

**DECREE RELEGATING ST. RITA'S ORATORY (DEFERIET)
TO PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE**

Whereas, the parish of St. Rita's Roman Catholic Church, erected by the Right Reverend Henry Gabriels, second Bishop of Ogdensburg on April 13, 1901, was suppressed by the Most Terry R. LaValley, fourteenth Bishop of Ogdensburg, on May 25, 2019 and currently has the status of an oratory under the jurisdiction and care of St. Paul's Church in Black River, New York;

and

Whereas, after proper and required consultation of the Pastoral Council of St. Paul's Church (Black River), the Parish Finance Council of St. Paul's Church, parishioners of St. Paul's Church, and neighboring pastors, the pastor, Reverend Shane Lynch, has petitioned that St. Rita's Roman Catholic oratory in Deferiet, New York, be relegated to profane but not sordid use;

and

Whereas, after consideration of necessary proofs and hearing from those whose rights could be injured, the undersigned finds that grave cause exists for the granting of the petition to relegate the church to profane use, to wit:

- 1) The parish has been suppressed and its territory and care given to the pastor of St. Paul's Church in Black River;
- 2) This church is no longer needed;
- 3) Reduction in the number of priests to serve in parishes;
- 4) Parishioners formerly served by this church are now served by St. James Minor Church in Carthage or St. Paul's Church in Black River;
- 5) The closure and relegation to profane use of the building will cause no harm to the good of souls;
- 6) Closure of this church is consistent with the pastoral plan for the parish; and
- 7) The parish would like to sell the property.

and

Whereas, on September 15, 2021, the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, after being supplied with sufficient information to make an informed decision in a Memorandum from the undersigned dated and delivered August 5, 2021, was heard by me on the question of relegating St. Rita's oratory to profane but not sordid use (Canons 50, 51, 127, 166, 1214, and 1222) and in the opinion of the Presbyteral Council relegation to profane but not sordid use was appropriate,


Therefore,

I, Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley, Bishop of Ogdensburg, hereby declare the church of St. Rita's oratory in Deferiet, New York be and hereby is relegated to profane but not sordid use.

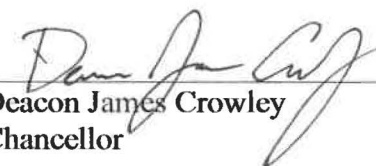
The pastor of St. Paul's Church in Black River, New York shall protect the sacred character of any and all sacred objects and altars in the church by destruction or removal as required by Canons 1212 and 1238.

The pastor of St. Paul's Church in Black River, New York is to communicate the content of this decree to all effected parishioners without delay by an announcement placed in the parish bulletin.

The time for hierarchical recourse (Can. 1734§2) begins to run with lawful notification of this decree to the pastor. Petition for recourse must be made to the Ordinary. All things to the contrary notwithstanding.



Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg



Deacon James Crowley
Chancellor

Given this day at the Chancery of the Diocese of Ogdensburg
Ogdensburg, NY
September 16, 2021