



Office of the Archbishop
835 North Rush Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611
312.534.8230
archchicago.org

Prot. N. 2018 *RPU-1*

DECREE

IN THE NAME OF GOD. AMEN.

By my decree of May 23, 2016, and effective July 1, 2016, St. Ann Parish in the Pilsen neighborhood of the City of Chicago was extinguished as a separate juridic person and united to St. Paul Parish, also in Pilsen. Since then, the parish church of St. Ann has remained open as a second place of worship for St. Paul Parish. The parish also has a third place of worship at the nearby church of the former St. Adalbert Parish, also united to St. Paul Parish from July 1, 2016. The original missions of St. Ann Parish to Polish speaking Catholics, and of St. Paul Parish to German speaking Catholics, have long ceased. Pilsen has become home to a predominantly Spanish speaking community. More recently, the ethnic makeup of Pilsen became somewhat diversified as Non-Hispanic Whites, African Americans, people of Asian ancestry, and others of mixed-race settled in the neighborhood. For the most part, these groups are English speaking.

Meanwhile, the overall population of Pilsen has declined by approximately 9,500 people since 2000, more than 22% of the total. Reflecting this decline, the Catholic population has dropped substantially, as reflected in a more than 29% reduction in Sunday Mass attendance between 2006 and 2016. Since then the average Sunday Mass attendance at St. Ann Church of St. Paul Parish has dropped to 175, a 42% decrease from 416 in 2016. Over the past two years there have been four funerals at St. Ann Church, no marriages, and no Baptisms.

Immediate capital expenditures needed to properly repair and maintain the edifice of St. Ann Church amount to \$279,000.00 (\$105,000.00 for a new roof; \$75,000.00 to demolish the boiler room; \$70,000.00 for new rooftop heaters; and \$29,000.00 for other priority one repairs). Needed capital expenses over the next five to seven years would amount to a further \$765,000.00. Meanwhile, St. Paul Parish received \$157,518.73 in income from those attending Mass at St. Ann Church between July 1, 2016, and now. During the same period the expenses for St. Ann Church were \$176,528.35, an additional annual loss of \$19,009.62 to St. Paul Parish, which is struggling to support the financial viability of a parish now composed of three churches on three campuses and a parochial school.

Since 2016, a single parish priest, the Reverend Michael P. Enright, has been solely responsible for the viability of Catholic life at three churches in the Pilsen neighborhood (St. Paul, St. Ann, and St. Adalbert), including Catholic worship at each church. Apart from the nearly \$20,000.00 monthly expense for scaffolding maintaining the integrity of the edifice of St. Adalbert Church, and a small grant to the parochial school, the parish receives no subsidy or other support from the Archdiocese of Chicago. Without the expenses associated with St. Ann Church, both immediate and over the next decade, St. Paul Parish would be better able to support itself and accommodate worshippers attending three churches at St. Paul Church alone.

St. Paul Church, seating more than 600 worshippers, is a gothic marvel with stunning interiors, designed by the young architect Henry J. Schlacks, dedicated in 1899, and recently renovated at the cost of \$10,000,000.00 with loans from the Archdiocese of Chicago (see Photos 1 and 2, attached). By contrast, the church of St. Ann is an interior chapel space of a once multi-story structure that served primarily as a school. The three upper floors were removed years ago, and the building has not been used for school purposes for a long time (see Photo 3, attached). St. Ann Church is only five blocks from St. Paul Church, it has no intrinsic architectural or artistic value, only repair and maintenance costs well beyond the ability of the parish or the archdiocese to afford. The value of the real property upon which the church stands may be considerable, possibly providing a substantial and useful sum to the parish if sold.

In anticipation of a future permanent closing of St. Ann Church, the Pastor, together with the parish pastoral and finance councils, asked that the church be relegated to profane but not sordid use (see C/C c. 1222 §2; Letter of May 21, 2018, attached). In recognition of the merits of their request, the parishioners who worshipped at St. Ann Church held a procession to St. Paul Church on July 1, 2018, where they were warmly welcomed.

THEREFORE, know that I, Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago, according to the norm of canon 1222 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, convened a special meeting of the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Chicago at the Archbishop Quigley Center on July 19, 2018. At the meeting, a proposal was presented to relegate to profane but not sordid use St. Ann Church of St. Paul Parish in Pilsen. Having heard the Council at the same meeting, who by a vote of 27 to none favored the proposal, and having satisfied myself that the good of souls will suffer no detriment, I, having first invoked the Holy Spirit,

decree the following:

1. That St. Ann Church of St. Paul Parish, located at 1840 South Leavitt Street, in the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, is relegated to profane but not sordid use;
2. That officials of the archdiocesan curia, in cooperation with the Pastor of St. Paul Parish in Pilsen, according the norm of law, make certain that St. Ann Church is secured for the benefit of the said St. Paul Parish;
3. That relegation of the church to profane but not sordid use be done in such manner that the real property assets of the church provide St. Paul Parish with either proceeds from the alienation of the assets or income from their use under lease;
4. That any reports given to the Presbyteral Council or presented to officials of the Archdiocese of Chicago on this matter, together with the minutes of the Council meeting of July 19, 2018, be attached to this decree; and
5. That notification of this decree be made immediately to the Pastor of St. Paul Parish, Pilsen, and to parishioners of the same parish through publication on the official website of the Archdiocese of Chicago and in the parish bulletin.

Prot. N. 2018 RPU-1
Decree
July 23, 2018
Page 3

Before hierarchical recourse may be taken against this decree, a petition to reconsider or amend the decree must be delivered to me within ten (10) useful days from notification of the decree (CIC cc. 1734, 1735, 1737).

Given this 23rd day of July, A.D. 2018.
From the Archbishop Quigley Center,
Chicago, Illinois


Archbishop of Chicago




Reverend Mr. Daniel G. Welter, J.D.
Chancellor

Attachments

10/10/1914
10/10/1914
10/10/1914
10/10/1914

10/10/1914
10/10/1914
10/10/1914
10/10/1914

10/10/1914
10/10/1914
10/10/1914
10/10/1914



10/10/1914
10/10/1914
10/10/1914
10/10/1914

10/10/1914
10/10/1914
10/10/1914
10/10/1914

10/10/1914
10/10/1914
10/10/1914
10/10/1914

THE DATA SUBMITTED TO THE PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL OF
THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO AND THE MINUTES OF
THE RELEVANT MEETING OR MEETINGS OF THE PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL
ATTACHED TO THIS DECREE ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST TO THE OFFICE
OF THE CHANCELLOR OR THE OFFICE FOR CANONICAL AFFAIRS