

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

DECREE

OF THE RELEGATION OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY CHURCH, LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

TO PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE

Immaculate Conception B.V.M. Church, Levittown, Pennsylvania has served as a worship site of Queen of the Universe Parish, Levittown since 2014. The church, however, is no longer needed by the parish and the parish lacks the funding necessary to maintain Immaculate Conception B.V.M. 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 Immaculate Conception B.V.M. 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:

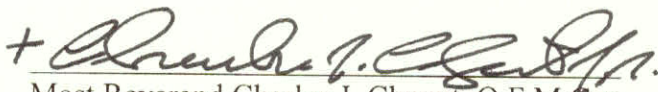
- 1) Immaculate Conception B.V.M. Church is no longer needed by Queen of the Universe Parish. The former parishioners of Immaculate Conception B.V.M. parish are attending Mass at Queen of the Universe Church. There have been very few requests to use Immaculate Conception B.V.M. Church for public worship. In addition the two churches are located and in close proximity to each other and in the same community, so it is not a burden for the faithful to come to the parish church to worship;
- 2) Queen of the Universe Parish has endeavored to keep Immaculate Conception B.V.M. Church site in good repair. The annual costs of maintaining the property are approximately \$150,000. Queen of the Universe Parish has a debt of \$962,938. (Most of this debt was inherited by Queen of the Universe Parish from the former Immaculate Conception B.V.M. Parish.) The parish has determined that they are not be able to pay all the expenses arising from the pastoral work of the parish and repay their large debt so long as they have to repair and to maintain Immaculate Conception B.V.M. Church;

- 3) there is no other source of funding for the costs of repairing and maintaining the church;
- 4) Immaculate Conception B.V.M. Church was originally dedicated in 1956 as a “temporary Church.” (May 27, 1956 letter from the Apostolic Delegate to the pastor)
- 5) The church building does not have any particular architectural, historical, or artistic significance; and,
- 6) having all of the parishioners worship at the parish church will continue to enhance parish unity.

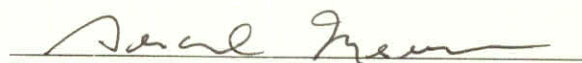
Accordingly, in virtue of the prescripts of canon 1212 and canon 1222, §2 of the Code of Canon Law, having judged that sufficient grave causes are present and that the good of souls will not thereby be impaired and having consulted with the Council of Priests on November 12, 2015, I hereby **DECREE** that Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Levittown, Pennsylvania, be relegated to profane but not sordid use.

This decree is effective as of January 1, 2016, and is to be communicated to the members of Queen of the Universe 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 second day of December, 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