CATHOLIC DIOCESE
of COLUMBUS
OFFICE *of the* BISHOP

DECREE OF RELEGATION
OF THE CHURCH AND ALTAR
OF OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL

WHEREAS, the Church of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal (OLMM) is currently a non-parochial church within the territory of Seton Parish since the decree of extinctive union was promulgated on 27 June 2025 and was upheld by the Dicastery for Clergy by decree on 27 June 2025 and by decree of the Apostolic Signatura on 23 April 2026, and;

WHEREAS, the Church of OLMM is in need of significant repairs to bring it up to operational health for worthy sacramental celebrations. The summary of findings from the Diocese of Columbus Office of Facilities found approximately $2,065,000 in deferred maintenance for the church. Even over a ten-year period of time, those repairs would be nearly impossible for the new Seton Parish to absorb with the total offertory of the parish for the fiscal year 2025-2026 $1,729,745.73. In fiscal year 2026 $102,063.82 was spent in maintenance on the property of Seton Parish Church, and in the fiscal year 2027 there is projected a minimum maintenance project cost totaling $222,549.00, and;

WHEREAS, due to the many leaks in the roof, which necessitated the placement of about 20 buckets to collect water in both the nave of the church and in the adjacent meeting space, the Blessed Sacrament had to be removed, which was made known to the parish in a flock note message on 24 September 2026, and;

WHEREAS, the consent of the pastor of Seton Parish to the relegation of the Church of OLMM has been received in a letter of 2 November 2026 in accordance with c. 1222 §2. The parish finance council was heard on this matter in a meeting on 28 October 2026. The parish pastoral council was heard on this matter in a meeting on 21 October 2026. The Presbyteral Council was lawfully convoked (c. 127) and heard in accordance with c. 1222 §2 at a meeting on Thursday, November 12, 2026 in which the members of the Presbyteral Council were heard and unanimously agreed to the proposed relegation of Church of OLMM, and;

WHEREAS, the good of souls would not be harmed in this relegation, and in fact, the care of souls would continue to be well supported through robust pastoral care provided at the parish church of Seton Parish less than 6 miles away and with three other parish churches all 7 miles or less from the Church of OLMM;

THEREFORE, considering the law and the facts, I, Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes, hereby relegate the CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL to profane but not sordid use, so that the building loses its dedication as a sacred place in accordance with c. 1212, and may be used for other purposes, or demolished, provided all sacred goods are safely preserved.

Furthermore, I hereby relegate the altar at Church of OLMM (*cf.* cc. 1212 and 1238 §1) so that it, too, loses its dedication as a sacred place.

This decree is to be promulgated through the Diocese of Columbus *Catholic Times* website, as well as the Seton Parish flock note or some other suitable means of distribution as determined by the pastor.

Given at the Chancery Office, 198 E. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio, this 13th day of November 2026.

+ Earl K. Fernandes

Most Reverend Earl K. FERNANDES
Bishop of Columbus

SIGILLUM CANCELLARIAE DIOECESIS COLUMBENSIS

Deacon Thomas M. BERG, Jr.
Chancellor