



MANUEL DE JESÚS RODRÍGUEZ

By the Grace of God and of the Apostolic See

BISHOP OF PALM BEACH



No. 013-2026

DECREE

In the matter of: **DIOCESAN ASSIGNMENTS**

Whereas, the Diocesan Bishop is entrusted with the pastoral care, governance, and administration of the particular Church committed to him according to the norm of law (cf. cann. 381 §1; 391 §§1–2 of the Code of Canon Law -hereinafter CIC-);

Whereas, the pastoral needs of the Diocese of Palm Beach and the spiritual welfare of the Christian faithful require that certain ecclesiastical offices and assignments be entrusted to suitable clerics and lay persons for the good of souls and the effective fulfillment of the Church's mission (cf. cann. 383 §1; 394 §1; 519; 1752 CIC);

Whereas, clerics are called to collaborate with their Bishop in the service of the People of God and to faithfully fulfill the ecclesiastical offices entrusted to them (cf. cann. 273; 274 §2; 275 §1 CIC);

Whereas, the lay Christian faithful deemed suitable can be admitted to collaborate with their Diocesan Bishop in the service of the People of God, in order to exercise certain ecclesiastical offices and functions according to the norm of law (cf. can. 228 §1 CIC);

Whereas, these diocesan assignments are made solely in view of the pastoral needs of the Diocese of Palm Beach, the good of the Christian faithful, and the salvation of souls, which in the Church must always be the supreme law (cf. can. 1752 CIC);



No. 013-2026

Decree in the matter of Diocesan Assignments / 13 August 2026

Whereas, the diocesan assignments listed herein are hereby established and ordered according to the norm of law;

Therefore, after prayerful reflection, consultation, and discernment, and exercising my lawful authority as Bishop of Palm Beach, I hereby decree the following:

I. ERECTION OF DIOCESAN OFFICES

For the common good of the People of God entrusted to my responsibility, the following new diocesan offices are hereby canonically erected and officially established within the Diocese of Palm Beach:

A. OFFICE OF LITURGY

With authority over the following matters and responsibilities, including but not limited to:

1. To promote, interpret, and assist in ensuring fidelity to the liturgical laws, norms, books, and regulations of the Catholic Church currently in force, together with applicable diocesan liturgical policies.
2. To promote the dignity, reverence, beauty, order, and faithful celebration of the sacred liturgy throughout the Diocese of Palm Beach.
3. To promote and facilitate ongoing liturgical formation for clergy, religious, and lay faithful, including parish and school personnel, liturgical coordinators, musicians, catechists, and liturgical ministers.
4. To monitor, receive, document, and appropriately address reports of serious or persistent violations of liturgical law or norms, and to inform the Diocesan Bishop and make any required referral in accordance with diocesan procedures.
5. To coordinate and organize major diocesan liturgical celebrations under the direction of the Diocesan Bishop or his delegate and in collaboration with the competent diocesan offices and ecclesial institutions.
6. To coordinate the liturgical preparation and scheduling of celebrations of the Sacrament of Confirmation in collaboration with pastors, parish administrators, school officials, and the Office of the Bishop, without prejudice to the sacramental authority and faculties of the minister who confers the sacrament.
7. To establish and oversee diocesan standards and formation programs for liturgical ministers, in collaboration with pastors and the competent diocesan offices, including lectors, instituted acolytes, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, servers, ministers of hospitality, masters of ceremonies, sacristans, and other ministers recognized by ecclesiastical or diocesan law.



8. To assist the Office of Youth Ministry, pastors, and schools in providing appropriate spiritual, human, and liturgical formation for altar boys and altar girls serving as altar servers, within the understanding that only boys and girls below the age of eighteen (18) can be licitly appointed as altar servers within the Diocese of Palm Beach.

B. OFFICE OF THE DIOCESAN EXORCIST

With authority over the following matters and responsibilities, including but not limited to:

1. To assist the Diocesan Bishop in providing, coordinating, and supervising the ministry of major exorcism and related pastoral prayer for deliverance within the Diocese;
2. With the specific approval of the Diocesan Bishop for each individual member, assemble a *Diocesan Exorcism Ministry Team (DEMT)* to be responsible for conducting all exorcisms to be conducted within the territory of the Diocese of Palm Beach. The presence of the majority of the DEMT members is hereby declared mandatory for the performance of any major exorcism within the territory of the Diocese of Palm Beach. Therefore, any exorcism conducted without the presence of the majority of the DEMT members is hereby declared unlawful and subject to appropriate canonical penalties;
3. To ensure that only the priests expressly authorized by the Diocesan Bishop may perform a major exorcism, i.e. the Diocesan Exorcist and/or the Associate Diocesan Exorcist;
4. To assist pastors, priests, deacons, and other designated pastoral personnel in the prudent discernment and accompaniment of persons who may require specialized spiritual, medical, psychological, psychiatric, or canonical assistance;
5. To promote sound Catholic teaching concerning spiritual evil, the victory of Christ, Christian vigilance, conversion, prayer, the sacraments, and the ordinary means of spiritual growth, while avoiding sensationalism, superstition, and the unwarranted attribution of illness or other difficulties to demonic activity;
6. To maintain prudent confidentiality concerning cases and personnel involved in this ministry, while ensuring that pastors and other persons designated by the Diocesan Bishop have reliable access to the appropriate referral procedures;
7. The actual names of the Diocesan Exorcist and of the Associate Diocesan Exorcist shall be kept reserved and shall be disclosed only to members of the clergy and competent lay faithful of the Diocese of Palm Beach to avoid unnecessary public attention;
8. All requests for actual exorcisms shall be made to the Office of the Chancellor of the Diocese of Palm Beach at 561-775-9507 or by email at: chancellor@diocesepb.org



C. HORIZONS OF HOPE FOUNDATION (HHF) AND HELPING HANDS SCHOLARSHIP FUND, INC. (HHSF)

With authority over the following matters and responsibilities, including but not limited to:

1. Acting for all purposes as the official Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) of the Diocese of Palm Beach. As such, HHF / HHSF remains an independent corporation, separate and independent from the Diocese of Palm Beach, legally constituted according to the laws of the State of Florida;
2. In coordination with the competent diocesan authorities, directing and ensuring the full participation of the Diocese of Palm Beach in the tax credit opportunities granted by the federal government of the United States in support of scholarships for private schools;
3. In coordination with the Office of the Superintendent of Catholic Schools, directing and overseeing all matters concerning the allocation and distribution of funds from the federal tax credit initiative among individual students and schools of the Diocese of Palm Beach, observing and ensuring equity, fairness, total transparency and accountability;
4. Directing and organize additional fundraising aimed at expanding the scholarship fund available in the Diocese of Palm Beach to support and facilitate access to Catholic education by students coming from families in need.

D. HOUSE OF DISCERNMENT “BLESSED STANLEY ROTHER”

With authority over the following matters and responsibilities, including but not limited to:

1. Under the leadership and authority of the Director of the Office of Vocations of the Diocese of Palm Beach, directing all matters pertaining to the administration of the House of Discernment “Blessed Stanley Rother”, hereby established in the Diocese of Palm Beach at 200 West 20th Street, Riviera Beach, Florida 33404, within the rectory of the Church of St. Francis of Assisi of Riviera Beach;
2. To provide lodging, spiritual guidance and vocational discernment support to young adult men and adult men who are interested in undertaking a serious discernment process toward priesthood;
3. In coordination with the Office of Youth Ministry and Young Adult Ministry of the Diocese of Palm Beach, to promote discernment for the priesthood in all diocesan parishes, schools and ministries.



II. DIOCESAN ASSIGNMENTS: PROVISION FOR DIOCESAN OFFICES

- ❖ **Very Reverend Brian King** – To Director of Liturgy of the Diocese of Palm Beach, while remaining Rector and Pastor of the Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola in Palm Beach Gardens, effective August 14, 2026. The position of “Episcopal Secretary” at the Office of the Bishop is hereby suppressed.
- ❖ **Very Reverend RESERVED NAME** – To Diocesan Exorcist of the Diocese of Palm Beach, while remaining assigned to his current diocesan assignments, effective August 14, 2026.
- ❖ **Reverend RESERVED NAME** – To Associate Diocesan Exorcist of the Diocese of Palm Beach, while remaining assigned to his current diocesan assignments, effective August 14, 2026.
- ❖ **Reverend Jean Serge Dubé** – To Director of the Office of Vocations and of the Office of Seminarians of the Diocese of Palm Beach, and of the House of Discernment “Blessed Stanley Rother” of the Diocese of Palm Beach, while remaining Parochial Vicar of the Parish of Holy Cross in Vero Beach, effective September 1, 2026.
- ❖ **Reverend Dennis Gonzales** – To Associate Director of the Office of Vocations and of the Office of Seminarians of the Diocese of Palm Beach, and of the House of Discernment “Blessed Stanley Rother” of the Diocese of Palm Beach, while remaining Pastor of the Parish of St. Vincent Ferrer in Delray Beach, effective September 1, 2026.
- ❖ **Reverend Daniel Daza-Jaller** – To Coordinator of the Young Adult Ministry (English Language Section) of the Diocese of Palm Beach, while remaining Parochial Vicar of St. Mark Parish in Boynton Beach, effective August 14, 2026.
- ❖ **Reverend Goran P. Losonc Gabric Jovicic, JCD** – To Promoter of Justice in Penal Matters for the Diocese of Palm Beach (cf. cann. 1430 and 1435 of the Code of Canon Law), and Canonical Advisor for the Diocesan Review Board (DRB) and the Adult Allegation Board (AAB), effective August 14, 2026.
- ❖ **Ms. Laura Lewis** – To Chief Executive Officer (C.E.O.) of the Horizons of Hope Foundation (HHF) and Helping Hands Scholarship Fund, Inc. (HHSF), effective August 1, 2026.



III. SPECIAL DIOCESAN ASSIGNMENT: BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF HORIZONS OF HOPE FOUNDATION (HHF) AND HELPING HANDS SCHOLARSHIP FUND, INC. (HHSF)

The following persons are hereby appointed as *ex officio* members of the Board of Trustees of Horizons of Hope Foundation –HHF– and Helping Hands Scholarship Fund –HHSF–, effective immediately:

- ❖ **Bishop Manuel de Jesús Rodríguez, J.C.D.** – President, Trustee
- ❖ **Very Reverend Charles E. Notabartolo, V.G.** – Vice-President, Trustee
- ❖ **Very Reverend Scott Adams, V.E.** – Secretary, Trustee
- ❖ **J. Patrick Fitzgerald, Esq.** – Assistant Secretary
- ❖ **Mr. Vito Gendusa, CPA** – Treasurer, Trustee
- ❖ **Very Reverend Antony Pulikal, V.E.** – Trustee
- ❖ **Very Reverend Nicholas Zrallack, V.E.** – Trustee
- ❖ **Ms. Marikay Kervi** – Trustee

IV. PRIESTS: PASTOR ASSIGNMENT

- ❖ **Reverend Antony Lopez** – From Parish Administrator to Pastor of St. Bernadette Parish in Port Saint Lucie, effective August 14, 2026.

V. PRIESTS: TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATOR ASSIGNMENT

- ❖ **Very Reverend Gavin Badway** – To Temporary Parish Administrator of St. Sebastian Parish in Sebastian, while remaining Pastor of St. Lucie Parish in Port St. Lucie, effective October 1, 2026.



No. 013-2026

Decree in the matter of Diocesan Assignments / 13 August 2026

VI. PRIESTS: PAROCHIAL VICAR ASSIGNMENTS

- ❖ **Reverend Goran P. Losonc Gabric Jovicic, JCD** – To Parochial Vicar of St. Martin de Porres Parish in Jensen Beach, while remaining Promoter of Justice in Penal Matters for the Diocese of Palm Beach (cf. cann. 1430 and 1435 of the Code of Canon Law), and Canonical Advisor for the Diocesan Review Board (DRB) and the Adult Allegation Board (AAB), effective August 14, 2026.
- ❖ **Reverend Francisco Tejada** – To Parochial Vicar of St. Joseph Parish in Stuart, effective September 2, 2026.

I furthermore ask the Very Rev. Antony Pulikal, Chancellor and Moderator of the Curia and Episcopal Vicar for Strategic Planning of the Diocese of Palm Beach, to immediately start working on the implementation and execution of all provisions contained herein as indicated above.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein. Issued and read, at the Office of the Diocesan Bishop, located at the Pastoral Center of the Diocese of Palm Beach, Palm Beach Gardens, State of Florida, on the thirteenth day of the month of August, in the Year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-six.



Antony

Very Rev. Antony Pulikal, V.E.
*Chancellor, Moderator of the Curia
and Episcopal Vicar for Strategic Planning*

+ Manuel
Most Reverend Manuel de Jesus Rodriguez, J.C.D.
Bishop of Palm Beach

