

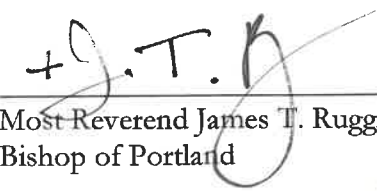
**GENERAL DECREE ESTABLISHING  
THE SEVENTH EDITION OF THE  
*ETHICAL AND RELIGIOUS DIRECTIVES FOR  
CATHOLIC HEALTH SERVICES*  
AS PARTICULAR LAW FOR THE DIOCESE OF PORTLAND**

Mindful of my responsibility as diocesan bishop to safeguard the integrity and unity of the truths of the faith, moral principles, and ecclesiastical discipline in the works of the apostolate pertaining to health care in the Diocese of Portland (cf. *CIC* canons 392, 394, 678, and 747);

I, Most Reverend James T. Ruggieri, by the Grace of God and the Apostolic See, Bishop of Portland, hereby issue this General Decree in accord with canon 29 establishing the Seventh Edition of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services* as particular law in the Diocese of Portland.

The Seventh Edition of the *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services* is to be promulgated in accord with canon 8, §2 by publication of the text on the Internet Website of the Diocese of Portland ([www.portlanddiocese.org](http://www.portlanddiocese.org)); and by delivering a copy of the same and a copy of this decree to the chief executive officer of all Catholic health care institutions located in the Diocese of Portland. The provisions of the Seventh Edition of the *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services* shall become effective and binding within the Diocese of Portland immediately, any particular legislation, directives, or instructions to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Portland, Portland, Maine this 19<sup>th</sup> day of December, in the Year of Our Lord 2025.

  
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Most Reverend James T. Ruggieri  
Bishop of Portland

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Br. James M. Peterson, O.F.M. Cap.  
Chancellor

