



DECREE

DONALD EDWARD DEGROOD
By the Grace of God and Favor of the Apostolic See
BISHOP OF SIOUX FALLS

To Deacon Paul Treinen, executive director, and
all who frequent the worship space at Abbey of the Hills:

Given the purchase of the former Blue Cloud Abbey by a group of laity in 2013 and the property's transformation to Abbey of the Hills, a center and staff that hosts many different types of retreats and other ministries, including secular uses, throughout the year; and

Given the spiritual fruits that have been observed from those retreats and testimony of the same that has been relayed to me as bishop along with the faithfulness professed and orthodoxy shown by the Abbey of the Hills' leadership; and

Given the leadership of Abbey of the Hills' diligence in designing a proper and fitting renovation to the chapel to accommodate the fitting introduction of a tabernacle and the willingness of a local priest to serve as chaplain (cans. 1223-1229);

Having now consulted with the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese and received its feedback regarding the proposed establishment of a chapel at Abbey of the Hills that would hold the Most Holy Eucharist in repose on a constant basis (cans. 939-943; 1215);

Now therefore, I hereby vacate the previous decree by my predecessor the Most Reverend Paul J. Swain dated October 29, 2013 relegating this space to profane but nonsordid use and decree the establishment of a private chapel (can. 1229), thereby elevating the same space to be known as (can. 1218)

Our Lady of the Snows Chapel

for use in liturgical prayer and personal devotion while the Most Holy Eucharist is held in repose under the care of a chaplain (can. 934).

Moreover, I direct that Our Lady of the Snows Chapel, its altar, and its tabernacle (can. 938) are to be installed blessed in accord with the proper rites at a date to be coordinated. It would be my honor

and privilege to preside at these blessing rites, provided the timing of the innovations to be made on the chapel's sanctuary can be coordinated with my schedule.

In establishing this personal chapel, my sense as bishop and per the feedback provided by the Diocesan Priest Council, both its worship space and also the facilities and grounds associated with the Abbey of the Hills are being elevated in the minds of Catholics as being a Catholic place. Therefore, the use policy which the Abbey has developed to guard against inappropriate use or use that could create the appearance of there being a violation of Catholic teaching and/or Church doctrine is a noted consideration in my discernment over whether or not to establish this personal chapel. I ask that you make this known among the administrative staff of Abbey of the Hills and to all who seek to use its property.

Finally, in making this decree, I direct that the Abbey of the Hills leadership take special care so as to avoid creating the appearance, even if unintentional, that the occasional Masses to be prayed in Our Lady of Snows Chapel are meant to supplant those offered in neighboring, territorial (parish) churches and that formation is provided to all who frequent its facilities for the proper care and reverence that is due to the Real Presence, particularly at times such as concerts when its space is used in ways that are complimentary to sacred liturgies.

Decreed at the Chancery on May 17,
the Solemnity of the Ascension,
Two-Thousand and Twenty-Third year after the arrival of the Lord.



Most Reverend Donald E. DeGrood
Bishop of Sioux Falls



Mr. Thad A. Pals
Chancellor