

DAVID ALLEN ZUBIK



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

DECREE

**CLOSING FOR WORSHIP OF SAINT PETER CHURCH BUILDING,
SOUTH SIDE, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA
AND THE REDUCTION OF THE SAINT PETER CHURCH
BUILDING OF PRINCE OF PEACE PARISH
TO PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE.**

Whereas, the church of Saint Peter located at South 28th Street & Sarah Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203 became part of the patrimony of the newly formed Prince of Peace Parish with a decree issued on July 24, 1992 and effective on November 1, 1992 in accord with the norm of canon 122 §2.

Whereas, Prince of Peace Parish was formed by the extinctive union of Saint Adalbert Parish, Saint Casimir Parish, Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Saint Josaphat Parish, Saint Matthew Parish, Saint Michael Parish, and Saint Peter Parish.

Whereas, the parish of Prince of Peace is facing critical financial difficulties that include deficit spending for several years in large part due to trying to maintain two church buildings.

Whereas, the parish of Prince of Peace has over \$1 million owed in debts and accounts payable.

Whereas, the physical condition and maintenance of parish owned buildings, including church buildings, has become a grave threat to the very existence of the parish.

Whereas, parish listening sessions were held on September 8 and 15 of 2019, and written parish surveys were taken at all Masses on September 7 and 8 of 2019, to receive parishioner input regarding the possible closure of a church building.

Whereas, parish assemblies were held on October 12 and 13 of 2019 to inform the parishioners of the recommendation that was to be made by the Parochial Administrator to the Diocesan Bishop.

Whereas, on October 15, 2019, the Parochial Administrator of Prince of Peace Parish, with the recommendation of his parish Pastoral and Finance Councils, submitted a petition recommending the

relegation to profane but not sordid use of Saint Peter church building in South Side, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Whereas, the care of souls will be provided for through the use of Saint Adalbert church building, South Side, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

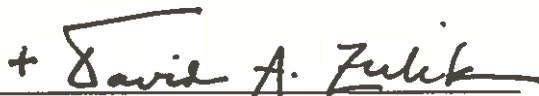
Whereas, the rationale for the closing Saint Peter church building for divine worship include the following: (1) the critical financial situation of the parish, including deficit spending and great debt owed by the parish, precludes the proper maintenance of two church buildings; (2) the grave need to reduce costs for the financial viability of the parish; (3) the Saint Peter church building is in a challenging condition with masonry and roof sections in need of repair or replacement; (4) the required maintenance and repairs that this church building currently needs for the roof alone which will, at minimum, require an estimated \$75,000 to \$140,000; (5) the estimated future required maintenance and repairs that this church building will need; (6) there is no other viable source of income to maintain the church; (7) the Saint Peter church building has neither an historic designation nor any particular architectural or artistic significance, while the parish's other church building, Saint Adalbert, does; (8) the care of souls will not be greatly impacted because of the availability of another church owned by the parish.

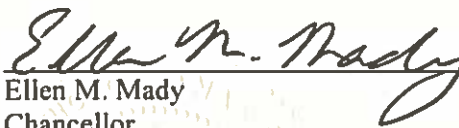
Therefore, having heard the Presbyteral Council on October 21, 2019 and the Vicars General on the same day and having received a unanimous favorable recommendation from both and in accord with the provisions of canon 1222 §2 of the *Code of Canon Law*, I hereby close for worship Saint Peter church building located at South 28th Street & Sarah Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 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 Monday, January 13, 2020.

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

Given at Pittsburgh this 6th day of December, in the Year of Our Lord 2019.

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Most Reverend David A. Zubik
Bishop of Pittsburgh


Ellen M. Mady
Chancellor