

DECREE RELEGATING A CHURCH BUILDING TO PROFANE USE

In nomine Domini. Amen.

Having received a thorough study regarding Holy Trinity Church in Boston MA, which was completed by the Rector of Holy Cross Cathedral Parish in Boston MA, the Very Reverend Kevin J. O'Leary, following consultation of the Parish Pastoral Council, Finance Council, and the members of the parish, including those who formerly participated in sacred worship at Holy Trinity Church;

Having heard the Very Reverend Kevin J. O'Leary, Rector of the Cathedral, the Most Reverend Robert F. Hennessy, Regional Bishop of the Central Region, and the Reverend Monsignor Robert P. Deeley, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia regarding the pastoral and spiritual good of the faithful and the mission of the Catholic Church in Boston and the surrounding areas;

Having considered the grave reasons proposed for the relegation of Holy Trinity Church to profane but not sordid use (cf. cc. 50; 1222 §2); ensured that the spiritual good of the faithful would be properly and sufficiently provided and that the good of souls would suffer no detriment; and determined that no one legitimately claims rights for themselves in the Church (cf. cc. 50; 1222 §2; 1267 §1; 1300);

Having carefully considered the report regarding the present condition of the church building, with a summary of the maintenance undertaken to keep the building in good condition since the 2008 suppression of Holy Trinity Parish, a personal parish originally established to serve the needs of German-speaking Catholics, and having reviewed the opinions of financial experts regarding the costs for preserving and maintaining the building for future use; heard the Director of Clergy Personnel regarding available ministerial personnel; and heard the Archdiocesan Finance Officer regarding assets and other sources of revenue that might be used for maintaining the Church;

Having presented all this information to the Archdiocesan Presbyteral Council on June 28, 2012, and heard the Council regarding the relegation of Holy Trinity Church to profane but not sordid use, in accord with the norm of law (cf. cann. 127 §1; 166; 1222 §2);

I hereby decree that Holy Trinity Church, Boston be relegated to profane use but not sordid use, in accord with can. 1222 §2 of the *Code of Canon Law*.

The grave reasons that motivate this decision were presented in full to the Presbyteral Council. Holy Cross Cathedral Parish is clearly unable to sustain Holy Trinity Church in good and useable condition and to provide the needed repairs to the building; the resources of the central administration of the Archdiocese of Boston are gravely insufficient for preserving and maintaining the Church; and other sources of revenue are not available to us. Further, in light of the grave need for priests, deacons, and lay ecclesial ministers to serve in the parishes of the Archdiocese, the necessary personnel cannot be prudently provided.

This decree is to be notified to the pastor and to the faithful of the parish. A petition for revocation or emendation of this decree is subject to the applicable canons (CIC, cc. 1732-1739).

Given at the Pastoral Center of the Archdiocese of Boston in Braintree MA on this 10th day of July 2012.
The Decree shall be effective at 12:01 A.M., 17th July 2012.


Chancellor
Archbishop of Boston

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