DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY
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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

September 22, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I would like to share with you some wonderfully exciting news about The National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion. I am pleased to announce the appointment of Fr. Francis Hoffman as President and Rector of The National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion. In this new role, and in coordination with the Bishop and The Shrine's Board of Directors, Fr. Hoffman will be responsible for The Shrine's strategic planning, including its spiritual and temporal needs, as well as serving to spread the message of Our Lady of Champion throughout North America and the world.

Fr. Rocky, as he is more commonly known, has deep roots throughout our Diocese and across the nation, and has long been a devoted champion of The Shrine. With more than 16 years of executive experience as a faith leader, he will draw many more people to Jesus Christ through His Blessed Mother.

Fr. Hoffman will continue to serve as the CEO and Chairman of the Board of Relevant Radio as his service with the Diocese of Green Bay begins this fall. Born and raised in suburban Chicago (Mundelein), Fr. Hoffman was ordained in 1992 and is a member of Opus Dei.

For more than 30 years, Fr. Hoffman has ministered to youth, serving in education since 1996. Prior to joining Relevant Radio, Fr. Hoffman served as Chaplain of Northridge Preparatory School in Niles, Illinois, a college prep school for boys in grades 6-12. During the summers of 1994-2009, he worked with the rural poor in the mountain regions of central Mexico.

I also want to express my deep gratitude to Fr. Tony Stephens, who has generously agreed to continue serving in a new capacity as Director of Sacramental Life and Pastoral Care of Souls at The Shrine. He and his fellow Fathers of Mercy will continue to provide for the sacramental needs of The Shrine, celebrating Mass, hearing confessions, and guiding the liturgies.

Please join me in thanking God for this blessing in the next chapter of The Shrine.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

✠ David L. Ricken

Most Reverend David L. Ricken, DD, JCL
Bishop of Green Bay