

MOST REVEREND DOUGLAS J. LUCIA
BISHOP OF SYRACUSE

DECREE
ON THE ERECTION OF THE CHURCH OF
SAINT MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION, OSWEGO, NEW YORK
AS A DIOCESAN SHRINE

Whereas the territorial parish of Saint Mary of the Assumption was founded in Oswego in 1849 by a variety of ethnic communities;

Whereas in 1925 the glorious present church was completed during the Diamond Anniversary year of the parish and consecrated to the glory of God and in honor of our Blessed Mother on September 8, 1925;

Whereas on the 13th day of September in that same year the side altars were consecrated;

Whereas in May 2020, I transferred the status of the parish of Saint Mary of the Assumption from a territorial parish to a personal parish and erected it to be a home for the Extraordinary Form of the Liturgy;

Whereas in the words of Rev. Joseph A. Hopkins on September 8, 1925: "Our church has been built and consecrated. Many minds and hearts and hands have conspired to finish this noble work. Its very stones are from our fields. Its every gift is a thanksgiving to the almighty. May he reward everyone who labored in this task. May he bless all who kneel here to worship;"

Whereas the church of the personal parish of Saint Mary, because of its aesthetic beauty and architectural value, is an appropriate place of pilgrimage and prayer;

Therefore, in order to promote the good of souls as well as the good of the diocese, I the undersigned Bishop of Syracuse, have decided as follows:

DECREE

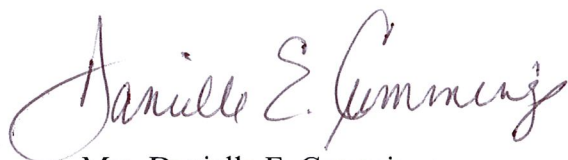
1. I hereby erect the church of the personal parish of Saint Mary of the Assumption, Oswego, New York as a Diocesan Shrine in the Diocese of Syracuse in accord with can. 1230 of the Code of Canon Law.
2. Furthermore, I encourage the faithful to make pilgrimages to the Shrine to seek the intercession of the Blessed Mother and to draw closer to her Son, Jesus Christ.
3. The church of the personal parish of Saint Mary will remain a place for divine worship for the benefit of the faithful who avail themselves to the celebration of the Roman Liturgy in the Extraordinary Form as well as for other members of the faithful who wish to come. The Most Holy Eucharist will be reserved there (can. 934 §1, 1°).
4. The regular schedule of Masses and the celebration of the sacraments will be determined by the diocesan ordinary and the pastor of the shrine.
5. The shrine will be governed by statutes approved by the local ordinary, which will determine its purpose, the authority of its pastor, and the ownership and administration of goods (can. 1232 §1).
6. Certain spiritual benefits will be granted to the faithful who make a pilgrimage to the shrine “whenever local circumstances, the large number of pilgrims, [liturgical seasons], and especially the good of the faithful seem to suggest it” (can. 1233).

This change of status will become effective on 15 August 2021, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Syracuse on this sixth day of August in the year of our Lord, two-thousand twenty-one, the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord.



Most Reverend Douglas J. Lucia
Bishop of Syracuse



Mrs. Danielle E. Cummings
Chancellor