

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

And the MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE

On the date given below, the Most Reverend Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Columbus (the “Diocese”) the undersigned, Earl K. Fernandes, Incumbent Bishop and the Very Reverend President of the Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle, and the Reverend Rene Constanza, CSP, acting for and on behalf of his Society, collectively referred to hereinafter as the “Parties” or individually a “Party”.

The Parties of this agreement understand the rights and obligations arising from the agreement of the St. Thomas More Newman Center serving The Ohio State University to the Paulist Fathers.

In consideration of the mutual promises contained herein, the Parties memorialize their mutual understanding of their commitments and responsibilities in this Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”), and agree as follows:

ON THE PART OF THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS:

1. The undersigned Bishop of the Diocese of Columbus, acting for and in the name of the Diocese, appoints Father Adam Streitenberger, the Senior Director for Evangelization, as the Executive Director for the Newman Center as part of the responsibilities of his role as Senior Director for Evangelization. In his capacity, the Executive Director oversees the entire spiritual life (pastoral, sacramental, liturgical, catechetical, and evangelization etc.) and all temporal administration (financial, personnel, maintenance, development, and scheduling etc.) for St. Thomas More Newman Center of The Ohio State University (the “Center”). The Executive Director directs every and all aspects and activities of the Center, those directed to the students and to the larger community. All of the staff of the Center report to the Executive Director. The priests of the Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle serving at the St. Thomas More Newman Center report to the Executive Director. The Executive Director will assign tasks and roles for the priests assigned to the Center and develop defined job descriptions. The undersigned Bishop of the Diocese of Columbus appoints members of the Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle to be delegated by the Executive Director to provide pastoral care to the Catholic students of the Ohio State University through the St. Thomas More Newman Center, as chaplains. The undersigned President of the Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle, acting for and in the name of the Society, accepts the responsibility assumed in this MOU.
2. The Bishop will grant to the priests assigned to the Center the faculties of the Diocese so that they may preach and hear confessions not only in the oratory of the Center, but

elsewhere at the invitation of the pastors. In order to protect the validity of marriage performed at the Center, the priests assigned to the Center are made pro validate, assistants at Holy Name parish, Columbus; notwithstanding, however, weddings and funerals at the Center must be approved by the Executive Director. The celebration of the sacraments, sacramentals, and use of the oratory at the Center must be approved in advance by the Executive Director.

3. The Bishop grants to the oratory of the Center the status of a Public Oratory for the purpose that the Catholic students at the University may attend divine services at the oratory. The use of the oratory and other facilities of the Center for any purpose must be approved in advance by the Executive Director.
4. Moreover, the Bishop establishes the St. Thomas More Newman Center as an agency of the Diocese of Columbus under the Office of Evangelization. While non-students are welcome to attend the Center for talks, Mass, confession, and adoration, the Center's mission is directed primarily to the students.

ON THE PART OF THE PAULIST FATHERS:

1. The President of the Paulist Fathers will assign two Fathers, subject to availability, one to be the chaplain and the remaining Father to be assistant chaplain at the Center. The chaplains will be responsible for the sacramental and pastoral care of the University community and, through delegation by and specifications of the Executive Director, other roles at the Center. In May 2023, or no later than the end of the term of this MOU, June 30, 2023, the Bishop, after re-evaluating the current MOU and prayerful discernment, will determine whether the Diocese will continue to rely on the Paulist Fathers to serve as chaplains of the Center and will notify accordingly the President of the Paulist Fathers. The chaplain will be appointed Superior of the Paulist House and as such he will be kept at his post in accordance with Canon Law regarding the appointment and re-appointment and withdrawal of superiors. It is understood that in ordinary circumstances he will not be transferred during the course of the scholastic year.
2. The Fathers assigned to the Center will carry out their work under the canonical supervision and direction of the Executive Director in keeping with the Bishop's vision for the Center.
3. The Vision of the Bishop for the Center is that it be a diocesan-led center of mission for the evangelization of young adults as a student center where vocations to the priesthood and religious life are nurtured and discerned, where the liturgy is celebrated reverently according to the normal life of the Church, where lay apostolates and movements are welcomed and present (among these are FOCUS, SPO, Courage, Opus Dei, and Communion and Liberation), where the Catholic Faith is taught in its integrity, where the sacrament of confession is widely available daily, where adoration of the Blessed Sacred is available each day, and where the Catholic intellectual tradition is promoted and displayed both to benefit the faculty and students. The Center is not a parish but a place where students are the focus and where they find a home and place to gather.

Additionally, the vision of the Bishop includes the implementation of the Diocesan plans for evangelization that pertain to university and other priorities, including but not limited to, developing Catholic student housing and soft-entry evangelization models.

This MOU is effective for a period of one (1) year beginning July 1, 2022 upon signing by both Parties. It may also be renewed, revised or terminated at any time for any reason by the Parties; if renewed or revised, it will be done so by a mutual writing.

In witness thereof, we have hereto attached our signatures and our Seals of Office.

Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle

Catholic Diocese of Columbus

Notary

Notary