



Diocese of Fall River
Office of the Bishop
Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D.

Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D.
by the Grace of God and of the Apostolic See,
Bishop of Fall River

DECREE

Whereas, Sacred Heart Parish in Fall River was suppressed and united to the Parish of the Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption by decree on the nineteenth of November in the Year of Our Lord two thousand fourteen; and

Whereas, the building of Sacred Heart Church in Fall River needs extensive and urgent repairs to its masonry, structural foundation, windows and boiler / heating system; and

Whereas, the Parish of the Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption has three worship sites—the Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption, Holy Rosary Chapel, and Holy Cross Chapel—and thus does not have the resources to repair or maintain a fourth church building; and

Whereas, I sought and obtained the consent of the Reverend Raymond Cambra, the-then Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, for this proposed action, after he consulted the members of the Parish Pastoral Council and the members of the Parish Finance Council; and

Whereas, on November 17, 2014, the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Fall River was consulted on the proposed canonical action herein being considered, and after discussion, received their unanimous support; and

Whereas, I have determined that no other parties can legitimately claim rights for themselves regarding Sacred Heart Church or the property on which it stands; and

Whereas, the following grave causes suggest that Sacred Heart Church be relegated to profane but not sordid use and can no longer be used for divine worship:

- (1) Because Sacred Heart Church has no working heating system, and because of other extensive and urgent repairs, the building is no longer functional for any use.
- (2) The Parish of the Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption, in which Sacred Heart Church is located, can adequately serve the needs of the parishioners for divine worship at its three worship sites: the Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption, Holy Rosary Chapel and Holy Cross Chapel, and thus does not have the financial or human resources to repair and maintain this fourth church building.
- (3) There is no other source of funding, including Diocesan resources, for the necessary repairs and the maintenance of the church. The financial burden of repairing and maintaining Sacred Heart Church would cause important diocesan pastoral programs to suffer due to lack of funding and negatively impact the pastoral work of the Diocese.

(4) The church building does not have any particular architectural significance.

Therefore, in virtue of the provisions of Canons 1212 and 1222, §2 of the Code of Canon Law; having judged that sufficient grave causes are present and that the good of souls will not thereby be impaired; and having made the necessary consultations, I hereby DECREE that Sacred Heart Church, located on Linden Street, in Fall River, Bristol County, Massachusetts, is hereby relegated to profane but not sordid use.

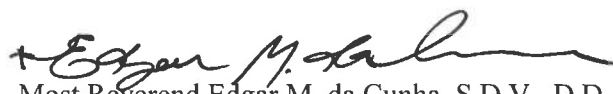
Further, I hereby decree that any sacred furnishings and artifacts, which the Parish of the Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption does not retain for its own use, be disposed of in a manner befitting their character and the known intentions of any donor.

Further, in addition to the usual requirements of Church law (Canons 1290-1298) for the valid and licit alienation or permanent modification by the Parish of the Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption of the real estate formerly belonging to the Parish of the Sacred Heart in Fall River or any part thereof, any such alienation or modification is subject to my approval as being consonant with the requirements of Canon 1222, §2.

This decree takes effect at 12:01 AM on Tuesday, January 13, 2015, and is to be communicated to the members of the Parish of the Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption and to the faithful of the Diocese in an appropriate manner.

In the event that anyone with canonical standing feels injured by the provisions of this Decree, he or she may initiate a hierarchical recourse against this Decree according to the provisions of Canon 1732-1739 within ten useful days.

Given at the Curia of the Diocese of Fall River on this twenty-second day of December in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and fourteen.


Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D.
Bishop of Fall River

Attest: 
Chancellor