



DECREE

In 1944, Holy Spirit Parish was established to meet the pastoral needs of the growing Catholic population in western Perth Amboy and the Hopelawn section of Woodbridge Township. Holy Spirit Church was subsequently dedicated in 1955. On July 1, 2015, after two years of study and consultation concerning the financial, demographic and personnel challenges facing the nine parishes in the Perth Amboy Deanery, the Most Reverend Paul G. Bootkoski, then-Bishop of Metuchen, merged Holy Spirit Parish and Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, Hopelawn, to form Good Shepherd Parish, Hopelawn.

Holy Spirit Church continued to be a worship site of Good Shepherd Parish until the fall of 2015, when it was judged prudent for the overall good of the clergy and faithful that the exercise of divine worship there be discontinued.

In 2020, keeping in mind the prescription of canon 50 of the Code of Canon Law, which requires the competent authority to seek out relevant information and to hear those whose rights can be injured before issuing a singular decree, I authorized an inquiry into whether Holy Spirit Church should be relegated to profane but not sordid use according to canon law and the *Procedural Guidelines for the Modification of Parishes, the Closure or Relegation of Churches to Profane but Not Sordid Use, and the Alienation of the Same* (hereinafter *Procedural Guidelines*) published by the Congregation for the Clergy on April 30, 2013.

In this process the following facts were determined:

- 1) Given that one priest is assigned to Good Shepherd Parish and must celebrate all parish liturgies, it is most practical that there be a single place of worship;
- 2) Of the two worship sites, the most desirable is Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church, which has more seating, a larger hall for parish gatherings, considerably more parking, and an elevator for physically disabled parishioners;
- 3) The maintenance of Holy Spirit Church is a financial burden for Good Shepherd Parish, which if not alleviated will continue to strain increasingly limited parish resources and threatens the diminishment of the parish's pastoral outreach;
- 4) In addition to required maintenance, Holy Spirit Church has water leakage and mold issues for which there is no available funding and that make it unsafe for worship;
- 5) For the past six years, the unavailability of Holy Spirit Church has not impaired the good of souls, the current worship site being less than one mile away; and
- 6) Finally, Reverend Krystian Burdzy, administrator of Good Shepherd Parish, has sought the opinions of various parishioners on this matter, including the parish finance and pastoral councils, and no objections have been raised.

Accordingly, at the request of Fr. Burdzy and having weighed all the factors involved in this specific case and judged that a combination of "just causes" exist to create a grave cause for relegating Holy Spirit Church to profane but not sordid use (*Procedural Guidelines*, no. 2, f); having established that the good of souls will not be impaired; and having consulted with the



presbyteral council, as required by canon 1222 §2, on April 12, 2021 and the council unanimously recommending that the relegation proceed;

Therefore, and in accordance with canons 1212 and 51, I hereby DECREE that Holy Spirit Church in Perth Amboy, be relegated to profane but not sordid use, effective immediately.

Since altars do not lose their dedication or blessing even when a church is relegated to profane use (c. 1238, §2), I direct that all altars in Holy Spirit Church be removed and kept within the patrimony of Good Shepherd Parish.

I further direct that any proceeds from the lease of the former church belong to the patrimony of Good Shepherd Parish.

Finally, in accordance with canon 1734 §§1-2, I direct that this decree be published in the parish bulletin and on the parish website, posted in the vestibule of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church the weekend of August 14-15 and published in the diocesan newspaper, *The Catholic Spirit*.

A petition for the revocation or emendation of this decree must be made to the Bishop of Metuchen within ten useful days, or two weeks, of its being made public.

Given at the Curia of the Diocese of Metuchen, on this fifteenth day of August, in the Year of Our Lord 2021, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Most Reverend James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA
Bishop of Metuchen

Ecclesiastical Notary