

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

DECREE

OF THE RELEGATION OF SAINT STANISLAUS KOSTKA CHURCH, COATESVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA TO PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE

Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church, Coatesville, Pennsylvania has been designated as a church for worship by Saint Joseph Parish in Coatesville, Pennsylvania since July 1, 2012. Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church is no longer needed by Saint Joseph Parish, and it is believed that the continued costs of maintaining and repairing Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church would significantly prevent and weaken the financial stability of Saint Joseph Parish. Consideration, therefore, must be given as to whether sufficient grave causes exist for the relegation of Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church to profane but not sordid use.

The following grave causes suggest that Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church be so relegated and no longer be used for divine worship:

- 1) Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church is no longer needed by Saint Joseph Parish. On July 1, 2012, Saint Stanislaus Kostka Parish, Coatesville, Pennsylvania merged with Saint Joseph Parish, Coatesville, Pennsylvania. The sacraments have not been celebrated in Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church since July 2, 2016. Since that time, the church has only been used once a month for a brief exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for the children attending the Religious Education Program taking place in the former school of Saint Stanislaus Kostka Parish. However, this program has moved to the Saint Joseph Parish school building as of May 2018, and as a result exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will no longer take place at Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church. Thus, the church, as well as the other buildings on the property, will no longer be used for any parish activities;
- 2) Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church is located in close proximity to Saint Joseph Church. There does not exist an undue burden for the faithful to come to Saint Joseph Church to worship;
- 3) The decision to seek relegation of Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church to profane but not sordid use was made known to the Saint Joseph Parish community-at-large and no major objections emerged;
- 4) Besides the church building of Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church, there are other real estate properties and physical assets located on the property that was formerly owned by Saint Stanislaus Kostka Parish, specifically a rectory and a school. Saint Joseph Parish may wish to sell the entire property on which Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church is located;
- 5) Saint Joseph Parish has striven to maintain Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church in good repair. However, the costs of maintaining the church and properties of the former Saint Stanislaus Kostka Parish have placed considerable financial strain upon Saint Joseph Parish. For the fiscal year 2016-2017, Saint Joseph Parish spent \$26,010.75 on maintenance for Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church

and the associated buildings. In February 2018, Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church and its former rectory required repairs to fix multiple water leaks. This work alone cost \$6,240.00, and additional work would also be needed to replace water and drain lines. As the aforementioned repairs were being carried out, it was discovered that the boiler in Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church was in such bad condition that a new boiler would have to be installed; the proposed cost for this work is \$30,000.00. Continuing deterioration from the non-use of these buildings is expected to place more financial strain on the parish. Furthermore, Saint Joseph Parish experienced a deficit of \$42,024.35 in the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Because of the financial burdens being experienced by Saint Joseph Parish as well as the fact that Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church is no longer needed by Saint Joseph Parish, it is believed that the possible eventual sale of the properties formerly owned by Saint Stanislaus Kostka Parish would be best for the current and future vitality of Saint Joseph Parish;

- 6) The Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church building does not have any particular architectural, historical or artistic significance; and,
- 7) Having all of the parishioners continue to worship at Saint Joseph 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 September 17, 2018, I hereby **DECREE** that Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church, Coatesville, 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 Saint Joseph 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.

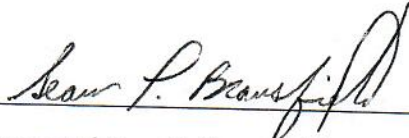
Given at the Curia of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, on the 29th day of November, 2018.



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

Archbishop of Philadelphia

SEAL



Reverend Sean P. Bransfield

Vice-Chancellor