

DECREE



Whereas, by the decree of the Most Reverend Richard E. Pates, on 1 July 2011, the former Parish of the Holy Family (2217 Avenue B, Council Bluffs, IA 51501), was merged by extinctive union into the Parish of Corpus Christi (3304 4th Ave, Council Bluffs, IA 51501); and,

Whereas the legal and equitable assets and liabilities of the former Parish of Holy Family became assets and liabilities of the Parish of Corpus Christi by virtue of the extinctive union; and

Whereas the pastor of the Parish of Corpus Christi, Rev. Luis Mejia, has engaged in broad communication with the Parish regarding the potential reduction to profane but not sordid use of the church building of Holy Family, including regular discussion with the Holy Family Church Preservation Society and most recently communication at all of the weekend Masses on the weekend of 7-8 October 2023, accompanied by the distribution of detailed information sheet; and,

Whereas, on 28 November 2023, the pastor of Corpus Christi, after consultation with both his finance, pastoral council, and Holy Family Preservation Society petitioned me to relegate the church building of the former Parish of Holy Family to profane but not sordid use so that the proceeds of the sale of the church building might be used to fund the ministries of the Parish of Corpus Christi, including the educational ministry of St. Albert Catholic School; and,

Whereas, on 19 December 2023, I consulted with the Diocesan Presbyteral Council on the question of the relegation of the church building of Holy Family to profane but not sordid use, having previously supplied all necessary proofs and documentation to them; and,

Whereas, in the consideration of the question of reduction of church building of Holy Family, I evaluated and proposed the following facts concerning the state of the church building of Holy Family:

- The building is not in good repair, with a professional building assessment dated 8 March 2022 projecting a repair cost of over \$683,000.
- The failure of a local funding campaign to generate a budget of \$225,000 to assist in the preservation of the Church, demonstrating serious obstacles to continued use.
- The ongoing financial and pastoral burden that maintenance of Holy Family Church places on the Corpus Christi Parish community.

And whereas the Diocesan Presbyteral Council voted to recommend that church building of Holy Family be relegated to profane but not sordid use on 19 December 2023; and,

Whereas I have concluded that the economic hardship of repairing the building and its lack of usefulness to the Parish of Corpus Christi constitute grave cause sufficient in law to support the relegation of the church building to profane but not sordid use; and,

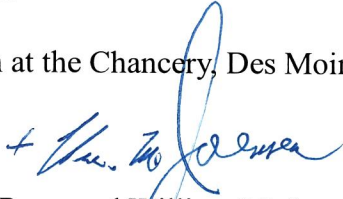
Whereas I have determined that the good of souls will suffer no harm as the celebration of Mass and the sacraments are available at the nearby parishes of Corpus Christi, Saint Peter's, and Saint Patrick's in Council Bluffs;

I, the Most Reverend William M. Joensen, Bishop of the Diocese of Des Moines, having in mind my responsibility to best address the spiritual needs of the people of the Parish of Corpus Christi specifically and the needs of the Diocese of Des Moines generally, hereby decree:

1. The church building of the former Parish of Holy Family (Holy Family Catholic Church in Council Bluffs, Iowa) shall be relegated to profane but not sordid use according to the precepts of canon 1222 §2 for the grave causes mentioned above, fourteen days after the date of the promulgation of this decree, on 3 January 2024.
2. Negotiations that may lead to the sale of the property may start on 18 January 2024, notwithstanding the need to follow the proper procedures when it comes to effectively alienating the property.
3. Prior to alienation, all sacred objects, relics, sacred furnishings, stained-glass windows, bells, confessionals, altars, etc. are to be removed for use in other sacred edifices or to be stored in ecclesiastical custody. In case the altars cannot be removed, they must be destroyed (see canons 1212 and 1238).
4. This decree is to be published to the pastor of the Parish of Corpus Christi.
5. The parishioners of the Parish of Corpus Christi are to be given notice of this decree as soon as possible upon its receipt by the pastor of the Parish. Copies of this decree are to be made available for inspection at the office of the Parish, and information regarding the promulgation of the decree should be made available to the parishioners in the weekly bulletin, on the Parish's website, and by announcement at the Sunday Masses.
6. Notification of this act is to be published in the diocesan newspaper, *The Catholic Mirror*.
7. This decree is to be posted to the website of the Diocese.

All those who claim to have been aggrieved by this decree are herewith notified that, if they desire to file recourse against our decree, they are required, *ad validitatem*, to submit a petition in the manner of canon 1734 §1 to us within ten useful days from the legitimate notification of this decree.

Given at the Chancery, Des Moines, Iowa this 3 January 2024.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. M. Joensen".

Most Reverend William M. Joensen, Ph.D.
Bishop of Des Moines

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason Kurth".

Jason Kurth
Chancellor