



Diocese of Colorado Springs

Office of the Bishop
228 North Cascade Avenue
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903

Telephone (719) 636-2345 FAX (719) 636-1216

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CONTACT: Veronica Ambuul, 719-866-6489, vambuul@coloradocatholicerald.com

Bishop Golka's statement on canceled Rosary Rally at Salida library

COLORADO SPRINGS. Bishop James Golka issued the following statement regarding the Rosary Rally that was scheduled to be held on April 19 at the Salida Regional Library:

“In the parish bulletin dated April 16, members of St. Joseph Parish in Salida were invited to a Rosary Rally to raise awareness of inappropriate materials being made available to children in schools and libraries. However, as word of the rally spread in the wider community, it was depicted as a call for book banning and burning, and a ‘counterprotest’ was planned. In the interest of safety, Father Jim Williams, the pastor of St. Joseph, made the decision to cancel the rally.

“The practice of faith and religion in the public square is our First Amendment right as Americans,” Bishop Golka said. “The Rosary Rally was for parishioners of St. Joseph to gather and pray in peace and unity for the protection of children. It was not meant to be a protest or a show of hatred for any members of the community. It has long been the teaching of the Catholic Church that parents have the primary right to determine the timing and content of their children’s education in human sexuality, and I stand by those seeking to uphold that right.”

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