



## DECREE

Our Lady of Good Counsel chapel in Mankato, Minnesota, was consecrated in 1912 and—as an integral part of the larger “motherhouse” campus—served the spiritual needs of the local School Sisters of Notre Dame for 111 years.

In a letter presented to the Bishop and Presbyteral Council on May 9, 2023, the Provincial Superior of the School Sisters of Notre Dame noted the grave causes which suggest that the building of the former chapel of Our Lady of Good Counsel should be relegated to profane but not sordid use, namely: that the entire “motherhouse” campus property was recently alienated according to canon law and sold to a local developer according to civil law.

As the chapel is not a freestanding building that could be isolated from the rest of the campus, there was no viable option to preserve the chapel as a sacred space, governed by canon law, and reserved exclusively for Catholic worship, upon the sale of the property.

With respect to the pastoral care of the remaining Sisters, it is duly noted that the last Mass with the Sisters from this part of the Province in the chapel at Our Lady of Good Counsel was celebrated on September 10, 2022; most of the Sisters have now moved to the Benedictine Living Community (BLC) in Shakopee, MN and the rest of the Sisters have moved out of the Good Counsel motherhouse campus and are now legitimately living in other community arrangements in the Mankato area.

Accordingly, in virtue of the prescription of canon 1222, §2 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law, having consulted the Presbyteral Council on May 9, 2023, having judged that sufficient grave causes are present, having determined that the good of souls will suffer no detriment and that the intentions of donors and any other acquired rights have been examined and given due consideration, I hereby decree that

**OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL OF MANKATO, MINNESOTA  
BE RELEGATED TO PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE.**

This decree becomes effective August 1, 2023. A copy of this decree is to be sent to the Provincial Leader of the School Sisters of Notre Dame and its contents are to be

communicated to all Sisters of the School Sisters of Notre Dame within three (3) days after the decree is given. Furthermore, this decree is to be published on the diocesan website. Any legitimate party, considering himself aggrieved by this decree, retains the right to request emendation or revocation within ten (10) useful days (c. 1734, §§1, 2).

Given in the Diocese of Winona-Rochester on this twentieth day of June in the year of Our Lord 2023.

+*Robert Barron*

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The Most Reverend Robert Barron  
Bishop of Winona-Rochester

*Rev. Michael Cronin*

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Chancellor

SEAL

