



DIOCESE OF FRESNO
PASTORAL CENTER
1550 NORTH FRESNO STREET
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93703-3788
TELEPHONE (559) 488-7400

Joseph V. Brennan
By The Grace of God and of The Apostolic See
Bishop of Fresno

DECREE

I, the undersigned Bishop of Fresno, decree that the Church of **St. Thomas the Apostle**, located at 6735 Ave. 308 Goshen, CA, 93227, which is within the territory of Good Shepherd Catholic Parish is hereby RELEGATED TO THE PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE according to the provisions of Can. 1222 §2.

After a careful consideration of the pastoral and financial needs, a determination was reached that the cost of maintaining St. Thomas the Apostle as an additional worship site was prohibitive to both the Parish Community as well as to the Diocese of Fresno, especially in light of the significant financial hardship being experienced by both entities.

Taking into consideration the needs of the entire Diocese of Fresno, especially in light of the shortage of priests available for ministry as well as the significant financial burden that this structure is imposing on the Parish Community of St. Thomas the Apostle and in view of the current demographical shifts that have resulted in a diminished number of faithful in the surrounding area, I have decided to permanently relegate this space to the profane but not sordid use.

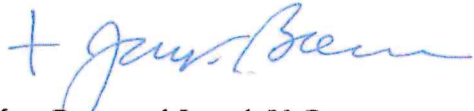
Prior to the issuance of this decree and in keeping with the universal norms of the Roman Catholic Church, after consultation with parishioners as well as the Pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle, the Reverend Alex Chavez, presented to me in writing his consent to my decision to relegate and after having definitely determined that the care of souls would not suffer because of this decision. I consented to this reduction.

After having determined that no other parties can legitimately claim rights for themselves in the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle, I presented this matter for consultation to the Diocesan Presbyteral Council on April 1, 2025. Having considered the matter carefully, the Council overwhelmingly supported my decision to relegate this structure.

Therefore, having carefully followed the provision set forth in Can. 1222 §2 and having determined with moral certitude that the care of souls would suffer no detriment, I declare that this decree will take effect immediate effect thirty days (30) after its publication and that by virtue of the same the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle will no longer be used for divine worship. In addition, I order that any sacred furnishing and artwork, which belongs to the Parish, be disposed of in a manner befitting their character and the known intentions of any donor. Furthermore, in

addition to the usual requirements of law for the valid and licit alienation by the parish of the property concerned, the sale of the church is subject to my approval as being consonant with the requirements of Can. 1222 §2.

Given in the Chancery office of the Diocese of Fresno, CA, this 14th day of April 2025.



Most Reverend Joseph V. Brennan
Bishop Diocese of Fresno



Deacon Mark Schultz
Chancellor

SEAL

