



CATHOLIC DIOCESE
of
BATON ROUGE
Office of the Bishop

May 3, 2022

REGARDING MARY, QUEEN OF APOSTLES CHAPEL

A place called 'Mary, Queen of Apostles Chapel' has opened on Poché Road in Ponchatoula, within the territory of the Diocese of Baton Rouge. It falsely claims to be a Catholic place of prayer, and as such, Bishop Michael G. Duca has issued the following statement:

Recently, it has been brought to my attention that “Mary, Queen of Apostles Chapel” has opened at a location on Poché Road in Ponchatoula, Louisiana. I would like to make it clear that this chapel is not in communion with the Holy Father, Pope Francis and the universal Catholic Church. Sacraments celebrated in this church are surely illicit in the eyes of the Church, and many of them would be invalid. Further, the stated leader of this Church, one Stephen Lefort, incurred the penalty of excommunication and is entirely irregular for the exercise of holy orders pursuant to the Code of Canon Law, and this was declared by the Most Reverend Shelton J. Fabre on 23 August 2021 as Bishop of Houma-Thibodaux. Father Lefort is thus forbidden to celebrate or receive the sacraments, hold any office, or exercise any ministry or functions within the Catholic Church (see the public press release: <https://htdiocese.org/news/informational-pastoral-notice-1>)

Similarly, the faithful are reminded that both the “Our Lady of Good Hope Chapel” in Baton Rouge and “Our Lady of Sorrows Chapel,” also in Baton Rouge, are not part of the Diocese of Baton Rouge as well.

Most Reverend Michael Gerard Duca
Bishop of Baton Rouge