



DIOCESE OF SAGINAW

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

HIS EXCELENCY
MOST REVEREND ROBERT D. GRUSS
By the Grace of God and the Authority of the Apostolic See
BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF SAGINAW

DECREE

**Confirming the Transfer and Designation of the Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel
at Saint James Church of All Saints Parish, Bay City**

The Facts

The Eucharistic Adoration Chapel was originally established on August 7, 1987, at the Church of St. Joseph in Bay City, Michigan, within the Diocese of Saginaw.

On July 1, 2014, Bishop Joseph Cistone erected Saint Jude Parish through the merger of the Churches of Saint John (Essexville), Saint. Norbert (Munger), and Saint Joseph (Bay City).

In the fall of 2017, the six Bay City parishes agreed to transfer the Adoration Chapel from the former Church of St. Joseph to the Church of St. James of All Saints Parish due to its central location and because the Church of St. Joseph was to be relegated to profane but not sordid use.

On July 25, 2018, Bishop Joseph Cistone celebrated the noon Mass at the Church of St. James, thereby formally transferring the Eucharistic Adoration Chapel to that location.

At the time of this transfer, Bishop Cistone was undergoing treatment for a serious illness, from which he later died on October 16, 2018.

Currently, the Adoration Chapel located at Saint James of All Saints Parish serves approximately 300 regular adorers, maintaining perpetual Eucharistic adoration twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and welcoming faithful from throughout the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saginaw, especially the Tri-City area. At present, it is the only chapel in the Diocese of Saginaw dedicated to perpetual Eucharistic adoration on a 24/7 basis.

The Law

According to Canon 934, the Most Holy Eucharist must be reserved in a church or chapel where the faithful can adore the Lord present in the Blessed Sacrament.

Further, Canon 938 establishes that the Blessed Sacrament is to be reserved in a noble, secure, and properly designated place suitable for prayer and devotion.

The diocesan bishop, in virtue of his pastoral office and authority in the governance of the particular Church entrusted to him (cf. Canon 381), has the competence to designate places for Eucharistic reservation and to regulate Eucharistic adoration within the diocese.

Considerations

Given that the transfer of the Adoration Chapel was celebrated publicly by Bishop Cistone on July 25, 2018, and that the chapel has functioned continuously at St. James church since that time with the participation of numerous faithful from throughout the diocese, it is pastorally appropriate to clarify and confirm its canonical status.

Furthermore, because the former Church of St. Joseph has been relegated to profane but not sordid use and because the faithful of the Bay City parishes continue to support the chapel in its present location, the continued presence of the Adoration Chapel at the Church of St. James serves the spiritual good of the faithful.

Decree

Therefore, in virtue of the authority entrusted to me as the Bishop of the Diocese of Saginaw, and having considered the facts and the pastoral good of the faithful, I hereby decree the following:

1. I confirm the transfer of the Eucharistic Adoration Chapel from the former Church of St. Joseph in Bay City to the Church of St. James of All Saints Parish, which took place on July 25, 2018.
2. I designate the Adoration Chapel at the Church of St. James of All Saints Parish in Bay City as the designated place for perpetual Eucharistic adoration within the Diocese of Saginaw, where the Most Blessed Sacrament is to be reserved and adored in accordance with the norms of the Church.
3. I entrust the pastor of All Saints Parish with ensuring that the chapel continues to observe all liturgical and canonical norms regarding the reservation of the Blessed Sacrament and Eucharistic adoration.
4. I establish the Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel, at the Church of St. James, with the determination that its dedicated purpose and the reservation of the Most Blessed Sacrament therein are not to be altered, suppressed or transferred except by express decree of the Diocesan Bishop.

5. I direct that this decree be preserved in the archives of the Diocese of Saginaw and in the archives of All Saints Parish.

Everything contained in this decree must be observed in all its parts. Any action contrary to this decree, even if it might have been customary or otherwise permissible, is hereby prohibited.

This decree shall be promulgated by publication on the website of the Diocese of Saginaw and on the website of All Saints Parish. Upon such publication, it is considered duly promulgated and takes effect from the date of issuance, thereby confirming the pastoral arrangements in place since July 25, 2018.

Given this 7th of May, in the year of Our Lord 2026, at the Chancery of the Diocese of Saginaw.

+ Robert D. Gruss

Most Reverend Robert D. Gruss
Bishop of Saginaw

Rev. Alberto Vargas

Reverend Alberto E. Vargas, JCL. JV.
Chancellor