



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH  
THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



To All Priests, Deacons, Seminarians, Religious Women and Men,  
and All the Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Fort Worth

**August 26, 2019**

Dear Friends in Christ,

On August 8, 2019, the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth issued a statement regarding alleged apparitions, messages and miracles of the Blessed Virgin Mary, under a title of “Mystical Rose-Our Lady of Argyle,” purported through social media and websites to be occurring at Saint Mark Parish in Denton/Argyle, Texas.

In that statement, I encouraged everyone “to assess such claims of apparitions or of messages and miracles with prudence, always presuming the good will of anyone making such a claim, but with due regard for the integrity of the Catholic faith.” I also specifically did not encourage anyone to offer credence or support for these claimed apparitions.

It is my sad responsibility to inform you that last week the Diocese of Fort Worth received irrefutable evidence that these purported apparitions, messages, and miracles are, in fact, a fabrication. The administrators of Loreto House, a prolife apostolate within the Diocese of Fort Worth and purported in social media to be a site of messages, apparitions, and miraculous provision of roses, provided the Diocese with a videotape produced by the existing security cameras. The videotape clearly reveals the alleged visionary surreptitiously dropping a rose on the floor of a room; she would later make the claim that the rose was a miraculous gift of the Virgin Mary. After viewing the video and consulting with diocesan advisors and others, I have concluded that the Mystical Rose—Our Lady of Argyle is a fabrication and not true.

I reached out to meet with this woman and the gentleman who organizes the self-described “Dry Bones Ministry.” After they initially agreed to meet with me, they soon informed me by email that they would only do so in the presence of Mr. Philip Gray, a canon lawyer from Ohio who has been involved in this matter. I have asked that they take down their website and further remove any reference to the Diocese of Fort Worth.

I regret any scandal that these false claims of “Mystical Rose—Our Lady of Argyle” have caused to the faith

of the parishioners of Saint Mark Catholic Church, within the Diocese of Fort Worth, and beyond. I ask that you pray for the healing and conversion of all involved in these matters that have brought about discord and disunity where there should be peace and communion. I am asking the clergy of our Diocese to be especially aware of anyone who seeks healing because of this scandal and to provide compassionate spiritual counseling.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael F. Olson".

Most Reverend Michael F. Olson, STD, MA  
*Bishop of Fort Worth*

**To view the security footage from the Loreto House Pregnancy Care Center mentioned above, please visit the following links:**

Security Footage in Real Time

<https://youtu.be/DV8tVLjPf7U>

Security Footage Slowed Down

<https://youtu.be/mB3F4I-FnpU>