

DECREE

St. Joseph Parish of Jasper, Minnesota was founded in 1905, serving the faithful of the area for 112 years. In 2011 the Diocese of Winona, with the assistance of professional consultants, embarked upon Vision 2016: a comprehensive visioning and planning process aimed at providing opportunities to enhance the pastoral care of the faithful, address shortages in clergy and evaluate current parish structures in light of changing demographic trends. The extensive collaboration of clergy and lay leaders throughout the Diocese of Winona concluded with the recommendation of an eventual merger (*unio extinctiva*) of St. Joseph Parish with St. Leo Parish of Pipestone, Minnesota.

In a Vision 2016 proposal submitted on March 15, 2016, and in prior meetings that were part of the Vision 2016 process, the parishioners of St. Joseph expressed their desire that the church building be relegated to profane but not sordid use. The basis for the recommendation is that there has been a significant decline in the number of sacraments taking place in the parish of St. Joseph and the ongoing cost of maintaining the St. Joseph church building. After consultation with the parish community and after much deliberation, the St. Joseph Finance Council recommended that the St. Joseph church building be sold. Parishioners were informed of this recommendation and were in agreement with the decision.

The following grave causes suggest that the church building be relegated to profane but not sordid use:


1. That the necessary human and fiscal resources to adequately maintain the structure are no longer available. Hence, maintaining the building as a place of worship would place an excessive burden upon St. Joseph Parish.
2. The close proximity of St. Leo Parish in Pipestone, Minnesota, will provide parishioners availability to the Church's liturgical and sacramental life and a facility for parish celebrations.
3. Having made public the possibility of the sale of the church building, no member has expressed a legitimate interest in maintaining the church building.
4. Funds raised from the sale of the church property will provide support for other dimensions of the Church's pastoral ministry and mission.

Accordingly, in virtue of the prescription of canon 1222, §2 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law, having consulted the Presbyteral Council on December 13, 2016, having judged that sufficient grave causes are present, having determined that the good of souls will suffer no detriment and that the intentions of donors and any other acquired rights have been examined and given due consideration, I hereby decree that

**ST. JOSEPH CHURCH OF JASPER, MINNESOTA BE RELEGATED TO
PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE.**

This decree becomes effective March 15, 2017. A copy of this decree is to be sent to the pastor of St. Joseph Parish and its contents are to be communicated at all Masses of obligation on the weekend of Saturday, January 21, 2017, and Sunday, January 22, 2017. Furthermore, this decree is to be published on the diocesan website. Any legitimate party, considering himself aggrieved by this decree, retains the right to request emendation or revocation within ten (10) useful days (c. 1734, §§1, 2).

Given in the Diocese of Winona on this nineteenth day of January in the year of Our Lord 2017.


The Most Reverend John M. Quinn
Bishop of Winona


The Very Reverend Glenn K. Frerichs
Chancellor

SEAL