



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

DECREE

OF THE RELEGATION OF

OUR MOTHER OF SORROWS CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA,

PENNSYLVANIA,

TO PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE

Our Mother of Sorrows Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania has been periodically used for worship by Saint Ignatius of Loyola Parish in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania since January 2013. Our Mother of Sorrows Church is no longer needed by Saint Ignatius of Loyola Parish, and it is believed that the costs of continuously maintaining and repairing Our Mother of Sorrows Church would significantly strain and impede the financial stability of Saint Ignatius of Loyola Parish. Consideration, therefore, must be given as to whether sufficient grave causes exist for the relegation of Our Mother of Sorrows Church to profane but not sordid use.

The following grave causes suggest that Our Mother of Sorrows Church be so relegated and no longer be used for divine worship:

- 1) Our Mother of Sorrows Church is no longer needed by Saint Ignatius of Loyola Parish. On January 27, 2013, Our Mother of Sorrows Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania merged with Saint Ignatius of Loyola Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Since the time of the merger, Our Mother of Sorrows Church has been used on occasion for worship by Saint Ignatius of Loyola Parish, but the need for using Our Mother of Sorrows Church has ceased. From May 2016 through February 2017, only one Mass per month was celebrated at Our Mother of Sorrows Church, and this monthly Mass was discontinued as of February 2017. Furthermore, since May 2016 no funerals or weddings have been celebrated at Our Mother of Sorrows Church. In addition, Our Mother of Sorrows Church is located in close proximity to Saint Ignatius of Loyola Church. There does not exist an undue burden for the faithful to come to Saint Ignatius of Loyola Church to worship;
- 2) The decision to seek relegation of Our Mother of Sorrows Church to profane but not sordid use was made known to the parish community at-large and no major objections emerged;
- 3) There are three other buildings on the same property where Our Mother of Sorrows Church is located. These buildings are the school building, the rectory and the convent of the former Our Mother of Sorrows Parish. There is also a parking lot on this same property. Saint Ignatius of Loyola Parish may wish to sell the entire property on which Our Mother of Sorrows Church is located, as it is foreseen that the sale of this entire property would help to relieve the significant financial difficulties that Saint Ignatius of Loyola Parish is now experiencing;

- 4) Saint Ignatius of Loyola Parish has endeavored to maintain Our Mother of Sorrows Church in good repair. However, the costs of maintaining the church and properties of the former Our Mother of Sorrows Parish have placed a significant financial strain on Saint Ignatius of Loyola Parish. During the 2016-2017 fiscal year, Saint Ignatius of Loyola Parish incurred expenses exceeding \$100,000 associated with the properties of the former Our Mother of Sorrows Parish. Furthermore, at the conclusion of the 2015-2016 fiscal year, Saint Ignatius of Loyola Parish experienced a deficit of \$231,354 while having a savings of only \$17,586. Furthermore, during the same 2015-2016 fiscal year, Saint Ignatius of Loyola Parish maintained a debt of \$81,852. Because of the significant financial burdens currently being experienced by Saint Ignatius of Loyola Parish as well as the fact that Our Mother of Sorrows Church is no longer needed by Saint Ignatius of Loyola Parish, it is believed that the possible eventual sale of the property of the former Our Mother of Sorrows Parish would be best for the current and future vitality of Saint Ignatius of Loyola Parish;
- 5) The Our Mother of Sorrows Church building does not have any particular architectural, historical or artistic significance; and,
- 6) Having all of the parishioners worship at Saint Ignatius of Loyola Church will continue to enhance parish unity and help parishioners focus on the future of the parish.

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 June 29, 2017, I hereby **DECREE** that Our Mother of Sorrows Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, be relegated to profane but not sordid use.

This Decree is effective as of October 9, 2017 and is to be communicated to the members of Saint Ignatius of Loyola Parish and to the faithful of the Archdiocese in an appropriate manner. All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

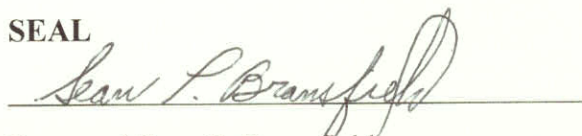
Given at the Curia of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, on the 31st day of August, in the Year of Our Lord 2017.



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

Archbishop of Philadelphia

SEAL



Reverend Sean P. Bransfield

Vice-Chancellor