



Prot. N. 2020 *RPU-4*

DECREE

IN THE NAME OF GOD. AMEN.

Over the past several decades, many things have changed in this particular church. Changing demographics have affected the size and wealth of the Archdiocese of Chicago and the vitality of her parishes. This is particularly true in the City of Chicago itself, where the total population has decreased by 20% since 1970, from 3,366,957 to an estimated 2,736,000.

Many of our parishes have received generous financial subsidies from the people of the archdiocese. Between fiscal year 2012 and fiscal year 2019 these subsidies amounted to \$160,014,332.00, including \$40,039,909.00 to 115 parishes, and \$119,974,423.00 to 93 Catholic schools. Last year alone, the archdiocese provided \$4,448,745.00 to parishes and \$13,511,371.00 to Catholic schools. Little of this money is expected to be recovered, and the generous population of the Archdiocese of Chicago cannot continue this level of financial support while the overall population decreases and the number of Catholic faithful regularly attending Mass declines. Our hope is that our parishes will be more vital, that is, active centers of Christian discipleship, evangelical mission, scholarship, and charitable outreach. To achieve this hope, the parishes must be able to support their churches and ministries when possible.

Following consultation with the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Chicago, my decree of April 26, 2019, brought about the extinction of the separate juridic persons of St. Jane de Chantal Parish, and the neighboring St. Camillus Parish, both in the Garfield Ridge neighborhood in the City of Chicago. They were united on July 1, 2019, as one new parish named St. Faustina Kowalska Parish.

The active Catholic population of the parish has decreased significantly since the late 1990s. This is indicated by the continuing decline in Mass attendance at St. Camillus Church, nearly 75% from the year 1998 to 2018: 2,688 to 682. The parish church of St. Jane de Chantal is 1.4 miles from St. Camillus Church. It seats 600, sufficient to accommodate the approximately 1,500 who regularly attend Sunday Mass in the parish.

In holding the assets and liabilities of the two united parishes, St. Faustina Kowalska Parish has been unduly burdened with buildings and costs it does not need and cannot reasonably use or afford. Notable is the ordinary maintenance and other expenses associated with the ownership and use of St. Camillus Church. Prior to restrictions on gathering due to the Covid-19 pandemic, parish leadership had chosen Easter Monday, April 13, 2020, as the date for the a final celebration of regularly scheduled Mass at St. Camillus Church. After that date the parish was planning to celebrate parish Masses and most other liturgies at St. Jane de Chantal Church.



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Apart from maintenance and operating expenses, declining use, and little or no income generated at St. Camillus Church, it must also be noted that the church campus now has no full-time personnel on site. For most of the week the church campus is an almost abandoned site, a threat to the integrity of the buildings and the health and safety of area residents. Additional measures to further secure the buildings are costly and would divert resources away from the parish's work of evangelization and charity.

It is both unrealistic and unsupportive of the work of charity to expect the new parish to maintain a church and other structures it cannot use and has no use for. Simply, there are no parochial, archdiocesan, or other ecclesiastical funds available to keep and maintain St. Camillus Church as a place of Catholic worship. The reasonable and safe solution for the parish is to relegate the church to profane but not sordid use (CIC, c. 1222 §2), allowing it and the rest of the church campus to be sold or otherwise developed for the benefit of the new parish. This would result in an immediate annual savings of \$70,000.00 in maintenance and operating costs.

The law requires a grave cause or causes to justify the relegation of a church to profane but not sordid use. The Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura held a grave cause was entirely apparent when the following factors were present: (1) a financial burden in preserving a church imposed on a parish from the union of several parishes; (2) a church no longer of service to the pastoral care of the faithful due to changed circumstances; (3) a new parish burdened from the beginning by debt; (4) ready and effective assistance available to the new parish from the sale of a church; (5) a diminishing number of faithful whose donations principally sustain the new parish; and (6) charity and other assistance to the poor being neglected to preserve a sacred building (Prot. N. 24388/93 CA in *Ministerium Iustitiae: Jurisprudence of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura*, Montreal: W & L (2011);, pp. 526-527). The situation of St. Camillus Church mirrors these factors. If the church is not relegated to profane but not sordid use soon and sold for the benefit of the new parish, the financial situation will rapidly deteriorate. Keep in mind, there is no governmental support for building or maintaining churches in the USA.

Relegation of St. Camillus Church to profane but not sordid use, according to canon 1222 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, enhances the possibility that the church and other real property assets of the former St. Camillus Parish would become a source of income for the new St. Faustina Kowalska Parish, its parishioners, and its missions.

The Reverend Thaddeus Dziesko, pastor of St. Faustina Kowalska Parish, supports the need to relegate St. Camillus Church to profane but not sordid use and, with the *major et sanior pars* of his parish, desires to see the parish community move forward without the financial and other burdens of owning and caring for a second church.



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THEREFORE, know that I, Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago, according to the norms of canons 50 & 51, 127 §§1 & 3, 166, and 1222 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, convened the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Chicago on May 5, 2020, *via video* conference, and again on May 19, 2020, also *via video* conference. Hearing the Council's deliberations and a vote of 36 for and 0 against the proposal to relegate a church of St. Faustina Kowalska Parish, namely, St. Camillus Church, 5426 South Lockwood Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60638, to profane but not sordid use, and after invoking the Holy Spirit and satisfying myself that the good of souls will suffer no detriment, I now

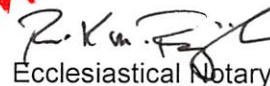
decree the following:

1. Effective immediately, St. Camillus Church, in the Garfield Ridge area of the City of Chicago, a church of St. Faustina Kowalska Parish, is relegated to profane but not sordid use;
2. Officials of the Archdiocese of Chicago, cooperating with the Pastor of St. Faustina Kowalska Parish, will make certain the assets of the former St. Camillus Parish, including St. Camillus Church, are secure for the benefit of St. Faustina Kowalska Parish;
3. The real property assets of the former St. Camillus Parish are to provide St. Faustina Kowalska Parish with proceeds from the alienation of the property or income from rental under lease;
4. The reports given to the Presbyteral Council on this matter, together with the minutes of the meetings on May 5, 2020, and May 19, 2020, are to be attached to this decree and will be available upon request; and
5. Notification of this decree is to be made to the Pastor of St. Faustina Kowalska Parish, in the Garfield Ridge neighborhood of the City of Chicago, and to the parishioners of the same parish through publication on the website of the Archdiocese of Chicago and in the parish bulletin.

Given this 29th day of May, A.D. 2020.
From the Archbishop's Office,
Chicago, Illinois


Archbishop of Chicago




Ecclesiastical Notary

Attachments



Before hierarchical recourse (appeal) may be taken against this decree, a written, signed, and dated 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, and 1737).

WHEN AVAILABLE, DATA SUBMITTED TO THE PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL OF THE
ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO AND MINUTES OF THE MAY 5, 2020,
AND MAY 19, 2020, PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL MEETINGS MAY BE
REQUESTED FROM THE OFFICE FOR CANONICAL AFFAIRS