



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

DECREE

OF THE RELEGATION OF

SAINT CECILIA CHURCH, COATESVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

TO PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE

Saint Cecilia Church, Coatesville, Pennsylvania has served as a worship site of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Philadelphia since 2013. The church, however, is no longer needed by the parish and the parish lacks the funding necessary to maintain Saint Cecilia 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 Cecilia 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:

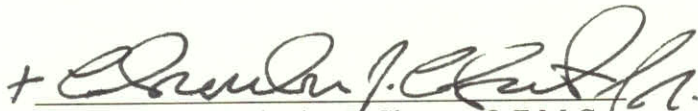
- 1) Saint Cecilia Church is no longer needed by Our Lady of the Rosary Parish. The only recent request to use the church was for the funeral liturgy of a former pastor. In addition, Saint Cecilia Church is located in relatively close proximity to Our Lady of the Rosary Church, so it has not been a burden for the faithful to come to the parish church to worship;
- 2) Our Lady of the Rosary Parish has endeavored to keep Saint Cecilia Church in good repair. The annual costs of maintaining the church property is approximately \$46,400. Needed repairs would cost between \$49,000 to \$84,000. Our Lady of the Rosary Parish has approximately \$150,000 in savings. However, the parish is unable to meet its regular operating expenses and has an annual deficit of approximately \$18,000. It is a financial hardship to continue to repair and to maintain Saint Cecilia Church property and it could negatively impact the ministries of the parish;

- 3) Saint Cecilia Church is located in a area that makes maintaining the security of the church difficult;
- 4) there is no other source of funding for the costs of repairing and maintaining the church;
- 5) the church building does not have any particular architectural, historical, or artistic significance; and,
- 6) having the parishioners worship at the parish church will enhance parish unity and help parishioners focus on the future of the parish.

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 June 24,2016, I hereby **DECREE** that Saint Cecilia Church, Coatesville, Pennsylvania, be relegated to profane but not sordid use.

This decree is effective as of September 16, 2016, and is to be communicated to the members of Our Lady of the Rosary 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 12th day of August, in the Year of Our Lord 2016.



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

SEAL



Reverend Monsignor Gerard C. Mesure
Chancellor