

DAVID ALLEN ZUBIK



By the Grace of God and the Authority of the Apostolic See  
BISHOP OF PITTSBURGH

DECREE

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CLOSING FOR WORSHIP OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH BUILDING,  
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA  
AND THE REDUCTION OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH  
BUILDING OF SAINT MARIA GORETTI PARISH  
TO PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE.

Whereas, Immaculate Conception church located at 300 Edmond Street, Pittsburgh PA 15224, church of the former Immaculate Conception/Saint Joseph Parish, became part of the patrimony of the newly formed Saint Maria Goretti Parish with a decree issued on March 22, 2012 and effective on June 4, 2012, in accord with the norm of canon 122 §2.

Whereas, Saint Maria Goretti Parish was formed by the extinctive union of the former Immaculate Conception/Saint Joseph Parish and the former Saint Lawrence O'Toole Parish.

Whereas, the age and physical condition and maintenance of parish owned buildings, including church buildings, is beyond the ability of the parish to afford.

Whereas, the Immaculate Conception church building is in poor physical condition: among other things, major repairs are needed for the leaking roof of the building and the resulting water damage to the interior; repairs are required for the heating and air conditioning systems; abatement and removal of hazardous materials; all of which are projected to cost more than \$1.4 Million. Additionally, required maintenance of other buildings owned by the parish are projected to cost more than \$1.6 Million, which together amounts to more than \$3 Million, far exceeding the parish's ability to afford.

Whereas, due to diminished weekly Mass attendance and offertory collection, Saint Maria Goretti Parish has been operating by deficit spending, which needs to be curtailed in order to provide for the continued life of the parish.

Whereas, there is no other source of funding for the costs described above.

Whereas, Immaculate Conception church building is attached to and integrated within an unused school building which adds greatly to the cost of maintenance and upkeep and, therefore, to the cost of sustainability to the parish.

Whereas, the Immaculate Conception church building is not needed by Saint Maria Goretti Parish.

Whereas, parishioner input regarding the possible closure of the church buildings was sought on multiple occasions over several years, and a final parish assembly was held on February 2, 2022.

Whereas, on February 11, 2022, the Pastor of Saint Maria Goretti Parish, having consulted his parish Pastoral and Finance Councils, submitted a petition recommending the relegation to profane but not sordid use of Immaculate Conception church building in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Whereas, the care of souls will not be impacted as the members of Saint Maria Goretti Parish worship at the nearby Saint Joseph church building owned by the same parish and located less than 600 feet away from Immaculate Conception church building.

Whereas, the rationale for the closing Immaculate Conception church building for divine worship include the following: (1) the financial situation of the parish, including the parish's inability to continue maintaining two church buildings; (2) the need to reduce costs for the financial viability of the parish; (3) the required maintenance that this church building and other buildings owned by the parish currently need, the cost of which is beyond the ability of the parish to afford; (4) there is no other viable source of income to meet the costs; (5) the care of souls will not be greatly impacted because of the availability of another church building owned by the parish.

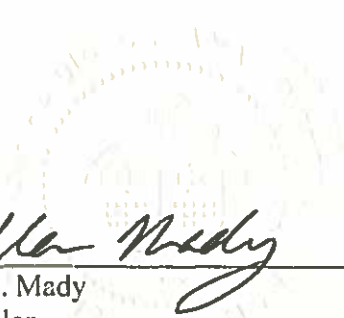
Therefore, having heard the Presbyteral Council on February 17, 2022 and the Vicars General on the same day and having received a unanimous favorable recommendation from both and in accord with the provisions of canon 1222 §2 of the *Code of Canon Law*, I hereby close for worship Immaculate Conception church building located at 300 Edmond Street, Pittsburgh PA 15224 and furthermore relegate to profane but not sordid use the same church building in accord with the norms of law.

In accordance with our diocesan norms, I also decree that the stained glass windows, sacred items, non-sacred artifacts and any work of some significance be removed to the extent possible for reuse in other sacred edifices in the parish or be transmitted to the Diocesan Archives for use by other ecclesiastical entities. This decree is effective at 12:01AM on May 2, 2022.

Finally, those who have the right, may appeal this decree in accordance with the prescriptions of the law.

Given at Pittsburgh this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March, in the Year of Our Lord 2022.

  
Most Reverend David A. Zubik  
Bishop of Pittsburgh

  
  
Ellen M. Mady  
Chancellor