



## DECREE

The Church of the Immaculate Conception of Wilson, Minnesota, was founded in 1874, serving the faithful of the area for over 148 years. Upon the extensive collaboration of clergy and lay leaders throughout the Diocese, the recommended and eventual merging (*unio extinctiva*) of the Church of the Immaculate Conception of Wilson, Minnesota, with St. Rose of Lima Parish, Lewiston, Minnesota, became effective March 7, 2022.

In a letter presented to the Bishop and Presbyteral Council on December 3, 2024, the Pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish suggested grave causes which indicate the church building of the former parish of Immaculate Conception be relegated to profane but not sordid use. Among those suggestions, the Bishop of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester has determined the following grave causes for the relegation of the church of the Immaculate Conception exist:

1. After evaluating options, the Immaculate Conception Oratory Committee has unanimously voted in favor of demolishing the church building and utilizing the land for the Immaculate Conception Cemetery.
2. The Pastoral Council of St. Rose of Lima Parish and the trustees of Immaculate Conception have voted in favor of the resolution for relegation to profane but not sordid use and demolition.
3. Several repairs are needed in the near future, particularly to the foundation and basement of the building, and many others will be needed within the next few years.
4. Parishioners are not willing to keep the building as an oratory.
5. The church is no longer needed for any community's spiritual or pastoral purposes. Two funerals and one wedding were held in the past 30 months.
6. Alienation or selling of the property to a third party would result in a long-term relationship that may affect the spiritual and peaceful atmosphere of the cemetery as the land area is narrow and would require an easement for the driveway.
7. There is a desire to direct the balance of funds now under the responsibility of St. Rose of Lima Parish to the permanent care of Immaculate Conception Cemetery.

Accordingly, in virtue of the prescription of canon 1222, §2 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law, having consulted the Presbyteral Council on December 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



**THE CHURCH OF THE  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF WILSON, MINNESOTA  
BE RELEGATED TO PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE.**

This decree becomes effective December 31, 2024. Upon that date, the church shall lose its dedication and may no longer be used for sacred purposes without the expressed written consent of the local ordinary. A copy of this decree is to be sent to the pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish, and its contents are to be communicated at all Masses of obligation on Sunday, December 8. 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).

It is further decreed that, upon the effective date, and considering the grave causes already stated, the pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Lewiston, having already heard from his own pastoral council and former parishioners of Immaculate Conception, is authorized to raze the formerly dedicated church building of Immaculate Conception.

Given in the Diocese of Winona-Rochester on this fifth day of December 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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Michelle K. Gerlach  
Chancellor