



ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

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OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

DECREE

OF THE RELEGATION OF

SAINT CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA CHURCH, EAST LANSDOWNE, PENNSYLVANIA

TO PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE

Saint Cyril of Alexandria Church in East Lansdowne, Pennsylvania has been designated as a church for worship by Saint Philomena Parish in Lansdowne, Pennsylvania since 2013. Saint Cyril of Alexandria Church is no longer needed by Saint Philomena Parish, and it is believed that the continued costs of maintaining and repairing Saint Cyril of Alexandria Church would significantly harm the financial stability of Saint Philomena Parish. Consideration, therefore, must be given as to whether sufficient grave causes exist for the relegation of Saint Cyril of Alexandria Church to profane but not sordid use.

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

- 1) Saint Cyril of Alexandria Church is no longer needed by Saint Philomena Parish. On July 1, 2013, Saint Cyril of Alexandria Parish, East Lansdowne, Pennsylvania merged into Saint Philomena Parish, Lansdowne, Pennsylvania. Saint Philomena Church was designated as the parish church, with Saint Cyril of Alexandria Church being an alternate church for worship. Saint Cyril of Alexandria Church has not been used as a regular alternate church for worship for Saint Philomena Parish since Christmas 2018. Since then, services at Saint Cyril of Alexandria Church have only been held for the children of Saint Cyril of Alexandria's Mission School located on the property (three times in the last year). There has been no issue with parish liturgies being held only in Saint Philomena Church.
- 2) Saint Cyril of Alexandria Church is relatively close to Saint Philomena Church, with just under a mile between the two buildings. There does not exist an undue burden for the faithful to come to Saint Philomena Church to worship.
- 3) The decision to seek relegation of Saint Cyril of Alexandria Church to profane but not sordid use was made known to the Saint Philomena Parish community-at-large and no major objections emerged.
- 4) While Saint Philomena Parish has striven to maintain Saint Cyril of Alexandria Church, it has caused significant financial strain. The merger of Saint Cyril of Alexandria Parish into Saint Philomena Parish brought significant debt to Saint Philomena Parish. Because of this

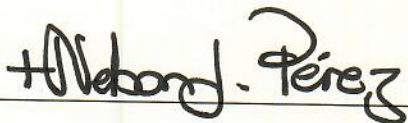
debt, the parish cannot afford to spend the approximately one million dollars needed to properly fix the slate roof of the church building. Thus, not only would the sale of the property relieve Saint Philomena Parish of financial strain in attempting to correct the roofing, but it would also significantly help remove the parish debt and stabilize its finances.

- 5) The Saint Cyril of Alexandria Church building does not have any particular architectural, historical or artistic significance.
- 6) Having all of the parishioners continue to worship at Saint Philomena Parish 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 October 15, 2020, I hereby **DECREE** that Saint Cyril of Alexandria Church, East Lansdowne, Pennsylvania, be relegated to profane but not sordid use.

This Decree is effective as of January 11, 2021 and is to be communicated to the members of Saint Philomena Parish and to the faithful of the Archdiocese in an appropriate manner. Recourse may be taken against this decree in accord with the norm of law. All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

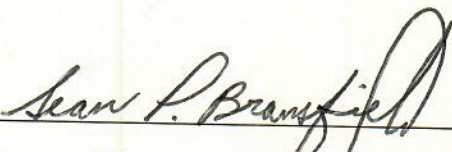
Given at the Curia of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, on the 2nd day of December, 2020.



Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez

Archbishop of Philadelphia

SEAL



Reverend Sean P. Bransfield

Vice-Chancellor