



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

D E C R E E

In Nomine Domini. Amen.

**DECREE OF DECONSECRATION AND REDUCTION TO PROFANE BUT NOT
SORDID USE OF SAINT MARGARET OF SCOTLAND IN WATERBURY,
CONNECTICUT**

WHEREAS, sacred places lose their dedication or blessing if they have been destroyed in large part or have been turned over permanently to profane use by decree of the competent ordinary or in fact (c.1212);

WHEREAS, if a church cannot be used in any way for divine worship and there is no possibility of repairing it, the diocesan bishop can relegate it to profane but not sordid use (1222 §1);

WHEREAS, if other grave causes suggest that a church can no longer be used for divine worship, the diocesan bishop, after having heard the Presbyteral council, can relegate it to profane but not sordid use, with the consent of those who legitimately claim rights for themselves in the church and provided that the good of souls suffers no detriment thereby (1222 §2);

Henceforth, the following grave causes suggest that Saint Margaret Church be relegated to profane but not sordid use:

1. Saint Margaret was erected in 1910, when it was taken from the territory of Waterbury's Immaculate Conception parish in the northwest of the city;
2. The Waterbury Deanery wherein Saint Margaret Parish is located includes nineteen (19) small-to-large-sized parishes serving a similar demographic;
3. The number of people belonging to Saint Margaret has significantly diminished, with on average 450 people attending three (3) Masses on a weekend;
4. There are roughly 150 families contributing to the parish on a regular basis;
5. The finances and pastoral material resources of Saint Margaret's Parish are limited, and the preservation of the church has imposed an intolerable financial burden on the parishioners;
6. The on-going pastoral planning process for the Archdiocese aims at the enhancement of collaborative ministry, the better utilization of parish facilities and resources within the Archdiocese.

7. Saint Margaret Parish was subsumed into Saint Anne Parish; the separate juridic (legal) personality of Saint Margaret Parish ceased to exist, on March 24, 2017.

Wherefore:

1. Having carefully considered the law and the facts; and
2. Having heard the Presbyteral Council on February 27, 2017; and
3. Having heard on February 17, 2017, the Administrator, Parish Council, Parish Finance Council and Trustees of Saint Margaret; and
4. Having ensured by means of the original deeds and other documents as well as having heard from others that there are no donors and/or their heirs whose consent is needed to place this juridic act, in accordance with the norm of canon 1222 §2; and
5. Having received on February 28, 2017, the consent of those whose rights might be injured or violated, especially the major donors and/or their heirs, in accordance with the norm of canon 1222 §2; and
6. Having ensured that its altars, sacred objects, and religious artifacts have been removed from the church; and
7. Having ensured that the good of souls will suffer no detriment thereby, that is, the spiritual and pastoral good of the former parishioners of Saint Margaret is now being provided by the Parish of St. Anne in Waterbury.

I, the undersigned Archbishop of Hartford, do pronounce, declare, and decree that the parish church of Saint Margaret, located at 289 Willow Street, Waterbury, Connecticut, is no longer a sacred place for divine worship. It has herewith lost its blessing, dedication, and consecration. It can no longer be used for divine worship. It is hereto relegated to profane but not sordid use (c. 1222 §2).

This decree is to be communicated to the Administrator of St. Margaret in Waterbury, who is the canonical representative of the parish, according to the norm of law (c. 532). It may be challenged within the pre-emptory time limit of ten days from the legitimate notification of the decree and in accordance with the norm of law (c. 1734 §2).

Given at the Chancery of the Archdiocese of Hartford, this 12th day of May, 2017.

+ Leonard P. Blair

Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford



Reverend Ryan M. Lerner
Chancellor