



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

Prot. N. 2022 RPU-17

## DECREE

### IN THE NAME OF GOD. AMEN.

On March 14, 2022, following consultation with the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Chicago, I issued a decree establishing a new parish through the extinctive union of three neighboring parishes on the Northside of the City of Chicago and in the adjacent municipality of Norridge, Illinois. The union of the three parishes, Divine Savior Parish, Our Lady Mother of the Church Parish, and St. Eugene Parish, was called, *ad interim*, Divine Savior, Our Lady Mother of the Church, and St. Eugene Parish. The decree took effect July 1, 2022. By decrees dated July 4, 2022, the Congregation for the Clergy rejected two separate petitions for hierarchical recourse due to failure to be placed within the peremptory time of 15 useful days from rejection of the *remonstratio* ( Cong. Clergy, Prot. N. 2022 1708, Prot. N. 2022 1709). By my decree of October 13, 2022, the union of the three parishes was given the permanent new name of Queen of Peace Parish.

On September 6, 2022, after consulting with parish leadership, including members of the parish Unification Committee (a joint parish council), the Reverend Richard M. Yanos, pastor of the then Divine Savior, Our Lady Mother of the Church, and St. Eugene Parish, discerned that continued use of all three churches of his parish was not feasible. Consequently, he wrote to me and the Episcopal Vicar of his region of the archdiocese, asking that Divine Savior Church of the now Queen of Peace Parish be relegated to profane but not sordid use (*CIC* c. 1222 §2).

A church may be relegated to profane but not sordid use when, after hearing the presbyteral council, the diocesan bishop determines there is a “grave cause” indicating a church should no longer be used for divine worship and that the good of souls suffers no detriment from the relegation. A Definitive Sentence of the College of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura given May 4, 1996, considered what constituted the grave causes required for the relegation to profane but not sordid use of a church belonging to a parish formed from the union of parishes (*Ministerium Iustitiae: Jurisprudence of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura*, Montreal: W & L (2011): Prot. N. 24388/93 CA, pp. 526-527).

As related in the Definitive Sentence, a new parish formed from the extinctive union of five parishes sought to relegate three of its five churches to profane but not sordid use. The faithful who worshipped at one of these churches took recourse against the relegation of their church. The Supreme Tribunal found that the following conditions together constituted the grave cause required for relegation: (1) preservation of all the churches would impose an intolerable burden on the new parish; (2) the church in question was no longer of service to the pastoral care of the faithful due to changed circumstances; (3) the new parish was burdened from the beginning by a huge debt; (4) sale of the church would offer ready and effective assistance, otherwise lacking, to the urgent needs of the new parish; (5) the number of faithful

contributing to the support of the parish was diminishing; and (6) charity and other assistance to the poor should not be neglected to preserve a sacred building.

In this case it is established that (1) Retaining Divine Savior Church as a place of divine worship, imposes a financial burden on the new Queen of Peace Parish from operational and maintenance expenses associated with the church. If maintained for parish use, the Divine Savior Church campus will require \$1,033,350.00 in repairs, \$753,000.00 for the church alone.

(2) Divine Savior Church is not needed for divine worship for the average of 536 Sunday worshippers regularly attending there in FY 2020 (before COVID-19). This number of worshippers is well accommodated in the 1,000-seat parish church of St. Eugene and the 500-seat Our Lady Mother of the Church, another church of Queen of Peace Parish. .

(3) The most recent regular annual operating income from the former Divine Savior Parish was \$316,485.00 (Fiscal Year 2021). Such an income is insufficient to help support the new parish while contributing to the foreseeable needs of maintaining Divine Savior Church for worship.

(4) Sale or rental of Divine Savior Church will benefit the mission of the new parish with ready cash proceeds. There will be immediate additional annual savings of between \$85,000.00 and \$99,000.00 from unspent maintenance expenses, and more from the \$1,033,350.00 in unspent capital repairs when the church campus is sold.

(5) The total number of faithful regularly worshipping on Sundays at Divine Savior Church was 536 in October 2019 (Fiscal Year 2020), a more than 58% decline over 15 years from an attendance of 1,290 in October 2004.

(6) Preserving Divine Savior Church for worship will result in continued and unnecessary operational and maintenance costs that will cripple the ability of new Queen of Peace Parish to serve the poor, enhance its evangelical mission, and remain viable.

Finally, since March 2020, the arrival of the novel coronavirus pandemic of COVID-19 diminished some segments of the United States economy, materially and negatively impacting the financial well-being of the archdiocese, the new parish, and many poor and middle-class families. There is concern for the long-term economic survival of many institutions.

It is unreasonable to expect a parish formed from the extinctive union of three parishes to maintain a church it cannot afford and that is no longer needed for divine worship. Furthermore, there are no parochial, archdiocesan, or other known sources of funds available to keep and maintain Divine Savior Church as a place of Catholic worship. There is no governmental assistance for building or maintaining churches in the United States of America. The reasonable course is to relegate Divine Savior Church of Queen of Peace Parish to profane but not sordid use, selling or developing the property for the benefit of the new parish, its ministries, and charity.

THEREFORE, know that I, Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago, according to the norms of the Code of Canon Law, convened the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Chicago at the St. Giles Church campus of St. Catherine of Siena-St. Lucy and St. Giles Parish, Oak Park, Illinois, on September 27, 2022, and again on November 4, 2022. Hearing the council's deliberations and the council's November 4<sup>th</sup> vote of 32 yes and none against the proposal to relegate Divine Savior Church of Queen of Peace Parish to profane but not sordid use; invoking the Holy Spirit; satisfying myself that the good of souls will suffer no detriment; and that the parish church of St. Eugene and Our Lady Mother of the Church, the other church of the new parish, are sufficient for its needs,


***I decree the following:***

1. Effective immediately, Divine Savior Church in Norridge, Illinois, is relegated to profane but not sordid use;
2. Officials of the Archdiocese of Chicago, cooperating with the pastor of Queen of Peace Parish will assure the real property associated with the Divine Savior Church campus is secure for the benefit of Queen of Peace Parish;
3. If alienated, Divine Savior Church is to provide Queen of Peace Parish with proceeds from sale of the property or rental under lease;
4. The reports given to the Presbyteral Council on this matter, together with the minutes of the council meetings on September 27, 2022, and November 4, 2022, are confidential documents and will be appended to this decree upon approval and made available upon the request of eligible parties; and
5. Notification of this decree is to be made immediately through publication on the Archdiocesan Website. It is then to be sent to the Pastor of Queen of Peace Parish for communication to parishioners through the parish bulletin or other suitable means.

Given this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of November, A.D. 2022.  
From Holy Name Cathedral,  
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 sent by mail or delivered to the Archbishop of Chicago within ten (10) useful days from notification of the decree (CIC cc. 1734, 1735, 1737). The address is Office of the Archbishop, Archdiocese of Chicago, 835 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611.*

**ONCE APPROVED, CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO THIS DECREE AND SUBMITTED TO THE PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO AND THE CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETINGS OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2022, and NOVEMBER 4, 2022, WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE UPON THE REQUEST OF ELIGIBLE PARTIES TO THE OFFICE FOR CANONICAL AFFAIRS**