



DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH
THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



**Statement to the Catholic Faithful of the Diocese of Fort Worth
from Bishop Michael F. Olson**

**Celebrating the Founding of the New Carmelite Monastery
in the Diocese of Fort Worth**

December 2, 2025

With profound joy and gratitude to God, I am pleased to announce that the Holy See—through the **Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life**—has granted permission for the establishment of a **Discalced Carmelite Monastery** in Northern Cooke County, Texas, in the Diocese of Fort Worth. This decision, confirmed by the favorable vote of the Dicastery and the permission of the President of the “Christ the King” Association of Discalced Carmelite Monasteries in the U.S.A., marks a moment of extraordinary grace for our local Church.

In the words of the Psalmist, *“Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain”* (Psalm 127:1). Today, we give thanks in faith that the Lord Himself is building within our Diocese a house of prayer—one that will sustain, through hidden sacrifice and profound fidelity, the mission of the Church in North Texas.

This foundation, the Carmel of Jesus Crucified, will be a place where the beauty of contemplative life radiates outward into the world. Through prayer, silence, work, and sacrifice, the Discalced Carmelite nuns will accompany the faithful and intercede for the needs of our communities. As Jesus reminds us, *“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them”* (Matthew 18:20). In their cloistered life, the nuns gather continually before the Lord to offer reparation for sins, to pray for the sanctification of the People of God, and for the salvation of souls.

Today, we also invoke the intercession of the Carmelite saints—especially St. Teresa of Jesus, St. John of the Cross, and St. Therese of the Child Jesus, whose charism of contemplative prayer continues to bear spiritual fruit. Their spiritual daughters now take root here in the Diocese of Fort Worth, offering a witness of hope and holiness that strengthens us all.

I am deeply grateful to our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV and to the Dicastery for their support of this foundation. I ask all the faithful of the Diocese to join me in prayer for these nuns as they begin this new chapter in their vocation. May their vocation bring forth many graces including priestly and religious vocations, holy and happy marriages, and faithful discipleship.

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As St. Paul assures us, *“For we walk by faith, not by sight”* (2 Corinthians 5:7). With faith, we confidently entrust this new Carmel to the loving providence of God and the maternal protection of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

+ Michael F. Olson

Most Reverend Michael F. Olson, STD, MA
Bishop of Fort Worth

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