



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

DECREE
OF THE RELEGATION OF THE
ORIGINAL
ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY CHURCH,
WEST GROVE, PENNSYLVANIA
TO PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE

The original Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, West Grove, Pennsylvania was built in 1873 and was replaced in 2001 to accommodate the growing parish by a new parish church with the same name. The new parish church is located 1.1 miles away from the original parish church. The site of the new parish church is also the site where the parish school is now located. The original parish church, now commonly referred to as "Saint Mary's Chapel", has not been used for sacred worship since the winter of 2014, at which time it closed for safety reasons. In addition to the original parish church no longer being used for worship, the cost of maintaining and repairing the original parish church would unduly impact the financial state of the parish and significantly impede the future ministry of the parish. Consideration, therefore, must be given as to whether sufficient grave causes exist for the relegation of the original parish church of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish to profane but not sordid use.

The following grave causes suggest that the original Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, West Grove be so relegated and no longer be used for divine worship:

- 1) The original parish church building is no longer needed by Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish. The church has not been used for divine worship of any kind since 2014. In addition, the current church building used for divine worship by the parish is located in close proximity to the original church, and so there is not a burden for the faithful to come to the present parish church building to worship;
- 2) The decision to seek relegation of the original parish church to profane but not sordid use was made known to the parish community at-large and no major objections emerged;
- 3) Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish has endeavored to maintain the original parish church building, but the costs of continuing to do so would prove significant. A former convent is attached to the original parish church building. The cost of maintaining the original parish church and the former convent exceeded

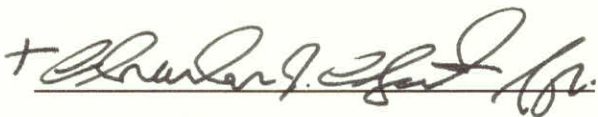
\$15,000 in the last fiscal year, and the estimated costs of making necessary long-term repairs to the original parish church building would approximate \$120,000. In addition, the parish currently holds a debt of approximately \$2,300,000. In order to alleviate its financial burden, the parish wishes to sell the property containing the original parish church, the former convent and the current parish rectory. The property must be sold as a whole, it cannot be subdivided. The parish proposes to build a rectory on the current campus of the parish or buy a nearby residence. Selling the property containing the original parish church, the former convent and the current rectory would significantly help the financial condition of the parish, and this action will facilitate the capability of the parish to meet its overall ministerial needs;

- 4) There exists no other significant source of funding for the costs of repairing and maintaining the site of the original Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church;
- 5) The original parish church building does not have any particular architectural, historical or artistic significance; and,
- 6) Having all of the parishioners continue to worship at the current parish church will 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 October 17, 2016, I hereby **DECREE** that the original Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, West Grove, Pennsylvania, be relegated to profane but not sordid use.

This decree is effective as of January 11, 2017 and is to be communicated to the members of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish and to the faithful of the Archdiocese in an appropriate manner. All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

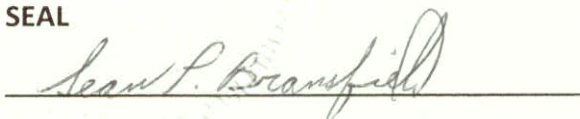
Given at the Curia of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, on the 7th day of December, in the Year of Our Lord 2016.



Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.

Archbishop of Philadelphia

SEAL



Reverend Sean P. Bransfield

Vice-Chancellor