



DECREE

Relegation to Profane but Not Sordid Use Cathedral Health Care Center Oratory

Cathedral Health Care Center Oratory is located within the confines of a secular health care facility which has ownership of the property. I received a request to relegate the oratory to profane but not sordid use so that Cathedral Health Care Center may use that space for other necessary secular purposes.

Consideration must be given as to whether sufficient grave cause exists for the relegation of the Cathedral Health Care Center Oratory to profane but not sordid use.

Whereas the administrator of Cathedral Health Care Center wrote to me in order to request that Cathedral Health Care Center Oratory be relegated to profane but not sordid use since Cathedral Health Care Center is a non-Catholic entity which wants to use the space for secular purposes;

Whereas the following reasons indicate that the Cathedral Health Care Center Oratory, located at 520 West 9th Street, Jasper, Indiana, which is situated in within the boundaries of Saint Joseph Parish, is no longer able to be used for divine worship:

Whereas Cathedral Health Care Center has ownership of the property which was previously alienated by the Sons of Divine Providence;

Whereas Cathedral Health Care Center is a non-Catholic facility which holds responsibility for financial expenditure for the entire facility;

Whereas it is not appropriate for an oratory to be housed within the confines of a secular edifice;

Whereas during my consultation with the pastor of Saint Joseph Parish, concern was shared that continuing to maintain a Catholic oratory within the confines of a secular entity is not proper.

Having carefully considered the law and the facts; and

Having heard the pastor of Saint Joseph Parish; and

Having consulted the members of the Council of Priests on 16 January 2024 regarding the question of the possible relegation to profane but not sordid use of Cathedral Health Care Center Oratory, 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 16 January 2024 regarding the question of the possible relegation to profane but not sordid use of Cathedral Health Care Center Oratory, and following discussion, no substantial objection to that proposal was offered; the College of Consultors voted unanimously in favor of the proposal; and

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

Having ensured that the altar, all sacred objects, and religious artifacts shall be removed; and

Having ensured that the good of souls will suffer no harm; the celebration of Mass and the sacraments are offered at Cathedral Health Care Center for the residents, staff, and caregivers.

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 the relegation of Cathedral Health Care Center Oratory to profane but not sordid use. Therefore, it is no longer a sacred place and has lost its blessing, dedication, and consecration.

The care and upkeep of the former Cathedral Health Care Center Oratory, the property in which the former oratory sits and all other property remain the financial responsibility of Cathedral Health Care Center.

The provisions of this decree shall be effective on 19 February 2024, 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
2 February 2024



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



Dean Happe
Chancellor

