



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

DECREE

OF THE RELEGATION OF

OUR LADY OF THE HOLY SOULS CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA TO PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE

Our Lady of the Holy Souls Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania has been designated as a church for worship by Our Lady of Hope Parish in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania since July 1, 1993. Our Lady of the Holy Souls Church is no longer needed by Our Lady of Hope Parish, and it is believed that the continued costs of maintaining and repairing Our Lady of the Holy Souls Church would significantly prevent and weaken the financial stability of Our Lady of Hope Parish. Consideration, therefore, must be given as to whether sufficient grave causes exist for the relegation of Our Lady of the Holy Souls Church to profane but not sordid use.

The following grave causes suggest that Our Lady of the Holy Souls Church be so relegated and no longer be used for divine worship:

- 1) Our Lady of the Holy Souls Church is no longer needed by Our Lady of Hope Parish. On July 1, 1993, Our Lady of the Holy Souls Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania merged with Holy Child Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, forming the new Our Lady of Hope Parish. Holy Child Church was designated as the parish church, with Our Lady of the Holy Souls Church being an alternate church for worship. Our Lady of the Holy Souls Church has not been used as a regular church for worship since June 2013 due to the decrease in the number of parishioners and the financial problems associated with maintaining the church for worship. Our Lady of Hope Parish is currently experiencing financial straits – one source of income will soon be disappearing and the parish church and associated buildings require significant repairs. The parish is therefore unable to maintain a property that has not been used in the previous five years;
- 2) Our Lady of the Holy Souls Church is in relatively close proximity to Our Lady of Hope Church. There does not exist an undue burden for the faithful to come to Our Lady of Hope Church to worship;
- 3) The decision to seek relegation of Our Lady of the Holy Souls Church to profane but not sordid use was made known to the Our Lady of Hope Parish community-at-large and no major objections emerged;
- 4) Besides the church building of Our Lady of the Holy Souls Church, there is also a school building and a small parking lot on the former parish's property. Our Lady of Hope Parish may well wish to sell the entire property to help relieve the significant financial difficulties it is now experiencing;
- 5) While Our Lady of Hope Parish has striven to maintain Our Lady of the Holy Souls Church, this has caused significant financial strain. Furthermore, the parish's income is expected to drop by over

\$290,000 in fiscal year 2019-2020, when the Cristo Rey High School vacates the former Holy Child Parish School. At the conclusion of the 2017-2018 fiscal year, Our Lady of Hope Parish maintained a debt slightly over \$460,000. The buildings currently used by Our Lady of Hope Parish require significant long-term repairs; these cannot be carried out at the moment, as the money is required for immediately-needed repairs. Because of all these factors, Our Lady of Hope Parish feels that is not capable of covering the recommended repairs for Our Lady of the Holy Souls Church, which are estimated to be \$160,000;

- 6) The Our Lady of the Holy Souls Church building does not have any particular architectural, historical or artistic significance; and,
- 7) Having all of the parishioners continue to worship at Our Lady of Hope Parish Church will continue to 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 September 17, 2018, I hereby **DECREE** that Our Lady of the Holy Souls Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, be relegated to profane but not sordid use.

This Decree is effective as of January 7, 2019 and is to be communicated to the members of Our Lady of Hope Parish and to the faithful of the Archdiocese in an appropriate manner. Canonical recourse to this Decree is to be sought according to the norms of canon law. All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

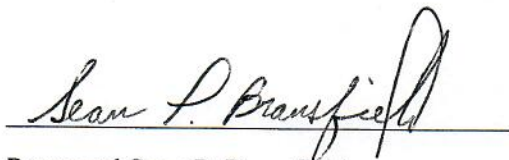
Given at the Curia of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, on the 29th day of November, 2018.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles J. Chaput", written over a horizontal line. There is a small cross symbol to the left of the signature.

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

Archbishop of Philadelphia

SEAL

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean P. Bransfield", written over a horizontal line.

Reverend Sean P. Bransfield

Vice-Chancellor