



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

DECREE

OF THE RELEGATION OF SAINT GERTRUDE CHURCH, WEST CONSHOHOCKEN, PENNSYLVANIA TO PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE

Saint Gertrude Church, West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania has served as a worship site of Saint Matthew Parish, Conshohocken since 2014. The church, however, is no longer needed by the parish and the parish lacks the funding necessary to maintain Saint Gertrude Church without seriously impeding the future ministry of the parish. Consideration, therefore, must be given as to whether sufficient grave causes exist for the relegation of Saint Gertrude 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 Gertrude Church is no longer needed by Saint Matthew Parish. There have been few requests to use Saint Gertrude Church for public worship. In addition it is located in close proximity to Saint Matthew Church, so it is not a burden for the faithful to come to the parish church to worship;
- 2) Saint Matthew Parish has endeavored to keep Saint Gertrude Church in good repair. The annual costs of maintaining the church building are approximately \$68,218. The former St. Gertrude parish rectory, which is now vacant, is physically attached to the church and also must be maintained as long as the church is in use. In addition, the church parking lot requires ongoing upkeep. These additional costs are approximately \$40,000. While Saint Matthew Parish has savings and is currently able to meet its expenses, the growing pastoral needs of the parish have required the commitment of the parish to the renovation of space adjacent to the parish church for educational, administrative, and other parish purposes. The commitment to this pastoral project places the parish in a position where they are no longer able to continue to repair and to maintain Saint Gertrude 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) having all of the parishioners worship at the parish church will enhance parish unity.

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 on November 12, 2015, I hereby **DECREE** that Saint Gertrude Church, West Conshohocken, 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 Saint Matthew 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