

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

DECREE

OF THE RELEGATION OF

SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS CHURCH, ROSYLN, PENNSYLVANIA

TO PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE

Saint John of the Cross Church, Roslyn, Pennsylvania has served as a worship site of Queen of Peace Parish, Ardsley since 2014. The church, however, is no longer needed by the parish and the parish lacks the funding necessary to maintain Saint John of the Cross 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 John of the Cross 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:

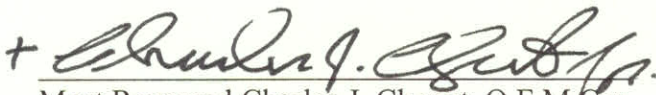
- 1) Saint John of the Cross Church is no longer needed by Queen of Peace Parish. There have been few requests to use Saint John of the Cross Church for public worship. In addition it is located in close proximity to Queen of Peace Church, so it is not a burden for the faithful to come to the parish church to worship;
- 2) Queen of Peace Parish has endeavored to keep Saint John of the Cross Church in good repair. The church property, however, includes other buildings that also must be maintained by the parish so long as the church is in use. Potential buyers are only interested if the entire property is available as one parcel. The annual costs of maintaining the church property is approximately \$200,000. While Queen of Peace Parish is currently able to meet its expenses, the parish has a debt of approximately \$1,500,000. Queen of Peace Parish took on slightly more than half of this debt from Saint John of the Cross Parish when the two parishes were merged. For the parish to pay this debt in a timely manner while continuing to repair and to maintain Saint John of the Cross Church property could negatively impact 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 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 December 18, 2015 and again on June 24, 2016, I hereby **DECREE** that Saint John of the Cross Church, Roslyn, 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 Queen of Peace 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.

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

SEAL



Reverend Monsignor Gerard C. Mesure
Chancellor