



**STATEMENT TO THE FAITHFUL OF THE DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH BY
BISHOP MICHAEL F. OLSON REGARDING THE HOLY SEE'S DECREE ENTRUSTING
THE ARLINGTON CARMEL TO THE ASSOCIATION OF CHRIST THE KING**

April 18, 2024

With my counsel and full support, the *Association of Christ the King in the United States of America*, the association of Carmelite monasteries to which the Arlington Carmel belongs, recently petitioned the Holy See to be entrusted with direct oversight and direct responsibility for governance of the Arlington Carmel. The petition was made to help restore the Arlington Carmel to good health and unity with the local and universal Church, and to provide effective leadership and needed assistance to the nuns from within the Carmelite Order. I am pleased to announce that the Association's petition has been granted by the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. In light of this decision, I consider my task and responsibility as Pontifical Commissary of the Arlington Carmel to have ended.

With this decree of entrustment, effective today, April 18, 2024, Mother Marie of the Incarnation, O.C.D., President of the Association of Christ the King, is recognized as the lawful superior of the Arlington Carmel. Together with her council, Mother Marie of the Incarnation is to exercise full governance over the Arlington Carmel and its nuns.

Mother Marie of the Incarnation has leadership experience, having served as Prioress as well as Novice Mistress entrusted with the care and formation of young novices progressing toward final vows. I will work closely with her, providing counsel, resources, and support as needed. As is my responsibility as the local bishop of the nuns under canon law and the *Rule* and *Constitutions* of the Carmelite Order, I will oversee at the appropriate time the election of new leadership of the Arlington Carmel given the expiry on January 8, 2024, of Mother Teresa Agnes' term as Prioress, as well as the terms of the offices of subprioress and councillors.

I am very grateful to the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life for entrusting governance and oversight of the Arlington Carmel to Mother Marie of the Incarnation. I am also grateful for the generosity of Mother Marie of the Incarnation and her council in accepting this important mission. These decisions will ensure that all the nuns within the monastery can be heard, rightly cared for, and nurtured in their religious life with proper ecclesiastical governance.

It is my prayer that the Arlington Carmel will now have the internal leadership needed to save the monastery and enable it to flourish once again, in unity with the Catholic Church. It is also my hope that Mother Teresa Agnes and the rest of the Community will accept the authority and leadership of Mother Marie of the Incarnation and do what is required to live as healthy and faithful members of the Carmelite Order in accordance with their religious vows.

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, as we persevere together in service to Christ through ministry to our community.

+Michael F. Olson
Bishop of Fort Worth