

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

# **DECREE**

## **OF THE RELEGATION OF**

### **SAINT MADELEINE SOPHIE CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA,**

### **TO PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE**

Saint Madeleine Sophie Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania has served as a worship site of Holy Cross Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania since July 2013. Saint Madeleine Sophie Church is no longer needed by Holy Cross Parish, and it is foreseen that maintaining Saint Madeleine Sophie Church would significantly impede the ministry of Holy Cross Parish while also hindering the continued integration of the entire Holy Cross Parish Community. Consideration, therefore, must be given as to whether sufficient grave causes exist for the relegation of Saint Madeleine Sophie Church to profane but not sordid use.

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

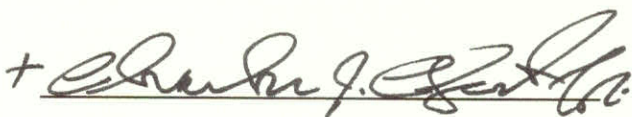
- 1) Saint Madeleine Sophie Church is no longer needed by Holy Cross Parish. On July 1, 2013, Saint Madeleine Sophie Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania merged with Holy Cross Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Since July 2013, Saint Madeleine Sophie Church and Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Church have served as worship sites of Holy Cross Parish. Saint Madeleine Sophie Church has a seating capacity of 300 people, but since July 2013, average attendance at weekly Sunday Mass at Saint Madeleine Sophie Church has steadily declined to approximately 30 percent of its seating capacity, and Holy Cross Church, which has a seating capacity of 500 people, currently hosts an approximate attendance of 30 percent of its seating capacity for weekly Sunday Mass. In addition, since July 2013, a very small number of funeral Masses (approximately 14) have been celebrated at Saint Madeleine Sophie Church, and an even smaller number of weddings (approximately 2) have been celebrated at Saint Madeleine Sophie Church. It is foreseen that Holy Cross Church will easily be able to accommodate the worship needs of Holy Cross Parish. Furthermore, Saint Madeleine Sophie Church is located in close proximity to Holy Cross Church. There does not exist an undue burden for the faithful to come to Holy Cross Church to worship;
- 2) The decision to seek relegation of Saint Madeleine Sophie Church to profane but not sordid use was made known to the parish community at-large and no major objections emerged;

- 3) It is foreseen that the financial costs of maintaining and keeping in good repair Saint Madeleine Sophie Church will significantly impact and impede the financial vitality of Holy Cross Parish. Saint Madeleine Sophie Church is physically attached to a presently unoccupied school building, and both buildings share the same mechanical systems. The financial cost incurred by Holy Cross Parish for maintaining Saint Madeleine Sophie Church during the 2014-2015 fiscal year was approximately \$60,000, and Holy Cross Parish experienced a financial deficit of approximately \$39,000 during the 2014-2015 fiscal year while carrying an approximate debt of \$1,600,000. In addition, it is reasonably foreseen that the heating and plumbing systems for Saint Madeleine Sophie Church and its attached unoccupied school building would need to be replaced in the next five years, which would cause a further significant strain on the financial condition of Holy Cross Parish. It is foreseen that a future sale of the property that contains Saint Madeleine Sophie Church as well as the presently unoccupied school building would positively impact the future financial vibrancy of Holy Cross Parish in a significant manner;
- 4) The Saint Madeleine Sophie Church building does not have any particular architectural, historical or artistic significance; and,
- 5) Having all of the parishioners worship at Holy Cross 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 October 17, 2016, I hereby **DECREE** that Saint Madeleine Sophie Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, be relegated to profane but not sordid use.

This decree is effective as of January 11, 2017 and is to be communicated to the members of Holy Cross Parish and to the faithful of the Archdiocese in an appropriate manner. All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

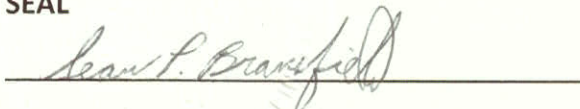
Given at the Curia of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of December, in the Year of Our Lord 2016.



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

Archbishop of Philadelphia

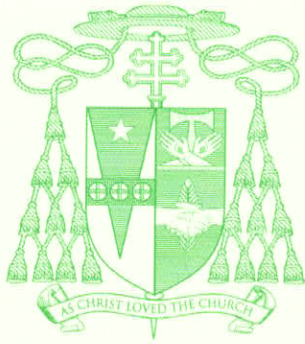
SEAL



Reverend Sean P. Bransfield

Vice-Chancellor





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# DECREE

## OF THE RELEGATION OF

### SAINT THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, TO PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE

Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania has served as a worship site of Holy Cross Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania since July 2013. Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Church is no longer needed by Holy Cross Parish, and it is foreseen that maintaining Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Church would significantly impede the ministry of Holy Cross Parish while also hindering the continued integration of the entire Holy Cross Parish Community. Consideration, therefore, must be given as to whether sufficient grave causes exist for the relegation of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Church to profane but not sordid use.

The following grave causes suggest that Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Church be so relegated and no longer be used for divine worship:

- 1) Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Church is no longer needed by Holy Cross Parish. On July 1, 2013, Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Saint Madeleine Sophie Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania merged with Holy Cross Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Since July 2013, Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Church and Saint Madeleine Sophie Church have served as worship sites of Holy Cross Parish. Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Church has a seating capacity of 300 people, but since July 2013, average attendance at weekly Sunday Mass at Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Church has steadily declined to approximately 17 percent of its seating capacity, and Holy Cross Church, which has a seating capacity of 500 people, currently hosts an approximate attendance of 30 percent of its seating capacity for weekly Sunday Mass. In addition, since July 2013, a very small number of funeral Masses (approximately 13) have been celebrated at Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Church, and no weddings have been celebrated at Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Church. It is foreseen that Holy Cross Church will easily be able to accommodate the worship needs of Holy Cross Parish. Furthermore, Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Church is located in close proximity to Holy Cross Church. There does not exist an undue burden for the faithful to come to Holy Cross Church to worship;
- 2) The decision to seek relegation of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Church to profane but not sordid use was made known to the parish community at-large and no major objections emerged;

- 3) It is foreseen that the financial costs of maintaining and keeping in good repair Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Church will significantly impact and impede the financial vitality of Holy Cross Parish. Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Church is physically attached to a presently unoccupied school building, and both buildings share the same mechanical systems. The financial cost incurred by Holy Cross Parish for maintaining Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Church during the 2015-2016 fiscal year approximated \$25,000, and Holy Cross Parish experienced a financial deficit of approximately \$39,000 during the 2014-2015 fiscal year while carrying an approximate debt of \$1,600,000. In addition, immediate repair and renovation needs for Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Church are estimated at approximately \$33,000, and additional required needs for the church parking lot within the next five years are projected to cost an additional \$40,000. It is foreseen that a future sale of the property that contains Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Church as well as the presently unoccupied school building and rectory would positively impact the future financial vibrancy of Holy Cross Parish in a significant manner;
- 4) The Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Church building does not have any particular architectural, historical or artistic significance; and,
- 5) Having all of the parishioners worship at Holy Cross 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 October 17, 2016, I hereby **DECREE** that Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, be relegated to profane but not sordid use.

This decree is effective as of January 11, 2017 and is to be communicated to the members of Holy Cross Parish and to the faithful of the Archdiocese in an appropriate manner. All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

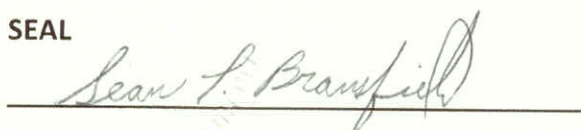
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