



B13-2025

DIOCESE OF YOUNGSTOWN

David J. Bonnar

By the Grace of God and the Apostolic See

BISHOP OF YOUNGSTOWN

DECREE

Whereas the *Order of Christian Funerals* provides a direction in commemorating the death of a loved one while, at the same time celebrates their life with reverence and solemnity.

Whereas according to the *Order of Christian Funerals*, we celebrate the funeral rites to offer worship, praise and thanksgiving to God for the gift of a life which now has been returned to God, the author of life and the hope of the just. (Order of Christian Funerals #5)

Whereas the structure of the *Order of Christian Funerals* serves as a guide and provides specific stations which include the prayers to be prayed during the vigil, along with the Transfer of the Body to the Church and the Rite of Committal.

Whereas today more families are requesting to hold visitation for loved ones in church.

Whereas concerns about having visitation in church is that the sacred space is compromised by noise and activity unbecoming of the reverence due to the Blessed Sacrament.

Whereas the church building is where the community gathers to hear the word of God, to pray together, receive the sacraments and to celebrate the Holy Eucharist.

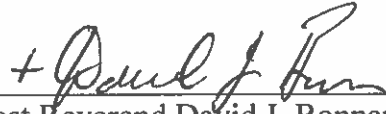
Whereas the church building is both the house of God on earth and the house fit for prayer intended for divine worship and prayer.

Whereas the *Order of Christian Funerals* does not envision a viewing in the church building.

Whereas, after a yearlong study and after consultation with the Presbyteral Council, the deans, the Diocesan Pastoral Council, members of the clergy and our area funeral directors;

I hereby decree that funeral visitation will no longer be permitted in church buildings or facilities owned and operated by the Diocese of Youngstown, effective December 1, 2025.

Given at Youngstown, Ohio, this 27th day of October 2025.



Most Reverend David J. Bonnar
Bishop of Youngstown



Dominic Colucy
Vice Chancellor



Carolyn Wooten
Notary

