



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

DECREE

OF THE RELEGATION OF

SAINT ROSE OF LIMA CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

TO PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE

Saint Rose of Lima Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania has been designated as a church for worship by Saint Barbara Parish in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania since July 1, 2013. Saint Rose of Lima Church is no longer needed by Saint Barbara Parish, and it is believed that the space would be better utilized for the instruction of students at the Saint Rose of Lima Independence Mission School, which currently occupies the rest of the building where the church is located. Consideration, therefore, must be given as to whether sufficient grave causes exist for the relegation of Saint Rose of Lima Church to profane but not sordid use.

The following grave causes suggest that Saint Rose of Lima Church be so relegated and no longer be used for divine worship:

- 1) Saint Rose of Lima Church is no longer needed by Saint Barbara Parish. On July 1, 2013, Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania merged with Saint Barbara Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Saint Rose of Lima Church has not been used as a regular church for worship since October 2013; the only services held in the space since then have been monthly Masses, confessions, and devotions for the members of the school occupying the rest of the building;
- 2) Saint Rose of Lima Church is located about one mile away from Saint Barbara Church. There does not exist an undue burden for the faithful to come to Saint Barbara Church to worship. In addition, liturgical services for members of the school can take place in a basement-level assembly room in the event that the church space is relegated;
- 3) The decision to seek the relegation of Saint Rose of Lima Church to profane but not sordid use was made known to the Saint Barbara Parish community-at-large and no major objections emerged;
- 4) The current space of Saint Rose of Lima Church was never intended to be the permanent parish church. It is a section of the building constructed to house the former parish school. It thus has no significant artistic value;
- 5) The Saint Rose of Lima Independence Mission School currently occupying the rest of the building is in need of significant improvements. It is believed that part of these improvements will be the conversion of the space currently occupied by Saint Rose of Lima Church to areas for instruction of the students. If these improvements are not made, it is feared that the Independence Mission Schools Network will cease operations at that location, putting the school in jeopardy and possibly leaving an unused building as a financial liability on Saint Barbara Parish, which as of May 3, 2019 had an archdiocesan debt of \$98,751.

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 June 6, 2019, I hereby **DECREE** that Saint Rose of Lima Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, be relegated to profane but not sordid use.

This Decree is effective as of September 3, 2019 and is to be communicated to the members of Saint Barbara 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 25th day of July, 2019.

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

Archbishop of Philadelphia

SEAL



Reverend Sean P. Bransfield

Vice-Chancellor