

Archdiocese of Philadelphia  
Office of the Archbishop  
222 North 17th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

**DECREE**

**OF THE RELEGATION OF**

**SAINTS COSMAS AND DAMIAN CHURCH,**  
**CONSHOHOCKEN, PENNSYLVANIA**

**TO PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE**

Saints Cosmas and Damian Church, Conshohocken, Pennsylvania has served as a worship site of Saint Matthew Parish, Conshohocken since 2014. The church, however, is no longer needed by the parish and the parish lacks the funding necessary to maintain Saints Cosmas and Damian Church without seriously impeding the future ministry of the parish. Consideration, therefore, must be given as to whether sufficient grave causes exist for the relegation of Saints Cosmas and Damian Church to profane but not sordid use.

The following grave causes suggest that the church be so relegated and no longer be used for divine worship:

- 1) Saints Cosmas and Damian Church is no longer needed by Saint Matthew Parish. There have been fewer requests to use Saints Cosmas and Damian Church for public worship. In addition it is located in very close proximity to Saint Matthew Church, so it is not a burden for the faithful to come to the parish church to worship;
- 2) The Coptic Orthodox Church has been using the church regularly in recent years for Sacred Worship. They are interested in purchasing the church and the attached former rectory. So even though relegated, the change in status would be mitigated by the fact that the building would still be used for worship, albeit by the Coptic Orthodox Church.
- 3) Saint Matthew Parish has endeavored to keep Saints Cosmas and Damian Church in good repair. The annual costs of maintaining the church building are approximately \$42,024. The former Saint Cosmas and Damian parish rectory, which is now vacant, is physically attached to the church and also must be maintained as long as the church is in use. In addition there are approximately \$36,550 in repairs that will need to be completed in the near future. These include plumbing, heating and electrical repairs as well as repairs to the bell tower due to water damage. In addition to the parish church and Saints Cosmas and Damian

Church, Saint Matthew Parish has responsibility for the upkeep of Saint Mary Church, Conshohocken.

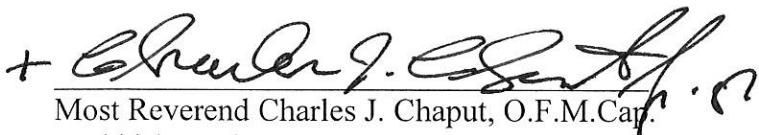
While Saint Matthew Parish has savings and is currently able to meet its expenses, the growing pastoral needs of the parish have required the commitment of the parish to the renovation of space adjacent to the parish church for educational, administrative, and other parish purposes. The commitment to this pastoral project places the parish in a position where they are no longer able to continue to repair and to maintain Saints Cosmas and Damian Church without negatively impacting the ministries of the parish;

- 4) there is no other source of funding for the costs of repairing and maintaining the church;
- 5) the church building does not have any especially noteworthy architectural, historical, or artistic significance; and,
- 6) having all of the parishioners worship at the parish church will help to enhance parish unity.

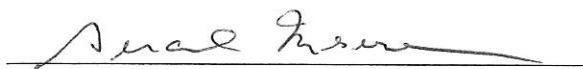
Accordingly, in virtue of the prescripts of canon 1212 and canon 1222, §2 of the Code of Canon Law, having judged that sufficient grave causes are present and that the good of souls will not thereby be impaired and having consulted with the Council of Priests on January 21, 2016 I hereby **DECREE** that Saints Cosmas and Damian Church, Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, be relegated to profane but not sordid use.

This decree is effective as of March 16, 2016, and is to be communicated to the members of Saint Matthew Parish and to the faithful of the Archdiocese in an appropriate manner. All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Curia of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, on the sixteenth day of February, in the Year of Our Lord 2016.

  
Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.  
Archbishop of Philadelphia

**SEAL**

  
Reverend Monsignor Gerard C. Mesure  
Chancellor