



DIOCESE OF SAGINAW

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

HIS EXCELENCY
MOST REVEREND ROBERT D. GRUSS
By the Grace of God and the Authority of the Apostolic See
BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF SAGINAW

DECREE OF SUSPENSION

of the Implementation of the Decrees of Closure and the Relegation to Profane but not Sordid use of Saint Hyacinth Church (Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish) of Bay City Michigan

Whereas, on May 2, 2025, **I, Most Reverend Robert D. Gruss**, diocesan bishop of the Diocese of Saginaw, issued:

1. A **Decree of Closure** of the Saint Hyacinth Church, Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish, located at 1515 Cass Ave, Bay City, MI 48708 in accordance with canon 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law; and
2. A **Decree of Relegation** of the same church building to profane but not sordid use, in accordance with canon 1222 §2;

Whereas, on May 12, 2025, a petition was submitted to me in accordance with canon 1734 §1, requesting the reconsideration and possible revocation or amendment of both decrees;

Whereas, canon 1736 §1 permits the diocesan bishop to suspend the execution of an administrative decree while a recourse is under examination;

Whereas, canon 50 encourages the diocesan bishop to seek appropriate information and to hear from those affected before rendering a decision;

Therefore, I hereby decree as follows:

1. The execution of both the Decree of Closure and the Decree of Relegation, issued on May 2nd, 2025, concerning Saint Hyacinth Church, is hereby suspended in full, effective immediately and until further notice.

2. During the period of suspension:
 - The church shall retain its status as a sacred place in accordance with canon 1214;
 - No actions may be taken that presume or implement the decrees of closure or relegation.
3. A process of further consultation is hereby initiated and shall include:
 - Meeting(s) with the parishioners of Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish; and
 - Consultation with the Pastoral Council and Finance Council.
4. A final determination regarding the recourse and the future canonical and pastoral status of Saint Hyacinths church will be made after the consultation process has concluded. A new decree will be issued and communicated in due course.

This decree is issued in accordance with canons 35, 38, 50, 1222 §2, 515 §2, 1734, and 1736 §1 of the Code of Canon Law.

Everything I have decreed must be observed in all its parts. Anything else to the contrary notwithstanding, even if worthy of particular mention, may not be carried out following the promulgation of this decree, I establish that it be promulgated by way of publication on the website of the Diocese of Saginaw and on the parish website of Our Lady of Cześćochowa.

Given on this 19th day of May in the year of Our Lord 2025, at the Chancery of the Diocese of Saginaw.

+ Robert D. Gruss

Most Reverend Robert D. Gruss
Bishop of Saginaw

Rev. Alberto Vargas

Reverend Alberto E. Vargas, JCL. JV.
Chancellor