

DAVID ALLEN ZUBIK



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

CLOSING FOR WORSHIP OF SAINT HEDWIG CHURCH BUILDING,  
DUQUESNE, PENNSYLVANIA  
AND THE REDUCTION OF THE SAINT HEDWIG CHURCH  
BUILDING OF SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH  
TO PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE.

Whereas, Saint Hedwig church located at 101 South 5th Street, Duquesne, Pennsylvania, is a part of the patrimony of Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish by means of decree issued on May 22, 2020 and effective on July 1, 2020, in accord with the norm of canon 122 §2.

Whereas, Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish was formed by the extinctive union of Saint Agnes Parish, Christ the Light of the World Parish, Holy Trinity Parish, Saint Joseph Parish, Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Resurrection Parish, Saint Rita Parish and Saint Therese of Lisieux Parish.

Whereas, the parish of Saint Thomas the Apostle is facing critical financial difficulties that include its inability to meet its necessary monthly operating expenses.

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 the Saint Hedwig Church Building is in need of extensive repairs which Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish cannot afford.

Whereas, the cement cross atop the church building came crashing down causing damage to the roof the church, thus roof of the building is compromised.

Whereas the church building currently has no heat because of a water supply line that feeds the boiler which needs to be repaired at a substantial cost.

Whereas the building needs extensive electrical work which includes replacing much of the current electrical infrastructure of the building.

Whereas there is an infestation of vermin in the ceiling roof of the church building which has further exacerbated the situation.

Whereas, the parish has a debt in the form of accounts payable of over \$800,000 and other debts in the amount of over \$125,000.

Whereas, on October 3, 2021 and October 10, 2021, the Pastor of Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish sought the comments of the parishioners regarding the relegation of Saint Hedwig Church.

Whereas the pastor of the parish, with the support of the parish Pastoral and Finance Councils, has signed a petition dated November 10, 2021 requesting the relegation of the church to profane but not sordid use.

Whereas, the care of souls will be provided for at many other church buildings of the parish including Saint Joseph Church which is two blocks away.

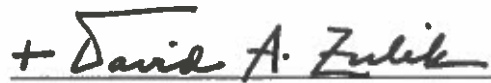
Whereas, the rationale for the closing Saint Hedwig church building for divine worship includes the following: (1) the critical financial situation of the parish, including the parish's inability to meet its monthly operating costs; (2) the grave need to reduce costs for the financial viability of the parish; (3) the required maintenance that this church building currently needs, the cost of which is beyond the ability of the parish to afford; (4) there is no other viable source of income to maintain the church; (5) the care of souls will not be greatly impacted because of the availability of other churches owned by the parish.


Therefore, having heard the Presbyteral Council on December 16, 2021 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 Hedwig church building located at 101 South 5th Street, Duquesne, 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 31, 2022.

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

Given at Pittsburgh this 7<sup>th</sup> day of January in the Year of Our Lord 2022.

  
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Most Reverend David A. Zubik  
Bishop of Pittsburgh

  
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Ellen M. Mady  
Chancellor

