



## DECREE

Our Lady of Mercy Parish of Guckeen, Minnesota, was founded in 1903, serving the faithful of the area for 100 years. In 2003, Bishop Bernard Harrington, Bishop of Winona, conducted a process of considering the present status of the parish church, the situation and needs of the Diocese of Winona, and conducted a meeting with the parishioners and pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Parish. On June 23, 2003, Bishop Harrington decreed the closing of Our Lady of Mercy Parish. The land and church building of the former parish of Our Lady of Mercy became the legal property of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Blue Earth on June 14, 2004.

In a letter presented on May 14, 2020, the current Pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish requested that the church building of the former parish of Our Lady of Mercy be relegated to profane but not sordid use. The request included documentation as to the current disuse of the building, the limited value of the church building, the lack of resources for necessary upkeep of the building, and discussion with parish leadership regarding the future of the building. The basis for the request was that there was no longer Mass celebrated in the building and that there exists a lack of fiscal and human resources necessary to properly maintain the structure.

Having thoroughly considered the matter, 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 Ss. Peter and Paul Parish.
2. The people who once attended Our Lady of Mercy Parish have long been attending other churches of close proximity, including Ss. Peter and Paul Parish. The church building has not been used for divine worship for several years.
3. 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 June 24, 2020, 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 MERCY CHURCH OF GUCKEEN, MINNESOTA BE  
RELEGATED TO PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE.**

This decree becomes effective July 20, 2020. A copy of this decree is to be sent to the pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish and its contents are to be communicated at all weekend Masses of Saturday, July 4, 2020, and Sunday, July 5, 2020. Given the current circumstances, the contents will also be communicated through the parish bulletin and other electronic forms of communication. 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 twenty-fifth day of June in the year of Our Lord 2020.

  
The Most Reverend John M. Quinn  
Bishop of Winona-Rochester

  
The Very Reverend Glenn K. Frerichs  
Chancellor

SEAL

