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OFFICIAL RECORD
LESLIE BOUCHER, RECORDER

Affidavit of The Most Reverend George Leo Thomas and Notice of Corporate Succession

Title of Document

Affirmation Statement

X I, the undersigned hereby affirm that the attached document, including any exhibits, hereby submitted for recording **does not contain** the social security number, driver's license or identification card number, or any "Personal Information" (as defined by NRS 603A.040) of any person or persons. (Per NRS 239B.030)

_____ I, the undersigned hereby affirm that the attached document, including any exhibits, hereby submitted for recording **does contain** the social security number, driver's license or identification card number, or any "Personal Information" (as defined by NRS 603A.040) of a person or persons as required by law: _____
(State specific law)

John H. Mowbray Attorney
Signature Title

John H. Mowbray
Print

Date

Grantees address and mail tax statement:

AFFIDAVIT OF
THE MOST REVEREND GEORGE LEO THOMAS
AND
NOTICE OF CORPORATE SUCCESSION

The undersigned, the Most Reverend George Leo Thomas, Ph.D., as the Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Las Vegas, hereby certifies and declares as follows:

1. I have personal knowledge of, and am competent to testify to, the facts contained in this affidavit, except those matters based upon information and belief and, as to such matters, I believe them to be true.

2. On May 15, 2018, I was installed as The Roman Catholic Bishop of Las Vegas and His Successors, a corporation sole, commonly referred to as the Bishop of the Diocese of Las Vegas. The history of the Diocese of Las Vegas and the succession of its Bishops are identified below herein.

3. Upon information and belief, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Reno and His Successors, a corporation sole (sometimes alternatively referred to as the “Diocese of Reno”) was duly organized as a corporation sole under the authority of and in accordance with the laws of the State of Nevada including, but not limited to, Nevada Revised Statutes Section 84 *et. seq.*, on or about October 14, 1931, by the Most Reverend Thomas Kiely Gorman, D.D., the then Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Reno, serving until 1952. The Diocese of Reno was legally created (as the sole diocese for the entire State of Nevada) for the purpose of administering and managing the property and temporalities of the Roman Catholic Church within said Diocese of Reno, and has since continued to be and to act as a corporation sole for such purpose.

4. Upon information and belief, a vacancy in the incumbency of the Roman Catholic

Bishop of Reno and His Successors, a corporation sole (hereinafter “the Diocese of Reno-Las Vegas”) occurred on February 8, 1952 when Bishop Gorman was named co-adjutor Bishop of the Diocese of Dallas.

5. Upon information and belief, thereafter in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations of said Church, a Diocesan Apostolic Administrator was duly elected by the College of Consultors, and the Diocesan Apostolic Administrator accepted that election, to act as such successor in said corporation sole and be vested with all the rights and powers granted by law to such corporation sole until a new Bishop was chosen to take canonical possession of the Diocese of Reno.

6. Upon information and belief, on May 19, 1952, the Most Reverend Robert Joseph Dwyer was duly appointed as the Bishop Elect of the Diocese of Reno by the supreme pontiff and head of said Church, to-wit: His Holiness POPE PIUS XII; the Most Reverend Robert Joseph Dwyer was installed and assumed said office in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations of said Church on August 5, 1952.

7. Upon information and belief, a vacancy in the incumbency of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Reno and His Successors, a corporation sole occurred on December 9, 1966, when the Most Reverend Robert Joseph Dwyer took canonical possession of another diocese.

8. Upon information and belief, thereafter in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations of said Church, a Diocesan Apostolic Administrator was duly elected by the College of Consultors, and the Diocesan Apostolic Administrator accepted that election, to act as such successor in said corporation sole and be vested with all the rights and powers granted by law to such corporation sole until a new Bishop was chosen to take canonical possession of the Diocese

of Reno.

9. Upon information and belief, the Most Reverend Michael Joseph Green was duly appointed as the Bishop Elect of the Diocese of Reno by the supreme pontiff and head of said Church, to-wit: His Holiness POPE PAUL VI; the Most Reverend Michael Joseph Green was installed and assumed said office in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations of said Church on March 11, 1967.

10. Upon information and belief, a vacancy in the incumbency of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Reno and His Successors, a corporation sole occurred on December 6, 1974, when the Most Reverend Michael Joseph Green resigned from the Diocese of Reno and said resignation was accepted by the supreme pontiff and head of said Church, to-wit: His Holiness POPE PAUL VI on December 6, 1974.

11. Upon information and belief, on December 6, 1974, the Most Reverend Norman McFarland was appointed initially as the Diocesan Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Reno and later, on February 10, 1976, as the Bishop of the Diocese of Reno by the supreme pontiff and head of said Church, to-wit: His Holiness POPE PAUL VI; the Most Reverend Norman McFarland ("Bishop McFarland") was installed and assumed said office in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations of said Church on March 31, 1976.

12. Upon information and belief, Bishop McFarland sought and received permission from the Vatican on October 13, 1976, to rename the diocese to "The Roman Catholic Bishop of Reno-Las Vegas and His Successors, a corporation sole" due to the growth in the southern part of the State of Nevada.

13. Upon information and belief, on or about April 4, 1977, the Articles of

Incorporation of such corporation sole were amended to change the name of the corporation sole to “The Roman Catholic Bishop of Reno-Las Vegas, and His Successors, a corporation sole.”

14. Upon information and belief, that a vacancy in the incumbency of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Reno-Las Vegas and His Successors, a corporation sole (hereinafter “the Diocese of Reno-Las Vegas”) occurred on February 22, 1987, when the Most Reverend Norman F. McFarland, then the Bishop of the Diocese of Reno-Las Vegas, took canonical possession of another diocese.

15. Upon information and belief, thereafter in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations of said Church, Thomas A. Meger, was duly elected as Diocesan Apostolic Administrator by the College of Consultors, and accepted that election, to act as such successor in said corporation sole and be vested with all the rights and powers granted by law to such corporation sole until a new Bishop was chosen to take canonical possession of the Diocese of Reno-Las Vegas.

16. Upon information and belief, on June 9, 1987, the Most Reverend Daniel F. Walsh was duly appointed as the Bishop Elect of the Diocese of Reno-Las Vegas by the supreme pontiff and head of said Church, to-wit: His Holiness POPE JOHN PAUL II; the Most Reverend Daniel F. Walsh was installed and assumed said office in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations of said Church on August 5, 1987.

17. Upon information and belief, by Papal Bull dated March 21, 1995, entitled “*Cum ab amplum*,” effective on or about June 30, 1995, The Roman Catholic Bishop of Reno-Las Vegas and His Successors, a corporation sole, was reorganized into two distinct civil entities for the purpose of dividing the Roman Catholic Church and its parishes and property within the State of

Nevada into two separate dioceses – one in southern Nevada (namely, Las Vegas) and one in northern Nevada (namely, Reno). The Diocese of Las Vegas was, and remains, organized as a corporation sole under Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 84 *et seq.* as The Roman Catholic Bishop of Las Vegas and His Successors, a corporation sole.

18. Upon information and belief, at the time of the division on or about June 30, 1995, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Reno-Las Vegas and His Successors, a corporation sole, changed the name of the civil, legal entity to the Roman Catholic Bishop of Las Vegas, a corporation sole for the southern diocese (which was the successor diocese/corporation to the Diocese of Reno-Las Vegas). The northern diocese formed a new civil corporation for its Diocese created as The Roman Catholic Bishop of Reno and His Successors, a corporation sole.

19. Upon information and belief, a vacancy in the incumbency of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Las Vegas and His Successors, a corporation sole (hereinafter “the Diocese of Las Vegas”) occurred on May 22, 2000, when the Most Reverend Daniel Walsh was installed and took canonical possession of another diocese.

20. Upon information and belief, in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations of said Church, on May 24, 2000, Monsignor Patrick Leary was duly elected as Diocesan Apostolic Administrator by the College of Consultors, and accepted that election, to act as such successor in said corporation sole and be vested with all the rights and powers granted by law to such corporation sole until a new Bishop was chosen to take canonical possession of the Diocese Las Vegas.

21. Upon information and belief, on April 6, 2001, Monsignor Joseph A. Pepe, D.D., J.D.C., was duly appointed as the Bishop of the Diocese of Las Vegas by the supreme pontiff and

head of said Church, to wit: His Holiness POPE JOHN PAUL II. Monsignor Joseph A. Pepe, D.D., J.D.C., was ordained as Bishop of the Diocese of Las Vegas, installed and assumed said office in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations of said Church on May 31, 2001.

22. Upon information and belief, on June 18, 2017, the Most Reverend Joseph A. Pepe, D.D., J.C.D., having reached the mandatory age of retirement and in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations of said Church, submitted his letter of retirement to His Holiness POPE FRANCIS. On February 28, 2018, His Holiness POPE FRANCIS accepted the Most Reverend Joseph A. Pepe's retirement/resignation. From February 28, 2018, to May 14, 2018, the Most Reverend Joseph A. Pepe, D.D., J.C.D., served as the Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Las Vegas.

23. On February 28, 2018, I, the Most Reverend George Leo Thomas, Ph.D. was duly appointed as the Bishop of the Diocese of Las Vegas by the supreme pontiff and head of said Church, to wit: His Holiness POPE FRANCIS. I was installed and assumed said office in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations of said Church on May 15, 2018 and, thereupon, the undersigned became, ever since has been, and now is, the duly appointed, constituted and acting Bishop of the Diocese of Las Vegas and, as such, the successor to the Roman Catholic Bishop of Las Vegas and His Successors, a corporation sole.

24. That a true and correct copy of the Decree of Appointment dated February 28, 2018, is annexed hereto as Exhibit "A" and by this reference made a part hereof and incorporated herein; and that a true and correct English translation of said Decree (original of which is in the Latin language), is annexed hereto as Exhibit "B" and by this reference made a part hereof and incorporated herein.

25. That in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations of said Church, the undersigned presented his Decree of Appointment to the College of Consultors of the Diocese of Las Vegas, that a true and correct copy of the minutes of such meeting are annexed hereto as Exhibit "C" and, by this reference, made a part hereof and incorporated herein.

26. That I, the Most Reverend George Leo Thomas, the undersigned, as such successor in said corporation sole have been, and continuously so since May 15, 2018, vested with all the rights

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and powers granted by law to said corporation sole.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed this instrument on this 20th day of June, 2018, as Bishop of the Diocese of Las Vegas and as the successor in said corporation sole, and gives notice of the foregoing to all to whom it may concern.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF LAS VEGAS AND HIS SUCCESSORS, A CORPORATION SOLE

By: + George Leo Thomas
MOST REVEREND GEORGE LEO THOMAS, PH.D.
BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF LAS VEGAS

STATE OF NEVADA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF CLARK)

I, GEORGE LEO THOMAS, do hereby swear under penalty of perjury that the assertions of this affidavit are true:

That I am the duly constituted, appointed and acting Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Las Vegas and the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument; that I have read the foregoing instrument and know the contents thereof; and that the facts therein stated are true of my own knowledge except those matters based upon information and belief and, as to such matters, I believe them to be true.

+ George Leo Thomas
MOST REVEREND GEORGE LEO THOMAS, PH.D.
BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF LAS VEGAS

SUBSCRIBED and SWORN to before me this 20th day of June, 2018.

Karen J Roberts
NOTARY PUBLIC

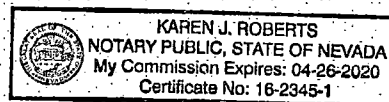


EXHIBIT A

COPY

ACTA CONGREGATIONIS SENUS SENONUM DEI

Venerabili Patri Georgio Leoni Thomas, hactenus Episcopo Heltenensi, electo sacro Palatino diocesis Campensis, salutem et Apostolicam Benedictionem. Lactemur revera in Domino, Patre misericordiatum, qui ab initio prophetarum voces praestulxit, in terra assuescens hominem communionem habere cum Deo, et iis, qui ei complacuerant, fabricationem salutis ut architectus delineavit et iis, qui inquieti erant in eremo, dedit aptissimam legem, quae disciplina esset illis et propheta futurorum, multis modis componens humanum genus ad consonantiam salutis - cfr. 5. Bernardus Lugdunensis, *Adversus haereses*, IV. 2-3 - quae munus est praecipuum Ecclesiae ad populum. Quo permoti mandato, mentem bona spe refecti flectimus ad spirituales necessitates quae Campensis, qui post renuntiationem Venerabilis Patris Josephi A. Depe novum expectat sacrum Pastorem et vitae diocesanae moderatorem. De te ergo cogitavimus, qui, in episcopatu es iam constitutus pastoralibusque humanisque bonis ornatus videris, quae te aptum efficiunt ad curam huius communitatis exercendam. Proinde, audito consilio Congregationis pro Episcopis, Apostolicae Nostrae auctoritatis plenitudine, libenter te, superioris Ecclesiae vincolo resolutum, Episcopum Campensem constituimus, debitis datis iuribus congruisque impositis obligationibus. Hoc de Nostris decreto ceterum et populum huius ecclesiae communitatis edocuas volumus, cui praestet Dominus, ut, in iustis tui exemplo ducta, servetur bonis semper operibus etudita et caritatem fraternitatis vivere edocta. Familiariter, venerabilis Pater, praesentibus consolare praesidiis, ut eam ad superna praemia perducas et opus tuum in eius proficiat intuituae caritatis augmentum. Datum Romae, apud S. Petrum, die duodevicesimo mensis Februarii, anno Domini bis millesimo duodevicesimo, Pontificatus Nostri quinto.

de mandatis Sapientiae, Prot. Ag.



EXHIBIT B

COPY

**FRANCIS
BISHOP
SERVANT OF THE SERVANTS OF GOD**

To Our Venerable Brother, **George Leo Thomas**, until now Bishop of Helena, appointed Chief Shepherd of the Diocese of Las Vegas, greetings and Apostolic Blessing.

Let us indeed rejoice in the Lord, the Father of mercies, who from the beginning raised up prophets, accustoming man on earth to have communion with God, and sketching out, like an architect, the plan of salvation to those that pleased Him, while upon those who became restless in the desert He bestowed a law most suitable for them, which served as an instruction for them and as a type of things to come, thus, in a variety of ways, blending the human race into a Harmony of salvation (confer Saint Irenaeus of Lyons, *Adversus haereses*, IV, 14, 2-3), the principal mission of the Church for its people.

Motivated by this mandate, We very confidently turn Our attention to the spiritual needs of the flock of Las Vegas, which, owing to the resignation of Our Venerable Brother Joseph A. Pepe, awaits a new Ordinary and guide for diocesan life. Accordingly, We have looked to you, Venerable Brother, who, already appointed to the episcopacy, in Our judgment have shown yourself to be endowed with the pastoral and human qualities, which render you suitable for carrying out the pastoral care of this community.

Therefore, upon consultation with the Congregation for Bishops, by the fullness of Our Apostolic authority, We gladly release you from the bond of the aforementioned Church, and We appoint you Bishop of Las Vegas, granting to you the due rights and imposing upon you the relative obligations, which are connected to this mission. It is Our desire that you inform the clergy and the people of your ecclesial community about this Our decree.

We earnestly pray that the Lord stand before flock, so that, guided by the example of your ministry, they may be kept unharmed, accomplished in deeds wrought by grace and thoroughly taught to live fellowship with each other: Venerable Brother, be consoled by this reassuring support, so that you may lead this family of faith to rewards on high and your ministry may obtain a growth in charity.

Given at Rome, at St. Peter's, on the twenty-eighth day of the month of February, in the year of the Lord two thousand eighteen, the fifth of Our Pontificate.

FRANCIS

Leonardo Sapienza,
Protonotary Apostolic