



Archdiocese of Philadelphia  
Office of the Archbishop  
222 North 17th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

## **DECREE**

### **OF THE RELEGATION OF**

### **HOLY SAVIOUR CHURCH, LINWOOD, PENNSYLVANIA**

### **TO PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE**

Due to the deteriorating condition of Holy Saviour Church, Linwood, and a lack of the funding necessary to repair and maintain the church without impeding the ministry of Saint John Fisher Parish which posses the church, consideration must be given as to whether sufficient grave causes exist for the relegation of Our Mother of Sorrows 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) The costs of repairing and maintaining Holy Saviour Church have become burdensome to Saint John Fisher Parish and would impeded the ministry of the parish. The annual cost of maintenancce, utilities, and other routine expenses for Holy Saviour Church are approximately \$30,000. A facilities assessment for Holy Saviour Church completed in February 2011 by the engineering firm of Elliot-Lewis showed that an estimated \$152,000 of repairs were needed on the church within five years. These repairs were not completed because the funds were not available to do so and would likely be even more expensive to complete now.

In addition, because the church building is on the same plot of land as the former rectory and school, the parish cannot alienate those properties without going to civil authorities for an expensive and time consuming subdivision of the property. Maintaining all of the buildings involved costs the parish approximately \$80,000 annually and according to the 2011 Elliot Lewis Report the buildings together require approximately \$616,000 in repairs in coming years.

- 2) Saint John Fisher Parish, Philadelphia, which has ownership of Holy Saviour Church, does not have the resources to repair and maintain the Holy Saviour Church building without impeding parish ministrics. In addition to Holy Saviour Church and the Saint

John Fisher Parish Church, Saint John Fisher Parish also has ownership and responsibility for Immaculate Conception Church, Marcus Hook. The parish has a debt of \$135,00. In recent years the parish has had a modest operating surplus, but this has been accomplished by temporarily deferring maintenance on the parish church and other buildings used for parish ministry;

- 3) there is no other source of funding for the maintenance and necessary repairs;
- 4) the financial burden of repairing and maintaining the church would impede parish ministries, result in cuts in parish staffing, and adversely affect the care of the parish church and other buildings used for parish ministry;
- 5) Holy Saviour Church does not have any special architectural, historical, or artistic significance; and,
- 6) Requests to worship in Holy Saviour Church are few and the instances of such requests have steadily declined. The church is approximately two miles from the Saint John Fisher Parish Church and less than a mile from Immaculate Conception Church, so the relegation of Holy Saviour Church would not be burdensome to those who had worshiped there.

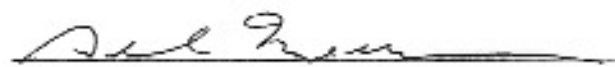
Accordingly, in virtue of the precepts of canon 1222, §2 of the Code of Canon Law, having judged that sufficient grave causes are present and that the good of souls will not thereby be impaired; having obtained the consent of the Pastor of Saint John Fisher Parish who also has the agreement of his parish pastoral and finance councils; and having consulted with the Council of Priests on May 22, 2015 with all members in attendance in agreement; I hereby **DECREE** that Holy Saviour Church, Linwood, Pennsylvania, be relegated to profane but not sordid use.

This decree is effective as of July 15, 2015, and is to be communicated to the members of Saint John Fisher Parish and to the faithful of the Archdiocese in an appropriate manner. All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Pastoral Center of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, on the eighth day of June, in the Year of Our Lord 2015.

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

SEAL

  
Reverend Monsignor Gerard C. Mesure, J.C.D.  
Chancellor