



## DECREE

St. Columba Parish of Iona, Minnesota, was founded in 1891, serving the faithful of the area for over 133 years. Upon the extensive collaboration of clergy and lay leaders throughout the Diocese, the recommended, and eventual merging (*unio extinctiva*), of St. Columba Parish with St. Ann, Slayton, Minnesota, became effective July 31, 2024.

In a letter presented to the Bishop and Presbyteral Council on September 3, 2024, the Pastor of St. Ann Parish offered the following grave causes which suggest that the church building of the former parish of St. Columba be relegated to profane but not sordid use:

1. The necessary human and fiscal resources to adequately maintain the structure are no longer available. Hence, maintaining the building as a place of worship would place an excessive burden upon St. Ann Parish.
2. St. Columba has rapidly declining saving and checking accounts. Moreover, it is abundantly clear that area Catholics are not interested in supporting the building with the necessary financial resources, nor are they interested in holding religious activities in the church.
3. Having made public, the possibility of the sale or razing of the church building, no member has expressed a legitimate interest in maintaining the church building.
4. The building, while being the site of many religious memories and experiences, holds no significant historic or aesthetic value compared to other local churches.

Accordingly, in virtue of the prescription of canon 1222, §2 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law, having consulted the Presbyteral Council on September 3, 2024, having judged that sufficient grave causes are present, having determined that the good of souls will suffer no detriment

and that the intentions of donors and any other acquired rights have been examined and given due consideration, I hereby decree that

**ST. COLUMBA CHURCH OF IONA, MINNESOTA  
BE RELEGATED TO PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE.**

This decree becomes effective October 15, 2024. A copy of this decree is to be sent to the pastor of St. Ann Parish and its contents are to be communicated at all Masses of obligation on the weekend of Saturday, September 28, 2024, and Sunday, September 29, 2024. Furthermore, this decree is to be published on the diocesan website. Any legitimate party, considering himself aggrieved by this decree, retains the right to request emendation or revocation within ten (10) useful days (c. 1734, §§1, 2).

Given in the Diocese of Winona-Rochester on this twentieth day of September in the year of Our Lord 2024.

*+Robert Barron*

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The Most Reverend Robert Barron  
Bishop of Winona-Rochester

*Michelle K Gerlach*

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Chancellor

SEAL

