

DECREE

Relegation to Profane but Not Sordid Use Nativity of Our Lord Church

Due to the deteriorating condition of Nativity of Our Lord Church and a lack of the necessary funding to repair and maintain the church, consideration must be given as to whether sufficient grave cause exists for the relegation of Nativity of Our Lord Church to profane but not sordid use.

Whereas the pastor of Holy Rosary Parish, in whose territory Nativity of Our Lord Church is situated, wrote to me out of concern for the fiscal stability of Holy Rosary Parish in order to request that Nativity of Our Lord Church be relegated to profane but not sordid use;

Whereas the following reasons indicate that Nativity of Our Lord Church, located at 3635 Pollack Avenue, Evansville, Indiana, within the boundaries of Holy Rosary Parish, is no longer able to be used for divine worship:

Whereas Holy Rosary Parish has previously merged by means of extinctive union on 1 July 2016 and has the care of two church buildings, namely, Holy Rosary Church and Nativity of Our Lord Church, which places significant financial expense on the parish for maintenance and repairs of all edifices, giving rise to concern for the fiscal stability of the parish;

Whereas the structure of Nativity of Our Lord Church has deteriorated to the extent that major repairs are necessary, including, but not limited to: installation of a new heating and air conditioning system, replacement of the roof which already has a history of significant leaking, as well as patching and resealing the deteriorating parking lot; such expense imposes a considerable financial strain on Holy Rosary Parish;

Whereas Nativity of Our Lord Church was built as a gymnasium structure for temporary use and was never envisioned as the permanent church;

Whereas pastoral activity at Nativity of Our Lord Church over the course of the last two years has been limited to occasional use for three marriages, thirteen funerals, and no

weekday or weekend Masses; requests for occasional use are minimal, and other ongoing pastoral initiatives are lacking;

Whereas Nativity of Our Lord Elementary School closed in 1971, after having been open for only eight years which left the parish with significant debt, contributing to an additional lack of pastoral and catechetical activity;

Whereas human resources to contribute to the upkeep of Nativity of Our Lord Church have been found lacking;

Whereas following the pastor's consultation with the parishioners of Holy Rosary Parish, including the parish pastoral council and the parish finance council as well as former parishioners of the previously merged Nativity of Our Lord Parish, no interest was expressed in maintaining use of the church, particularly because the financial stability of Holy Rosary Parish is jeopardized:

Whereas other reasonable sources of funding for the maintenance of Nativity of Our Lord Church have been considered but found inadequate.

Having carefully considered the law and the facts; and

Having heard the pastor of Holy Rosary Parish; and

Having consulted the Dean of the South Deanery; and

Having consulted the members of the Council of Priests and College of Consultors on 29 May 2018 regarding the question of the possible relegation to profane but not sordid use of Nativity of Our Lord Church, and following discussion, no substantial objection to that proposal was offered; the Council of Priests and College of Consultors voted in favor of the proposal with one abstention; 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 Holy Rosary Parish.

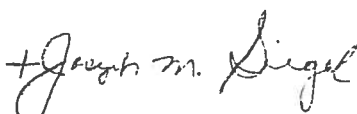
Therefore, in accord with canons 1212 and 1222 §2 of the *Code of Canon Law*, and having judged that sufficient grave cause is indeed present, I hereby decree the relegation of Nativity of Our Lord Church to profane but not sordid use. Therefore, it is no longer a sacred place and has lost its blessing, dedication, and consecration; it may no longer be used for divine worship.

The care and upkeep of the former Nativity of Our Lord Church, the property on which the former church sits and any improvements such as the rectory, parish office, and all other adjacent property remain the financial responsibility of Holy Rosary Parish.

Disbursements of any trust funds or foundations for the benefit of the former Nativity of Our Lord Church are hereby transferred to Holy Rosary Parish.

The provisions of this decree shall be effective on 30 July 2018, 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
13 July 2018



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



Tim McGuire
Chancellor