



DECREE

Relegation to Profane but Not Sordid Use Assumption of Mary Chapel

Due to the deteriorating condition of the Assumption of Mary Chapel and a lack of the necessary funding to repair and maintain the chapel, consideration must be given as to whether sufficient grave cause exists for the relegation of the Assumption of Mary Chapel to profane but not sordid use.

Whereas the pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Parish, in whose territory Assumption of Mary Chapel is situated, wrote to me out of concern for the fiscal stability of Saint John the Evangelist Parish in order to request that Assumption of Mary Chapel be relegated to profane but not sordid use;

Whereas the following reasons indicate that Assumption of Mary Chapel, located at 3525 North County Road 1200 East, Indiana, within the boundaries of Saint John the Evangelist Parish, is no longer able to be used for divine worship:

Whereas Saint John the Evangelist Parish now has the care of five church buildings which creates significant financial expenditure for the parish for maintenance and repairs of all edifices, giving rise to concern for the fiscal stability of the parish;

Whereas the structure of Assumption of Mary Chapel has deteriorated to the extent that major repairs are necessary, including, but not limited to: settling of the building, several vertical cracks noted in the basement foundation walls, bowing of exterior walls, brick façade separation from walls, building left vacant with minimal maintenance, overall poor condition of the building which was constructed as a temporary structure, and liability concerns; such expense imposes a considerable financial strain on Saint John the Evangelist Parish;

Whereas following the pastor's consultation with the parishioners of Saint John the Evangelist Parish, the parish pastoral council, and the parish finance council, no interest was expressed in maintaining use of the Assumption of Mary Chapel;

Whereas other reasonable sources of funding for the maintenance of Assumption of Mary Chapel have been considered but found inadequate.

Having carefully considered the law and the facts; and

Having heard the pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Parish; and

Having consulted the members of the Council of Priests on 10 August 2021 regarding the question of the possible relegation to profane but not sordid use of Assumption of Mary Chapel, 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 10 August 2021 regarding the question of the possible relegation to profane but not sordid use of Assumption of Mary Chapel, 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 19 August 2021 regarding the question of the possible relegation to profane but not sordid use of Assumption of Mary Church, 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 as well as having heard from others that there are no major donors and/or their heirs who may have donated the church edifice and/or the land; and

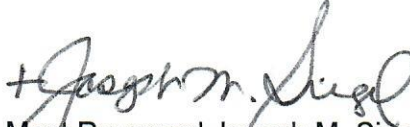
Having ensured that the good of souls will suffer no harm; the celebration of Mass and the sacraments are offered at Saint John the Evangelist Church.

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 Assumption of Mary Chapel to profane but not sordid use. Therefore, it is no longer a sacred place and has lost its blessing, dedication, and consecration; it may no longer be used for divine worship.

The care and upkeep of the former Assumption of Mary Chapel, the property on which the former church sits and any improvements such as the rectory, parish office, and all other property remain the financial responsibility of Saint John the Evangelist Parish.

The provisions of this decree shall be effective on 13 December 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
26 November 2021


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

