



Diocese of Springfield

DECREE AND ORDER

Decree of Relegation of the church building dedicated to the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Chicopee, from Sacred to Profane but Not Sordid Use

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary church in Chicopee has been the place of worship for the Holy Name of Jesus Parish since February 2011 when it came to light that the church building in Chicopee dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus was structurally unstable, dangerous and needed to be closed forthwith.

Inasmuch as all reasonable professional studies have been performed in order to assess the condition of the physical condition of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Chicopee,

Inasmuch as the Reverend Pastor, Administrator, the Finance Council and the people of the Holy Name of Jesus Parish have been consulted and realize the severe deterioration of the church building, its need for repair for at least reasons of safety,

Inasmuch as the Holy Name of Jesus Parish using the church is suppressed and there is no longer need for its use as a house of worship,

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the physical property of the church building is in need of repairs that require extraordinary funding,

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the remaining members of the suppressed parish do not possess and cannot raise the funds necessary for repair of the physical property,

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the receiving parish of Ste. Rose-de-Lima, Chicopee, does not possess and cannot raise the funds necessary for repair of the physical property,

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the Diocese of Springfield does not possess and cannot raise the funds necessary for repair of the physical property,

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the good of souls will not suffer harm due to the suppression of the Parish using the building as a House of Worship,

WHEREAS, the Presbyteral Council, convening on Tuesday, 07 March 2023, was consulted on the proposed canonical action herein and, after hearing and discussion, offered no objection,

Therefore, I, the Most Reverend William Draper Byrne, Bishop of Springfield, hereby define, declare and decree:

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary church, in the City of Chicopee, relegated from sacred to profane, but not sordid, use, including the possibility of sale or demolition.

ORDER

I ORDER that the church building be unhallowed forthwith under the direction of the Chancellor of the Diocese of Springfield.

I ORDER that the Parish of Ste. Rose-de-Lima, Chicopee, assume the temporal goods of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary church.

I ORDER that the Parish of Ste. Rose-de-Lima, Chicopee, assume temporal obligation and responsibility for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary church.

I ORDER that the foregoing be effective the first day of July 2023.

Given in Springfield, in the Chancery, this 3rd day of May, in the Year of Our Lord, 2023.



Most Reverend William D. Byrne
Bishop of Springfield



Very Reverend John G. Lessard
Chancellor