



THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF PARMA OF THE RUTHENIANS

55/2019 L

DECREE

In the Name of the Lord. Amen.

With the formation of the community of the religious women known as the nuns of Christ the Bridegroom, the ecclesial community of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma for the Ruthenians has experienced in a fruitful way the gifts of the Holy Spirit. In religious consecration, the nuns of Christ the Bridegroom express and model in a new manner the gift of monastic life.

In silence, prayer, and hospitality, the nuns of Christ the Bridegroom are called to rediscover the spousal language from the falsifications of our culture, displaying faithfully not only that monastic consecration refers to mankind's union with God in Heaven, but also that longings of human hearts for the beloved are meant to be fulfilled in the intimate union with Christ and participation in the life of the Holy Trinity. Being guided by the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, the monastery seeks to hark back to the original call of God for all baptized Christians to seek the Kingdom of God above all else with the holiness of their lives.

After an appropriate period of reflection and study, which included consultation with the Eparchial Presbyteral Council and the Apostolic See (prot. n. 59/2019 L) in virtue of canon 435 §1 of the *Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches*, and after having received a favorable response from the Congregation for the Oriental Churches (prot. n. 30/2019) that read in part: "nothing withstanding to the contrary on the part of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches to your Excellency's desire to erect a monastery *sui iuris*," and in light of the present circumstances and the spiritual needs of the nuns of Christ the Bridegroom, and for the good of the people of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma for the Ruthenians, I, the Most Reverend Milan Lach, S.J., Bishop of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma for the Ruthenians, hereby canonically erect the Christ the Bridegroom Monastery, 17485 Mumford Road, Burton, Ohio, as a female monastery *sui iuris* of eparchial right (canon 434), subject to the ecclesiastical authority of the Byzantine Catholic Bishop of Parma for the Ruthenians within the Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Church *sui iuris* of Pittsburgh.

By this same decree, I direct that the nuns of Christ the Bridegroom immediately take appropriate steps, following the precepts of the *Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches* to elect the Hegumena.

In the hope that their new structure of life and communion will help to foster not only the spiritual lives of the nuns of Christ the Bridegroom but also enrich the spirituality of all the faithful of the eparchy, I extend my most sincere best wishes and promise of prayers to Almighty God and invoke the intercession and protection of the Most Holy Theotokos. May the nuns of Christ the Bridegroom, through prayer and the offering of themselves in union with Jesus the Bridegroom, witness to the world the richness and beauty of a life wholly devoted to God.

Given this 27th day of September, 2019 at the Office of the Bishop, Independence, Ohio.

The Most Reverend Milan Lach, S.J.
Bishop of Parma

Very Reverend Marek Visnovsky
Protosyncellus



Rev. Richard Bona, JCD
Notary