



DECREE

Our Lady of Loretto Parish of Brownsdale, Minnesota, was founded in 1946, serving the faithful of the area for 60 years. In 2011 the Diocese of Winona, with the assistance of professional consultants, embarked upon Vision 2016: a comprehensive visioning and planning process aimed at providing opportunities to enhance the pastoral care of the faithful, address shortages in clergy and evaluate current parish structures in light of changing demographic trends. Upon the extensive collaboration of clergy and lay leaders throughout the Diocese, the recommended, and eventual merging (*unio extinctiva*), of Our Lady of Loretto Parish with Queen of Angels Parish of Austin, Minnesota, became effective September 30, 2016.

In a Vision 2016 proposal submitted on February 15, 2016, the parishioners of Our Lady of Loretto requested that the church building be relegated to profane but not sordid use. The decision for the request was the fruit of multiple Vision 2016 meetings, wherein parish leadership of Our Lady of Loretto Parish met to prepare a proposal for the allocation and use of physical assets. The basis for the recommendation is that there will no longer be Masses celebrated in the building and that there exists a lack of fiscal and human resources necessary to properly maintain the structure. Parishioners were informed of the proposal under consideration throughout the process and were in agreement with the decision.

The following grave causes suggest that the church building be relegated to profane but not sordid use:

1. That 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 Queen of Angels Parish.
2. The people who once attended Our Lady of Loretto Parish are in close proximity to Queen of Angels Parish. Use of the church building for divine worship or any other activity will be infrequent and its sale will promote unity within the parish.
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. Funds raised from the sale of the church property will provide support for other dimensions of the Church's pastoral ministry and mission.

Accordingly, in virtue of the prescription of canon 1222, §2 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law, having consulted the Presbyteral Council on September 27, 2016, 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

**OUR LADY OF LORETTO CHURCH OF BROWNSDALE, MINNESOTA
BE RELEGATED TO PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE.**

This decree becomes effective December 1, 2016. A copy of this decree is to be sent to the pastor of Queen of Angels Parish and its contents are to be communicated at all Masses of obligation on the weekend of Saturday, November 5, 2016, and Sunday, November 6, 2016. 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 on this third day of November in the year of Our Lord 2016.



The Most Reverend John M. Quinn
Bishop of Winona



The Very Reverend Glenn K. Frerichs
Chancellor

SEAL