



DECREE

RELEGATING

SAINT MARGARET MARY CHURCH CINCINNATI, OHIO

TO PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

In 1920 a Catholic parish was established for the faithful of North College Hill. The current church was completed in 1960.

Beginning in 2022 a common pastor served the parishes of Saint Margaret Mary, Saint Ann, Saint James the Greater, and Saint Bernard Taylor Creek. From this time, the parishioners of all four parishes began to work together to fulfill the mandate of the Lord to go out and make disciples of all.

After many discussions had taken place between the pastor, the other clergy and lay staff serving the parishes, the parishioners, and the appropriate archdiocesan offices regarding the best way to meet the needs of the faithful and evangelize in accordance with the mandate of the Lord Jesus, it has been decided at present to amalgamate Saint Margaret Mary Parish into Saint Ann Parish by an extinctive union. This decision has been promulgated by a separate decree.

After careful study and deliberation of the facts, the pastor of Saint Margaret Mary and Saint Ann Parishes, having heard the members of the pastoral council and finance council for the parishes, has proposed to relegate Saint Margaret Mary Church to profane but not sordid use. I have determined that sufficient grave cause exists to relegate Saint Margaret Mary Church to profane but not sordid use.

The following factors contribute to the grave cause which motivates this decision:

1. The church is no longer necessary for accommodating the number of worshipers in the surrounding area.
2. St. Ann has adequate capacity to accommodate worshipers, and has a robust parish life and opportunity for involvement in ministry.
3. Sunday attendance has been decreasing and currently averages under 100 people in a space that could accommodate 600+, and there is only one Mass on a weekend.
4. Decreasing attendance is resulting in decreasing revenue and an inability to properly maintain the church, buildings and property.
5. The Archdiocesan Beacons of Light Initiative aims to reallocate resources to move from maintenance to mission.
6. Proximity to other Catholic Churches ensures that the good of souls will not be harmed. St. Margaret Mary is 1.3 miles away from St. Ann, 1.8 miles from St. Claire Church, and 1.7 miles from Assumption Church.
7. Demographic data indicates that the Catholic population of the area will continue to decrease.

Taking into account the supreme law of the Church, i.e. the salvation of souls (cf. canon 1752), it is my belief that this action will better serve the Church's mission to evangelize and allow for more efficient administration of the temporal goods of the faithful, while continuing to meet their spiritual needs.

Therefore, in virtue of my office as diocesan bishop, in accordance with canon 1212 and canon 1222 §2 of the *Code of Canon Law*, having consulted with the Presbyteral Council on May 4, 2026, and having verified that there are none who legitimately claim rights for themselves in the church or the associated property, I hereby decree that Saint Margaret Mary Church, North College Hill, Ohio, be relegated to profane but not sordid use.

This decree becomes effective as of July 1, 2026, and is to be published immediately such that all members of Saint Margaret Mary Parish and Saint Ann Parish will be properly notified. Recourse may be made against this decree in accord with the norms of canon law.

Given from the Chancery of the Archdiocese,
Cincinnati, Ohio,
on the 8th day of June in the year of our Lord 2026,
Monday of the Tenth Week in Ordinary Time.



Most Reverend Robert G. Casey
Archbishop of Cincinnati





Reverend Jason A. Williams, J.C.L.
Chancellor