


MOST REVEREND
LOUIS F. KIHNEMAN, III
BISHOP OF BILOXI



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To: All Employees and Volunteers of:
The Diocese of Biloxi
Catholic Charities of South Mississippi
de l'Epee Deaf Center
Housing Properties
All Parishes and Missions
All Catholic Schools
Diocesan Ministries

From: Most Reverend Louis F. Kihneman, III 
Bishop of Biloxi

Date: September 13, 2022

Re: Displays, Decorations, and Celebrations of Halloween

Today's culture has accepted practices of the occult as normal, and Halloween has particularly been used to promote a celebration of the occult. Our children (and adults) are exposed to movies, books, music, television, games of all kinds, social media, etc. that make magic, demons/devils, and witches appear to be make-believe, a game, fun, attractive, and "normal."

Halloween and fall decorations on Diocesan properties will not blur the lines between what is Christian and what is not. We must intentionally avoid those things that are contrary to our Catholic faith but have become popularized through the secular adaptation of Halloween. When people see items on display that celebrate magic, sorcery, Satan, divination, etc., they could assume them to be approved practices or that they are benign. We should never have on our properties, even in jest or play, decorations or items that represent evil or divination – fortune telling, palm reading, astrology, horoscopes, tarot cards, Ouija boards, or other items disguised as games – there are many more. Also, we should not encourage Halloween costumes that celebrate the dark world, but we should encourage the world of light, Jesus, Mary, and the Saints in heaven.

The custom of dressing up is devotional in its roots, and "Halloween" is literally "All Saints Eve." Going house to house to receive food from neighbors and in exchange for promising to pray for their deceased loved ones was the beginning of "Trick or Treating." Celebrating this holy time of year is good when respecting the sacred intentions of All Saints Day and All Souls Day. Halloween can be a lot of fun for the faithful and there are so many ways to decorate and celebrate the season in a faith-filled way. Not every image of a ghost, skull, jack-o-lantern, spider, full moon, or bat, is bad. Please do your research and encourage a celebration of faith in all our activities and decorations, and avoid anything that blurs the lines between what is good fun and what represents evil.

"A welcoming family of GOD seeking to live faithfully, love generously, and share the good news of Jesus Christ"