



DECREE

Loss of Blessing and Relegation to Profane Use of Sacred Heart Church, Concord, New Hampshire

Whereas, Sacred Heart Parish, Concord, New Hampshire, having been merged with St. John the Evangelist Parish, Concord, New Hampshire and St. Peter Parish, Concord, New Hampshire, to form Christ the King Parish, Concord, New Hampshire, by decree dated June 20, 2011 and effective June 26, 2011, in accord with the 1983 *Code of Canon Law*, canons 50 and 51 relative to the execution of administrative acts, canon 1212 relative to the loss of dedication or blessing of sacred places, and canon 1222, §2 relative to grave causes for the relegation of a church to profane but not sordid use, I have secured the consent of the Pastor of Christ the King Parish and of those who legitimately claim rights for themselves in the Church, and I am morally certain that the good of souls in the City of Concord will suffer no detriment. Having consulted with the Presbyteral Council on June 9, 2016 in accordance with the norms of law, due to the following grave causes, Sacred Heart Church is relegated to profane but not sordid use:

1. The present state of the physical plant of Sacred Heart Church imposes an inordinate financial burden upon Christ the King Parish, and repairs to and maintenance of the church cannot be reasonably undertaken without causing exceptional harm to the stability of Christ the King Parish, Concord, New Hampshire (Cf. canon 1222 §1.)
2. The documented and well established shortage of clergy in the Diocese of Manchester, without a foreseeable amelioration, requires a prudent distribution of priests throughout the diocese and an adjustment of their expected ministries in the care of the souls entrusted to them. To fulfill and observe this supreme law, the needs of the faithful of Christ the King Parish will be better guaranteed and nurtured by reducing its accumulated worship places. Relying on the recorded and documented history of the life of the local Church community, it

is most propitious to sustain the liturgical life of the Parish using the worship space of Saint John the Evangelist, Concord.

Therefore, I hereby:

1. Decree that the Sacred Heart Church, Concord, New Hampshire is no longer a sacred place and by this Decree, has lost its blessing (Cf. canon 1212);
2. Decree that the Sacred Heart Church, Concord, New Hampshire may no longer be utilized in any way for divine worship (Cf. canon 1214);
3. Instruct that all sacred objects within Sacred Heart Church be removed by Christ the King Parish with particular attention given to the Altars (Cf. canon 1238);
4. Relegate permanently to profane, but not sordid, use Sacred Heart Church, Concord, New Hampshire (Cf. canon 1222 §1.)

This Decree takes effect at midnight on Thursday, June 30, 2016. I direct that this Decree be given to the Pastor of Christ the King Parish in Concord, New Hampshire, to be placed in the records of the Parish.

Given at Manchester, New Hampshire, on this the 9th day of June, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Sixteen.



Most Reverend Peter A. Libasci
Bishop of Manchester



Diane Murphy Quinlan, Chancellor

THE MANNER OF INITIATING RECOURSE AGAINST AN ADMINISTRATIVE DECREE

Book VII, Part V, Section I of the 1983 *Code of Canon Law* provides for recourse against administrative decrees. The first desire expressed by the Code itself is that there be no contention between one who feels injured by and the author of the decree (Cf. canon 1732). Nonetheless, should it seem necessary to propose recourse against a decree issued by the bishop or by authorities subject to him, the following guidelines may be of assistance.

1. The Pastor alone represents the Parish in all juridic affairs (Cf. canon 532). Only the Pastor may propose recourse in the name of the Parish. Individuals may not claim to represent the Parish, nor can groups of individuals claim to represent the Parish in proposing recourse. An individual may propose recourse in his or her own name. Similarly, a group of individuals may propose recourse collectively, but representing themselves and no others. They may not claim to represent a larger group, or the entire Parish.
2. According to canon 1734, before proposing hierarchic recourse (petition for examination of a decree by the proper Dicastery of the Holy See), one must seek revocation or emendation of the decree. This must be done in writing, to the author of the decree, within a peremptory period of ten working days from legal notice of the decree. Accordingly, prior to the close of business on the tenth working day after legal notice of the decree, a written request for Bishop Libasci to revoke or emend the decree must be sent or delivered to:

Most Reverend Peter A. Libasci, D.D.
Diocese of Manchester
153 Ash Street
PO Box 310
Manchester, NH 03105-0310

- a. The request must state exactly what is being petitioned, and the specific reasons why.
 - b. Requests for an extension of time require accompanying factual and documented evidence supporting this request. The request bears no guaranty.
 - c. Requests must be received via postal service and bear evidence of date.
3. If a valid request for revocation or emendation of the decree is received within the ten-day time limit, Bishop Libasci has thirty days from receipt of the petition to decide his response. If no response is given in thirty days, a negative response is to be assumed (Cf. canon 1735.)
 4. If, after legitimate petition, Bishop Libasci does not emend or revoke the initial decree, hierarchic recourse may be proposed to the Holy See. This must be done within a peremptory time limit of fifteen working days. This recourse cannot validly be proposed unless one has first written to Bishop Libasci to ask him to revoke or emend the decree, as in Number 2 above. This recourse is to be made in writing, along with the reasons for seeking recourse, to the proper Dicastery of the Holy See.