



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

DECREE

In nomine Domini, Amen.

DECREE OF DECONSECRATION AND RELEGATION TO PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE OF SAINT MARY CHURCH IN TORRINGTON, CONNECTICUT

Whereas, by my extinctive union decree of May 2, 2017, Saint Mary, Saint Peter and Sacred Heart Parishes were merged and subsumed into Saint Francis Parish, on June 29, 2017, creating the new juridic entity named Saint John Paul the Great Parish in Torrington, with four sacred edifices: the Churches of Saint Mary, Saint Peter, Sacred Heart, and Saint Francis;

Whereas, on June 8, 2018, the Pastor and Trustees of the aforementioned parish requested by letter that Saint Mary Church be relegated to profane but not sordid use and that the building be sold to an appropriate buyer for some other appropriate use;

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 other grave causes suggest that a church 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 Mary Church be relegated to profane but not sordid use:

1. All other reasonable sources of funding or assistance have been considered and found lacking or inadequate to maintain the church building and/or facilities;
2. The strategic pastoral planning for the Archdiocese was to reduce the number of churches so that local churches are characterized by spiritual vitality, organizational efficacy and accountability, and social and financial responsibility;
3. The number of parishioners has decreased;
4. The unity of the parish will be promoted.

Wherefore:

1. Having carefully considered the law and the facts;
2. Having heard the Presbyteral Council on June 18, 2018;
3. Having received a formal written request on June 13, 2018, from the Pastor and the Trustees with the support of the Parish Council, Finance Council, and the parishioners of Saint John Paul the Great Parish;
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 perform this juridic act, in accordance with the norm of canon 1222 §2;
5. Having ensured that its altars, sacred objects, and religious artifacts will be removed from the church in accordance with canonical norms; and
7. Having ensured that the good of souls will suffer no detriment thereby, for the spiritual and pastoral good of the former parishioners of Saint Mary Parish is now provided by the new parish of Saint John Paul the Great Parish in Torrington.

WHEREFORE,

I, the undersigned Archbishop of Hartford, do pronounce, declare, and **DECREE** that the former parish church of Saint Mary, located at 85 Pulaski Street, Torrington, Connecticut, be relegated to profane but not sordid use (c.1222 §2), effective August 6, 2018. It shall no longer be a sacred place for divine worship, and herewith will lose its blessing, dedication, and consecration. It will no longer be used for divine worship.

This decree is to be published to the pastor of Saint John Paul the Great Parish. The substance of the decree is to be communicated to parishioners at the aforementioned parish, including by way of display in appropriate places so that parishioners can read it as they enter or exit the churches. It will also be available online on the *Catholic Transcript* and the stewardsfortomorrow.org websites.

Canonical recourse may be made within the peremptory time limit of ten (10) business days from the legitimate notification of the decree and in accordance with the norm of law (*CIC* canon 1734 §2).

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut, on the 12th day of July in the Year of Our Lord 2018.



Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford



Reverend Ryan M. Lerner
Chancellor