



DECREE

Demolition of the Relegated Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Saint Mary) Church in Ireland

Due to the deteriorating condition of the now-relegated Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, a lack of the necessary funding to repair and maintain the former church, and a substantial growth in the number of parishioners which led to the construction and dedication of a new parish church, consideration must be given as to whether sufficient grave cause exists for the demolition of the relegated Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church.

Whereas the pastor of Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, in whose territory the relegated Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church is situated, wrote to me out of concern for the fiscal stability of Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in order to request that the former Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church be demolished;

Whereas the following reasons indicate that the now-relegated Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, located at 2831 N 500 W, Ireland, Indiana, within the boundaries of Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, should be demolished:

Whereas the number of parishioners has increased, and seating at the former church was limited to three hundred eighty five while the recently constructed and dedicated church has a seating capacity of seven hundred with additional space available if necessary;

Whereas the older Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church edifice was relegated to profane but not sordid use by decree which became effective on 14 December 2020;

Whereas the relegated church building is no longer being used for divine worship;

Whereas Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish now has the care of the primary church in addition to the former church which creates significant financial expenditure for the parish for maintenance and repair of all buildings, giving rise to concern for the fiscal stability of the parish;

Whereas the structure of the former Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church has deteriorated to the extent that major repairs are necessary, including, but not limited to: observed cracked and loosely-held brick fragments as an overhead safety hazard to people and property, masonry damage, and other structural concerns which relate to liability issues;

Whereas the newly constructed Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church was dedicated on 28 June 2020 to serve as the primary parish church;

Whereas following the pastor's consultation with the parishioners of Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, including the parish pastoral council and the parish finance council, no interest was expressed in maintaining the former church, particularly because the recently dedicated Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church now serves the faithful as the primary parish church;

Whereas other reasonable sources of funding for the maintenance of the former Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church have been considered but found inadequate.

Having carefully considered the law and the facts; and

Having heard the pastor of Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish; and

Having consulted the members of the Council of Priests on 19 January 2021, and following discussion, no substantial objection to that proposal was offered; the Council of Priests voted unanimously in favor of the proposal; and

Having consulted the members of the College of Consultors on 19 January 2021, and following discussion, no substantial objection to that proposal was offered; the College of Consultors voted unanimously in favor of the proposal; and

Having consulted the members of the Diocesan Finance Council on 28 January 2021, and following discussion, no substantial objection to that proposal was offered; the Diocesan Finance Council voted unanimously in favor of the proposal; and

Having ascertained by means of the original deeds and other documents of the property as well as having heard from others that there are no major donors and/or their heirs who may have donated the former church and/or the land; and

Having ascertained that the altar, all sacred objects, and religious artifacts have been removed from the former church; and

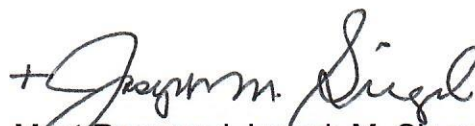
Having ensured that the good of souls will suffer no harm; the celebration of Mass and the sacraments are offered at the recently constructed and dedicated Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church which provides pastoral care for the parishioners; and

Having ensured that the demolition has been approved by civil authorities, and no special permits are needed.

Therefore, in accord with canons 1212 and 1222 §2 of the *Code of Canon Law*, and having judged that sufficient grave cause is indeed present, I hereby decree that the edifice formerly known as Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Ireland, relegated to profane but not sordid use, is to be demolished.

The provisions of this decree shall be effective on 22 February 2021, all things to the contrary notwithstanding. This decree is to be communicated to all interested persons. These provisions may be appealed according to the norm of law, canon 1734 §§1 and 2.

Given at Evansville, Indiana
5 February 2021



Most Reverend Joseph M. Siegel, DD, STL
Bishop of Evansville



Tim McGuire
Chancellor

