

DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH

June 18, 2015

The Rev. D. Timothy Thompson
Immaculate Conception Parish
2255 N Bonnie Brae St
Denton TX 76207-1018

RE: COLUMBARIA

Dear Father Thompson:

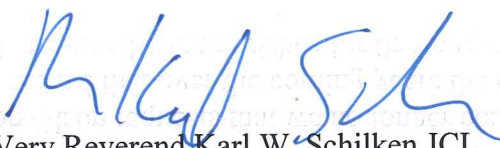
On behalf of Bishop Olson I write to announce a change in policy and offer an explanation of this change.

In the past Bishop Kevin Vann gave permission for several parishes in the Diocese of Fort Worth to construct columbaria in their respective parishes. Several of these parishes have completed their preliminary construction and have sold most of the spaces with the understanding that their columbarium could be expanded.

Bishop Olson requests that we no longer construct columbaria in the Diocese of Fort Worth. He is concerned that over the coming years the cost of upkeep will far exceed the minimal amount held in reserve by the parishes for that purpose. Also in our society the building of a parish church in a particular place does not necessarily represent a permanent commitment to keep the parish in that location. In our own recent experience both parishes in Denton, Immaculate Conception and St. Mark; have moved from one site to another. In the distant past Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Holy Name Parish, and Holy Family Parish, all in Fort Worth, have been moved. St. Philip parish in Lewisville has been moved once and is preparing for a second move. Bishop Olson is concerned that the cost of moving these increasingly large columbaria from one parish site to another would be prohibitive.

Parishes may continue to sell the remainder of their spaces. But he requests that we not plan for any new construction. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Yours in Christ,


The Very Reverend Karl W. Schilken JCL
Vicar General

KWS/sh

THE CATHOLIC CENTER