



SINGULAR DECREE

Given that the Our Lady, Mother of Mercy Center (“Center”) is located in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend;

Given that Sister Ephrem Neuzil claimed to have divine visions there, especially of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and given that I, with concurrence of five other bishops of the places where alleged visions took place, have determined these alleged visions not to have been of supernatural origin (cf. Singular Decree, July 29, 2019);

Given that the Mother of Mercy Foundation (“Foundation”) wishes nonetheless to promote spiritual activity at the Center inspired by the teachings coming from Sister Neuzil’s spiritual inspiration;

Having heard representatives of the Foundation on September 12, 2020, in accord with *CIC/83* canon 50, I issue this decree in accord with *CIC/83* canon 305 (“All associations of the Christian faithful are subject to the vigilance of competent ecclesiastical authority which is to take care that the integrity of faith and morals is preserved in them and is to watch so that abuse does not creep into ecclesiastical discipline”) and direct that:

1. The Center is free to welcome pilgrims.
2. The Center is free to engage in public spiritual activities (Holy Mass, Rosary, Confessions, etc.) subject to the immediate vigilance of the Pastor of Saint Gaspar Parish, Rome City.
3. The name Our Lady of America is understood to be short for Our Lady, the Immaculate Virgin, Patroness of America and has no other meaning. The title Our Lady, the Immaculate Virgin, Patroness of America, should ordinarily be used.
4. The statue of Our Lady of America is allowed to remain on display at Rome City in the West arm of the Mother of Mercy Chapel.
5. Singular Decree of July 29, 2019, should be displayed at the Center.

6. Prayer cards, message diary and medals may be available at the Center, with modifications which do not imply supernaturality of the visions or messages.
7. The Center is not to refer to the origin of the messages as being supernatural. The origin can be however referred as inspired in prayer.
8. A pamphlet is to be made available to the public explaining the devotion, its origin, and the historical meaning of the name as well as the following statement: "Ecclesiastical authorities have determined that the visions and revelations cannot be said to be of supernatural origin in the sense of objective occurrences."
9. Materials may not refer to Saint Joseph as "co-redeemer."
10. The Center follows all diocesan protocols for Safe Environment regarding clerics from outside the diocese who come on pilgrimage (or otherwise) and engage in public ministry, even if with only their own people, namely, that a current Affidavit of Suitability for Ministry for the cleric is on file in the Office of the Vicar General.

This decree is subject to modification by the Diocesan Bishop *motu proprio* or at the request of the Foundation.



Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades
Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend



Very Reverend Mark A. Gurtner, J.C.D.
Chancellor

Given at the Archbishop Noll Center,
Fort Wayne, Indiana,
On November 3, 2020