I know that your Bishop, His Excellency, Michael F. Olson, has your good and the good of the Sisters at heart, now as always. I thank you most sincerely, Bishop Olson, for your unstinting solicitude for and generosity to Carmel, for all you have done, and for the support you have pledged as future assistance to me in carrying out this task, now entrusted to me by the Church.

I ask of you, the faithful, your prayers and sacrifices for the renewed flourishing of the Discalced Carmelite life within your diocese. May God and Mary reward you!

Under the mantle of Our Lady of Mount Carmel,

Mother Marie of the Incarnation, O.C.D.
President of the Association of Christ the King

Scimus Christum surrexisse a mortuis vere: Tu nobis, victor Rex, miserere!