



## ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

240 E. ONONDAGA STREET, SYRACUSE, NY 13202-2608

November 4, 2020

Memorial of St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Lord,

It has been six months since I ratified the creation of Christ the Good Shepherd Parish encompassing the entire City of Oswego and Sacred Heart Church in Scriba. At the same time, I set aside St. Mary's Church and the land on which it is built as a "personal parish" to be used as an oratory and a diocesan worship site for those desiring the Traditional Latin Mass.

Since that occasion it has come to my attention that confusion and rumors abound regarding the status of both parishes, so let me see if I can clear up people's concerns:

- ❖ As stated in my letter of May 20, 2020, the territory of Christ the Good Shepherd Parish is all of the City of Oswego and Sacred Heart Mission in Scriba encompassing territory both east and west of the Oswego River. The parish church of the new parish is the former St. Paul's Church at 50 E. Mohawk Street.
- ❖ This means that all Roman Catholics who reside within the aforesaid territory are parishioners of Christ the Good Shepherd Parish and the pastoral staff is responsible for their care.
- ❖ All sacramental records for the former parish churches of Oswego/Scriba will be retained at Christ the Good Shepherd Parish office, including those of St. Mary's Parish recorded up to May 31, 2020. For Sacramental rites administered according to the 1962 Roman Ritual after May 31, 2020, these will be recorded in the Sacramental register of St. Mary's Oratory.
- ❖ In terms of St. Mary's Oratory, it is a personal parish of the Diocese of Syracuse under the direction of the Bishop of Syracuse with its own Trustees and Finance Council. Its specific purpose is to serve the Traditional Latin Mass Community of the Diocese of Syracuse and provide the celebration of the Sacraments according to the 1962 Roman Missal and Roman Ritual. Persons may join St. Mary's Parish by registering with the parish. They remain also parishioners of the territorial parish in which they reside.
- ❖ Persons who are registered at St. Mary's Parish may request the celebration of Baptism, Confirmation, First Penance, First Communion, Marriage, and Extreme Unction in the

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1962 Rite by contacting the Parish Office. With the exception of Extreme Unction, the other Sacraments normally require a period of catechesis before being admitted to them.

- ❖ Permission has been given by me for marriages or funerals of former parishioners of St. Mary's Parish who are now members of Christ the Good Shepherd Parish or another local parish to be conducted at St. Mary's Oratory in the Ordinary Form of the English liturgy upon their request. Such arrangements should be made by contacting both one's parish priest and the priest who has care of St. Mary's Oratory so that they can facilitate the necessary arrangements.
- ❖ St. Mary's Oratory as a personal parish does have permission to conduct fundraising activities in the local community for its upkeep and financial stability.
- ❖ The future use of St. Mary's Convent is under review and I will make a final determination regarding its disposition in the coming weeks after consulting the Trustees of both St. Mary's Parish and Christ the Good Shepherd Parish.
- ❖ I am still awaiting word from the Institute of Christ the King, Sovereign Priest whether they will be able to accept the invitation to come to the Diocese of Syracuse. In any event, it is my intention that whether through this institute or another arrangement St. Mary's Oratory will be the spiritual home of the Traditional Latin Mass community in the Diocese of Syracuse.

I hope this letter helps to further clarify the status of Christ the Good Shepherd Parish in Oswego and the role of St. Mary's Oratory. I feel I must speak also a word inviting parishioners of both parishes to charity in both word and deed. Both parishes with their specific purposes have much to offer the Oswego community. I hope and pray as a new year of grace begins that it will be a time of growth and renewal for the entire Catholic Community of Oswego and Scriba.

Please be assured of my continued prayers for you and your loved ones. In your charity, please pray for the Church of Syracuse and for me its unworthy shepherd.

In the Name of Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Douglas J. Lucia". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Douglas J. Lucia  
Bishop of Syracuse