



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

# DIOCESE OF SAGINAW

## DECREE

### **Relegating St. Mary Chapel in the Hospital “Ascension St. Mary’s Saginaw” to Secular but not Unbecoming Use**

## PREAMBLE

The sale of Ascension St. Mary’s Saginaw (Saginaw, MI) [“Ascension”] to MyMichigan Health has been finalized by the Ascension administration. This completes 150 years of service in the Diocese of Saginaw, Michigan by Ascension [initially Saint Mary Hospital, founded by the Daughters of Charity in 1874]. Ascension facilities, including St. Mary’s Chapel, are located in the Diocese of Saginaw, Michigan. Ascension Health Ministries is the public juridic person erected by the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.

The same Dicastery gave permission for the sale of Ascension to MyMichigan. MyMichigan, affiliated with University of Michigan Health, is a nonsectarian organization, which will not maintain the Catholic identity and Catholic pastoral services of Ascension.

## THE LAW

Sacred places lose their dedication or blessing if they have been destroyed in large part, or have been turned over permanently to profane use by decree of the competent ordinary or in fact. [canon 1212]

The necessary consultations have been conducted with the Diocesan Presbyteral Council, which assists the bishop to promote the pastoral good of the portion of the People of God entrusted to him [canon 495, §1];

Therefore, having determined that no other parties can legitimately claim rights for themselves in the sacred items in and surrounding St. Mary Chapel; having judged that sufficient grave causes are present;

## DECREE

I hereby DECREE that St. Mary Chapel be relegated to secular but not unbecoming use. In addition, I decree that the remaining sacred objects are to be removed and either transferred to another sacred place or disposed of according to the canonical norms and treated in a manner befitting their character.

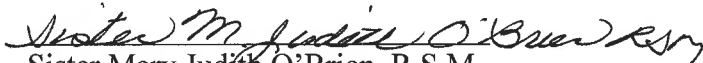
The provisions of this decree are to take effect by June 25, 2024, all things to the contrary notwithstanding. These provisions may be appealed according to the norm of law (cf. canon 1734 §1).

Given on this 24<sup>th</sup> day of June in the year of Our Lord 2024, at the Chancery of the Diocese of Saginaw.



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Most Reverend Robert D. Gruss  
Bishop of Saginaw



Sister Mary Judith O'Brien, R.S.M.  
Chancellor