



DECLARATION of

**The Most Reverend James R. Golka,
by the Grace of God and the Apostolic See,
Bishop of Colorado Springs**

On July 31, 2013, my predecessor Bishop Michael J. Sheridan issued a Declaration regarding the “Servants of the Holy Family” and the Carmelite Monastery of the Sacred Heart community (“Servants”). The Declaration made it clear that the Servants were not in good standing with the Diocese of Colorado Springs nor with the Universal Catholic Church.

Nothing has occurred in the last decade that would change Bishop Sheridan’s analysis and conclusion. In fact, it has come to my attention that the “Servants of the Holy Family” persist in a state of obstinate ill will (cfr. c. 1326, §1, 1^o), as demonstrated by their total disregard of the directives given in the Declaration, and particularly the fact that on or about March 19, 2024, Anthony D. Ward purported to be ordained to the episcopacy without the required pontifical mandate (cfr. c. 1013) nor the required number of consecratory Bishops (can. 1014).

Therefore, expecting no further developments toward a better relationship between the Servants and the Diocesan and Universal Church, even more so after their persistent disobedience to the lawful prohibitions (cfr. c. 1371, §1) enunciated in the Declaration, and the attempted episcopal ordination on March 19, 2024, in an effort to resolve this schismatic attitude, and to avoid confusion, error, and scandal among the faithful of the diocese entrusted to me and for all the Reverend Ordinaries that may have interest, and among all who can be misled by this confusing reality, and in accordance with canons 1331, 1364, and 1365 of the Code of Canon Law,

I declare that the purported Bishop Anthony Ward, the Priests Michael J. McMahon, Mark R. Violette, Kevin D. Simons, and Allan R. Kucera, and any other priests affiliated with the Servants are not in good standing with the Diocesan or the Universal Catholic Church; and therefore, due to their refusal to submit to the Supreme Pontiff or to be in full communion with the Church, they are to be considered a schismatic group according to canon 751.

And that:

- The celebration of the Holy Eucharist is illicit and a grave moral offence in accordance with canon 900, § 2.
- The absolutions given within the Sacrament of Penance (confessions) are invalid in accordance with canon 966.
- Any celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony for those bound to the canonical form of marriage in accordance with canon 1108 (all Baptized Catholics or those received into the communion of the Church), and all the marriages previously celebrated are invalid due to their lack of jurisdiction.
- Their administration of the Sacrament of Baptism is illicit in accordance with canons 861 and 862.
- Their administration of the Sacrament of Confirmation is invalid in accordance with canons 882 and 884, §1.
- Their administration of the Sacrament of Holy Orders is invalid in accordance with canon 1012.
- They may not celebrate any other public acts of worship according to canon 1331 §1, n° 1. They may not celebrate Sacraments or Sacramentals nor receive them.
- Therefore, it will be an act of spiritual danger for Catholics who would attend these celebrations and they could be penalized in accordance with canon 1365.
- Contrary to what they claim, they are not qualified to train candidates for holy orders since they do not meet the conditions specified in canons 232-264.

All faithful of the Diocese are encouraged to pray for the conversion and reconciliation with the Church of the Servants.

While I invoke the Holy Spirit to move the hearts of this community to better and obedient relationship with the Diocesan and Universal Church, I want to prevent the faithful of the diocese entrusted to me, and for that matter, all Catholics from being confused by any other information they may obtain.

Given at the Diocesan See of Colorado Springs on the Sixteenth day of April of the year of the Lord two thousand and twenty-four.



Most Reverend James R. Golka
Bishop of Colorado Springs



Deacon Douglas M. Flinn
Chancellor

