



DIOCESE OF LITTLE ROCK

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September 28, 2023

To the Catholic Community in Arkansas,

Blessed Stanley Rother Mission was formally established as a Catholic community in the small northwest Arkansas town of Decatur just over six years ago. The dedication took place on September 24, the day after Blessed Stanley Rother was beatified in Oklahoma City. He is the first beatified martyr of the United States and the first beatified martyr of Guatemala.

Blessed Stanley Rother Mission has around 80 members, including people from Guatemala, El Salvador and Mexico. As a mission, it is attended by Fr. “Samy,” the pastor of St. Joseph Church in Tontitown. They have a Saturday evening Mass in a well-worn building that formerly served as a Baptist church. People crowd into the seven rows of pews and a few extra folding chairs. They have an outdated air conditioning and heating unit that does not cool or heat very well.

When Blessed Stanley Rother Mission was dedicated, I told those present that “we are not dedicating a church building today. What we are doing is establishing you formally as a community. After all, the Church is the people, not the building.” We all know, though, that we need an adequate place to gather as a community for Mass, reconciliation, faith formation, and all the other parish activities that bring us closer to our Lord and sustain us in our Catholic faith.

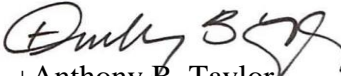
This year, Blessed Stanley Rother Mission has been selected as our One Church partner for the next 12 months. With a one-time financial boost from everyone in our diocese – parishes and individual supporters – we can help them make much-needed improvements to their church building and hall for their growing community. Please prayerfully consider what you can do to support our sisters and brothers in Christ at Blessed Stanley Rother Mission.

If you want to support this initiative, please visit dolr.org/one-church to donate or get more information.

Let us ask Blessed Stanley Rother, the patron of this mission community that bears his name, to intercede on their behalf so that their efforts to give themselves completely to the Lord will be blessed and have a lasting impact as a witness to God’s goodness and love for all.



Sincerely in Christ,


+Anthony B. Taylor
Bishop of Little Rock