

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Archbishop



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DECREE

IN THE NAME OF GOD. AMEN.

Following consultation with the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Chicago, my decrees of May 23, 2016, suppressed the separate juridic persons of St. Ann Parish, 1840 South Leavitt Street, and St. Adalbert Parish, 1650 West 17th Street, both in the Pilsen neighborhood of the City of Chicago, and, by extinctive union, joined their missions, assets, and liabilities with the nearby St. Paul Parish, located at 2127 West 22nd Place, Chicago, Illinois.

In acquiring the assets of the former St. Adalbert Parish, St. Paul Parish will have real property neither needed nor capable of being supported and maintained. This is especially true of St. Adalbert Church, a 1,800 seat grand Italian renaissance revival church designed by architect Henry J. Schlacks and completed in 1914. Furthermore, there are now no funds available from the Archdiocese of Chicago or other known source to repair and maintain St. Adalbert Church for divine worship or as a center for any apostolic or charitable purpose of the Church.

Before extinctive union with St. Adalbert Parish, St. Paul Parish has had its own premises, including the newly renovated parish church, a gothic marvel also designed by the young architect, Henry J. Schlacks, and dedicated in 1899. Renovation of St. Paul Church left a substantial debt of more than \$10,000,000.00, a debt the parish has been unable to pay and that has been covered by the Archdiocese of Chicago.

St. Paul Church is capable of seating more than 600 worshippers. Together with the newly acquired church of the former St. Ann Parish, seating at least 700 persons, St. Paul Parish will have more room than needed to accommodate a projected 1500 to 1800 worshippers on Sundays. With added membership, the expanded St. Paul Parish will still struggle to support and adequately maintain its original structures, particularly the existing church of St. Paul and the secondary church of St. Ann. It would be uncharitable and unrealistic to ask that the newly expanded parish support and maintain a church and other structures it cannot use and has no use for.

For decades, parishioners and other supporters of the former St. Adalbert Parish have been unable to provide the financial resources necessary for its ordinary maintenance and operating expenses. Consequently, St. Adalbert Church is in a very perilous state of repair. In 2014 the two towers, built into the structure and buttressing the front and side walls of the church, needed to be braced with exterior support scaffolding. To date, the scaffolding has been necessary to abate a dangerous structure, and it has cost the Archdiocese of Chicago \$628,000.00, a sum that cannot be recouped. Every month the scaffolding costs the archdiocese an additional \$19,000.00. It may only be removed if needed repairs are undertaken. These repairs are estimated to cost approximately \$3,000,000.00, money that cannot be raised by the parish, the Archdiocese of Chicago, or other sources. It is not known how much additional funding would be needed to repair and restore the remaining features of the church and then maintain them in good order.

Reduction of St. Adalbert Church to profane but not sordid use, according to canon 1222 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, enhances the possibility that the real property assets of St. Adalbert Parish could become a source of income for the newly expanded St. Paul Parish and its parishioners.

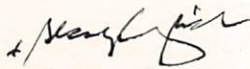
The Reverend Michael P. Enright, pastor of St. Adalbert Parish until the effective date of its suppression and of St. Paul Parish, representative of the juridic persons of both communities, understands the need for the reduction of St. Adalbert Church to profane, but not sordid use and has given his *nihil obstat* to it.

THEREFORE, know that I, the Most Reverend Blase J. Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago, according to the norm of canon 1222 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, having convened the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Chicago, and having heard the said Council concerning the reduction of St. Adalbert Church to profane but not sordid use at the meeting of May 10, 2016, and having satisfied myself that the good of souls will suffer no detriment, now

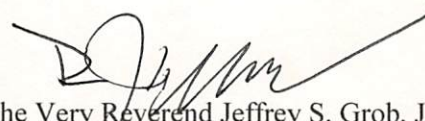
decree the following:

1. St. Adalbert Church, located at 1650 West 17th Street, City of Chicago, State of Illinois, be reduced to profane but not sordid use;
2. Officials of the archdiocesan curia, in cooperation with the Pastor of St. Paul Parish, make certain the assets of the former St. Adalbert Parish, be secure for the benefit of St. Paul Parish;
3. If possible, the real property assets of the former parish of St. Adalbert are to provide the expanded St. Paul Parish with proceeds either from the alienation of the assets or income from their use; and
4. The report given to the Presbyteral Council on this matter, together with the minutes of the aforementioned Council meeting of May 10, 2016, are to be attached to this decree.

Given this 24th day of May, *A.D.* 2016,
and effective the 1st day of July, *A.D.* 2016.
From the Archbishop Quigley Center,
Chicago, Illinois



The Most Reverend Blase J. Cupich,
Archbishop of Chicago



The Very Reverend Jeffrey S. Grob, J.C.D.,
Chancellor

Attachments

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office for Canonical Services



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

CERTIFICATE AUTHENTICATING RECORDS AND MINUTES OF THE PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Report to the Presbyteral Council on the Reduction to Profane but Not Sordid
Use of the Church of the Former St. Adalbert Parish, Chicago,
and Minutes of the Council Meeting of May 10, 2016

By means of my signature, I certify that the report and minutes as entitled above are authentic acts of the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Given at Chicago, Illinois
May 23rd, 2016

Msgr. Richard T. Saudis

Rev. Msgr. Richard T. Saudis
Ecclesiastical Notary



**ONCE AVAILABLE THE RECORDS AND MINUTES PERTAINING TO
THE PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL MEETINGS
OF MARCH 8, 2016, AND MAY 10, 2016,
WILL BE APPENDED TO THE ORIGINAL COPY OF THIS DECREE
AND MAY BE REQUESTED FROM
THE OFFICE FOR CANONICAL SERVICES OR
THE CHANCELLOR**