

DECREE

OF THE RELEGATION OF

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

TO PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE

Due to the deteriorating and possibly dangerous condition of Ascension of Our Lord Church, Philadelphia and a lack of the funding necessary to repair and maintain the church, consideration must be given as to whether sufficient grave causes exist for the relegation of Ascension of Our Lord Church to profane but not sordid use.

The following grave causes suggest that the church be so relegated and no longer be used for divine worship:

- 1) Ascension of Our Lord Church has been examined by experts who have determined that the building is no longer safe for use. The church needs extensive and urgent repairs. Most notably the church floor is in grave danger of collapsing into the basement of the church;
- 2) Ascension of Our Lord Parish does not have the resources to repair and maintain the church building. Necessary repairs and renovations would cost an estimated \$3,000,000. The parish has a debt of \$287,561, an effective annual operating deficit of \$362,686, an annual subsidy from the Archdiocese of \$287,561, and an annual regular collection of only \$54,000.
- 3) there is no other source of funding and the financial burden of repairing and maintaining the church would cause important pastoral programs of Ascension of Our Lord Parish, such as outreach to the poor of the area and support of Catholic education, to suffer due to lack of funds;
- 4) the church building does not have any particular architectural, historical, or artistic significance; and,
- 5) provision has been made for another suitable location for divine worship within the parish.

Accordingly, in virtue of the precepts of canon 1212 and canon 1222, §2 of the Code of Canon Law, having judged that sufficient grave causes are present and that the good of souls will not thereby be impaired and having consulted with the Council of Priests, I hereby **DECREE** that Ascension of Our Lord Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, be relegated to profane but not sordid use.

This decree is effective as of July 1, 2012, and is to be communicated to the members of Ascension of Our Lord Parish and to the faithful of the Archdiocese in an appropriate manner. All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Curia of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, on the eleventh day of April, in the Year of Our Lord 2012.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.
Archbishop of Philadelphia

Reverend Monsignor Gerard C. Mesure
Chancellor