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**DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER ANNOUNCES CLOSURE OF
CARMELITE MONASTERY IN CONCORD**

(MANCHESTER, NH) - The Diocese of Manchester, in conjunction with Carmelite Communities Associated (a national association of Carmelite monasteries) regret having to announce the closure of the Carmelite Monastery on Pleasant Street in Concord.

Since 1946, Carmelites have provided “a presence of God’s love and nearness” in the Capital City and throughout the State of New Hampshire. Over the past five years, dedicated efforts were undertaken to revive the diminishing community, alas to no measurable success. This, and in application of the Vatican Instruction “*Cor orans*,” resulted in the Vatican decreeing the closure of the monastery.

The process of closure with all of its elements is entrusted to the Carmelite Communities Associated with the active participation of the current members of the Concord Carmel and with advice from the Carmelite Generalate in Rome. The ultimate concern of the process is to guarantee, and provide for, the welfare of the Concord Carmelite nuns.

Although the Diocese of Manchester is the geographical and ecclesiastical home of the Concord Carmel, the process of closure limits the involvement of the local Bishop to providing his opinion once all Carmelites have agreed to their plans. There is little doubt that these developments bring uncertainty and pain to many, and the Bishop of Manchester will continue to provide the help he may while respecting jurisdiction.

The Bishop adds, “May we all assist these faithful daughters of Saint Teresa with the healing power of prayer as we turn to Our Lady of Mount Carmel, that she may envelop them in her mantle of Grace.”

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The Diocese of Manchester is the Roman Catholic Church in New Hampshire, serving the needs of nearly 235,000 Catholics. For more information, please visit www.catholicnh.org/overview.