



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

DECREE

OF THE RELEGATION OF

SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER CHURCH, FALLSINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA

TO PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE

Saint Joseph the Worker Church, Fallsington, Pennsylvania has served as a worship site of Saint Frances Cabrini Parish, Fairless Hills since July 1, 2014. The church, however, is no longer needed by the parish and the parish lacks the funding necessary to repair and maintain Saint Joseph the Worker Church without seriously impeding the ministry of the parish. Consideration, therefore, must be given as to whether sufficient grave causes exist for the relegation of Saint Joseph the Worker 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) Saint Joseph the Worker Church is no longer needed by Saint Frances Cabrini Parish. In the last year the only requests to use Saint Joseph the Worker Church for public worship have been for two weddings and seven funerals. In addition, Saint Joseph the Worker Church is located less than two miles from Saint Frances Cabrini Church, so it is not a burden for the faithful to come to the parish church to worship;
- 2) When Saint Frances Cabrini Parish took responsibility for Saint Joseph the Worker Church it was in serious disrepair. Most notably, repairs are needed for the church roof and for the heating system, which it shares with an unused school to which the church is attached. Saint Joseph the Worker Church requires a total of \$1,001,700 in repairs. In addition the annual costs of maintaining the combined church/school building is \$121,000 for such things as fuel, snow removal, lawn care and security. The parish, which will had a deficit of approximately \$240,000 in the last fiscal year, does not have the resources to continue to repair and to maintain Saint Joseph the Worker Church without negatively impacting the ministries of the parish;
- 3) there is no other source of funding for the costs of repairing and maintaining the church;

- 4) the church building does not have any particular architectural, historical, or artistic significance; and,
- 5) the parishioners have already coalesced around the parish church, but having all of the worship at the parish church will further enhance parish unity.

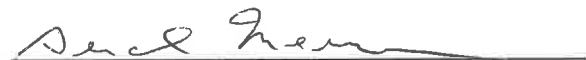
Accordingly, in virtue of the prescripts of canon 1212 and canon 1222, §2 of the Code of Canon Law, having judged that sufficient grave causes are present and that the good of souls will not thereby be impaired and having consulted with the Council of Priests on September 16, 2015, I hereby **DECREE** that Saint Joseph the Worker Church, Fallsington, Pennsylvania, be relegated to profane but not sordid use.

This decree is effective as of November 1, 2015, and is to be communicated to the members of Saint Frances Cabrini 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 twenty-ninth day of September, 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
Chancellor