



**DECREE**  
RECOGNIZING THE PROPAEDEUTIC STAGE  
FOR THE SEMINARY “REDEMPTORIS MATER”  
OF THE NEOCATECHUMENAL WAY  
IN THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT

I, Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano, fifth Bishop of Bridgeport, duly concerned for the adequate preparation of Seminarians in the Diocese of Bridgeport, according to Cc. 233 §2, 235 §1, 242 §1 and 243 of the Code of Canon Law, in consideration of the following,

**THAT** the new *Ratio Fundamentalis Institutionis Sacerdotalis* (RF) approved by the Congregation for the Clergy on December 8, 2016 and, the Program of Priestly Formation in the United States of America, Sixth Edition (PPF) approved by the USCCB on June 24, 2022 both made mandatory the establishment of the Propaedeutic Stage in Seminarian formation, and;

**THAT** men discerning priesthood in the Neocatechumenal Way undergo periods of remote-foundational preparation with their local community and a period of proximate preparation at a local vocational center, which together fulfill the requirements of the propaedeutic stage as laid out by the PPF, as has been recognized by three episcopal conferences, namely Poland, Austria, and Mexico;

**THAT** the Seminarians of the Neocatechumenal Way of the Diocese of Bridgeport have duly completed this stage of formation before arriving to the Seminary “Redemptoris Mater” of the Diocese of Bridgeport,

**THEREFORE**, I hereby recognize this Propaedeutic Stage of Formation, as offered by the Neocatechumenal Way, as fulfilling the obligations of the RF and PPF in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Given this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May of 2023, the Solemnity of the Lord’s Ascension, at the Catholic Center

*Frank J. Caggiano*

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Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano  
Bishop of Bridgeport

*Patrick Toole*

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Rev. Deacon Patrick Toole  
Chancellor