



DIOCESE OF BUFFALO  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Reverend Michael K. BROWN  
Pastor of Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish  
23 Willowlawn Parkway  
Cheektowaga, New York 14206

31 October 2024

Dear Rev. Brown,

On 30 October 2024 I signed the decree reducing St. Bernard church to profane but not sordid use in accord to canon 1222 §2 effective 15 November 2024. The enclosed decree explains the details of this reduction including the responsibility of Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish in these matters. Please make the parishioners at Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish aware of the contents of this decree by public announcement at Mass this weekend, inclusion in the parish bulletin, and by posting a digital copy of the decree on the parish/family website.

As I stated in my letter to you dated 10 October 2024, the proceeds of this eventual sale will first be utilized to pay off existing parish debt related to St. Bernard. Included in the parish debt is anything owed to the Diocese of Buffalo by way of parish assessments, Legacy Retirement Fund contributions, and a future assessment of a contribution to the Catholic Family's portion of our Chapter 11 Federal Bankruptcy settlement. These debts are to be accounted for before the "net assets and liabilities" of St. Bernard Parish can be realized.

The money gained by this sale is to be included in the accounts of St. Bernard Parish which you have maintained separately since its merger into Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish. If you have further questions regarding this instruction, please contact Rev. Peter J. Karalus, Vicar General, at 716.847.5500.

Thank you for your dedication to this important work of Renewal in our diocese. The enclosed decree is for the parish archives at Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael W. Fisher  
Bishop of Buffalo

Encl: Decree reducing St. Bernard church  
CC: Rev. Peter J. Karalus, Vicar General  
Melissa Potzler, Chancellor  
Rev. Peter Santandreu, Vice Chancellor