



DIOCESE OF GREAT FALLS-BILLINGS

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

P.O. Box 1399 † Great Falls, Montana 59403 † (406) 727-6683

www.diocesegfb.org

June 18, 2026

Episcopal Statement

Regarding the Sons of the Most Holy Redeemer (aka "Transalpine Redemptorists")

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In 2020 the Congregation of the Sons of the Most Holy Redeemer, more commonly known as the Transalpine Redemptorists or "Transalpines", a religious order based in the Diocese of Aberdeen, Scotland, requested permission to establish a religious house here in the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings. This permission was granted, with the hope that their presence in our Diocese would bring further grace through their prayers and fulfillment of their religious responsibilities.

Recently, many of the members of that Congregation have made public statements over the last several months that distance themselves from the Church. These statements display a posture of defiance toward the Church and her Pastors. On October 3, 2025, many members of the Transalpines issued an open letter, in which they sow disunity and confusion amongst the Christian faithful regarding many aspects of the Church. Furthermore, on May 2, 2026, most of those same members of the Transalpines issued a letter and declaration, in which they essentially claim, amongst many other erroneous ideas, that Pope Leo XIV and the bishops in union with him do not have juridical authority within the Church. Finally, and most distressingly, I learned today that Fr. Michael Mary of the Transalpines intends to be ordained a bishop this July without approval by the Pope, which is strictly forbidden by the Church and is punished with excommunication.

As the Church proceeds in properly investigating and responding to these matters in accord with our laws, I must do what I can to provide some clarity and guidance in this matter, especially for the sake of the people of my Diocese.

Therefore, I issued a decree today to address this issue. In that decree, which accompanies this letter, I formally revoked the faculties and permission to minister for any



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of the members who signed that letter of May 2, 2026, the names of whom are specifically listed in the decree and below. They are no longer allowed to minister in this Diocese.

As your Bishop and spiritual father, I ask that you avoid any and all contact with, or support of, the members of the Transalpines listed below. Most especially, I implore you to not participate in any Masses which they celebrate, to donate to their Congregation, or to seek them out for confession. As of today, any confessions heard in this Diocese by the priests listed below would almost certainly be invalid, except in true danger of death.

I understand and appreciate that this is painful news, especially for those who did find support and grace through the presence of the Transalpines while they were here in Montana, and I am greatly saddened at how this has developed. Nonetheless, we must not lose hope, but we must rather beseech our Heavenly Father and Mary, Mother of the Church, to bring these men back into full unity with us in the Catholic Church.

In His peace, love, and joy,

Most Reverend Jeffrey M. Fleming
Bishop of the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings

The members who have lost their faculties and permission to minister are:

Fr. Michael Mary, Fr. Anthony Mary, Fr. Magdala Mary, Fr. Martin Mary, Fr. Seelos Maria,
Fr. Celestine Maria,

Br. Nicodemus Mary, Br. Paul Mary, Br. Dominic Mary, Br. Xavier Maria, Br. Alfonso Maria, Br. Raphael Maria, Br. Maksymillian Maria, Br. Charles-Maria, Br. Bogumil Maria, Br. Francisco Maria, Br. Ernest Mary, Br. Hyacinth Maria, Br. Gabriel Maria, Br. Dysmas Maria, Br. George Maria, Br. Aloysius Maria, Br. Zaccheus Maria, Br. Gerardo, Br. Mercurius, Br. Marco, & Br. Aidan.



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DECREE

REVOCATION OF FACULTIES AND PERMISSION TO MINISTER FOR SOME MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE SONS OF THE MOST HOLY REDEEMER

WHEREAS, on May 2, 2026, the below mentioned members of the Congregation of the Sons of the Most Holy Redeemer (aka “Transalpine Redemptorists”; hereafter “Sons”), issued a signed letter in which they accused Pope Leo XIV of heresy and of being separated from the Church; and

WHEREAS, in that same letter, they state that “We must give no juridical recognition to those who have departed from [the Faith], including Leo XIV and his bishops” thereby embracing or at least encouraging a schismatic choice to refuse obedience to the Pastors of Holy Mother Church, in contravention of canons 1364 §1 and 1373; and

WHEREAS, I have received an announcement that Fr. Michael Mary, the (putative) Major Superior of the “Sons”, intends to be ordained a bishop without a papal mandate on July 25, 2026, in contravention of canon 1387; and

WHEREAS, the formerly approved letters of suitability, required by article 13 of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* issued by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (revised 2018), have expired; I hereby

DECREE

that any faculties granted by me, my predecessors, or the subordinates of myself or of my predecessors, along with permission to minister in this diocese, are hereby revoked for following members of the “Sons”, all of whom are likewise barred, in accord with canon 967 §2, from hearing sacramental confessions, without prejudice to canon 974 §§2 and 3:

- Fr. Michael Mary, F.SS.R.
- Fr. Anthony Mary, F.SS.R.
- Fr. Magdala Mary, F.SS.R.
- Fr. Martin Mary, F.SS.R.
- Fr. Seelos Maria, F.SS.R.
- Fr. Celestine Maria, F.SS.R.
- Br. Nicodemus Mary, F.SS.R.
- Br. Paul Mary, F.SS.R.
- Br. Dominic Mary, F.SS.R.
- Br. Xavier Maria, F.SS.R.
- Br. Alfonso Maria, F.SS.R.
- Br. Raphael Maria, F.SS.R.



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- Br. Maksymillian Maria, F.SS.R.
- Br. Charles-Maria, F.SS.R.
- Br. Bogumil Maria, F.SS.R.
- Br. Francisco Maria, F.SS.R.
- Br. Ernest Mary, F.SS.R.
- Br. Hyacinth Maria, F.SS.R.
- Br. Gabriel Maria, F.SS.R.
- Br. Dysmas Maria, F.SS.R.
- Br. George Maria, F.SS.R.
- Br. Aloysius Maria, F.SS.R.
- Br. Zaccheus Maria
- Br. Gerardo
- Br. Mercurius
- Br. Marco
- Br. Aidan

I FURTHER ENCOURAGE all members of the Christian Faithful to refrain from participation in any liturgies, sacraments, or prayer services of any sort celebrated by or with the aforementioned members of the "Sons."

This decree is effective immediately upon publication on website of the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings.

Nothing to the contrary withstanding.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings this 18th day of June, 2026.

Most Reverend Jeffrey M. Fleming
Bishop of the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings

Rev. Samuel Spiering
Chancellor

