



Office of the Bishop  
Diocese of Toledo

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February 22, 2018

Dear Priests, Deacons, Pastoral Leaders,  
Consecrated Religious, and Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Toledo,

Since its earliest days, our Diocese has been blessed by the witness, prayer, and service of countless consecrated religious, in particular, women religious representing a variety of communities and charisms.

With great joy and thanksgiving to the Lord, I am pleased to announce that, in response to my invitation, the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan, have generously agreed to establish a foundation in our Diocese this coming July 2018.

The sisters will be establishing a convent in the Toledo metro area, and we will initially be welcoming two sisters: Sister Maria Lin Pacold, RSM, and Sister Mary Prudence Allen, RSM.

Sister Maria Lin will be serving as my Delegate for Consecrated Life, and Coordinator for the Department of Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations. In this position, she will be succeeding Sister Nancy Mathias, OSU, who will be retiring June 30, 2018. Sister Maria Lin holds a MD degree from the Indiana School of Medicine, and she completed her residency in psychiatry at the University of Oklahoma, Tulsa.

Sister Mary Prudence will be serving as a consultant and research assistant, and will also be available to teach and collaborate in various diocesan apostolates. Sister Mary Prudence holds a PhD in Philosophy degree from Claremont Graduate School, Claremont, California. In 2014 she was appointed by Pope Francis to serve on the International Theological Commission.

Please join me in rejoicing in the presence of this new congregation of consecrated women religious in our diocese and praying with me that their authentic witness of the evangelical counsels may enliven in each one of us a renewed commitment to our own particular vocation and our service to Christ and His Church.

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,

Most Reverend Daniel E. Thomas  
Bishop of Toledo