



*Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D.
By the Grace of God and the Favor of the Apostolic See
Bishop of Fall River*

DECREE

WHEREAS we have received the recommendation of the Pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Attleboro, Bristol County, Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS it is no longer financially expedient for Saint John the Evangelist Parish, within whose territory Holy Ghost Church is located, to maintain Holy Ghost Church, and there is no possibility of obtaining the necessary revenues from other sources to provide for its maintenance; and

WHEREAS the ongoing financial effort to provide for Holy Ghost Church will continue to consume parish financial resources that could otherwise be used for ministry and pastoral outreach within the parish as whole; and

WHEREAS the pastoral needs of Saint John the Evangelist Parish do not necessitate the ongoing availability and use of this building as a parish worship site since the spiritual needs of the Faithful who frequent Holy Ghost Church can easily be provided for by the Parish of Saint John the Evangelist.

THEREFORE, I, Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D., Bishop of Fall River, do hereby decree that Holy Ghost Church, located in Attleboro, Bristol County, Massachusetts, and a former mission of the Parish of Saint John the Evangelist, Bristol County, Massachusetts, be canonically closed and relegated to profane but not sordid use and no longer utilized for Catholic worship, effective December 15, 2023.

FURTHER, upon the canonical closure of Holy Ghost Church, I give leave to those within the diocesan curia charged with the administration of temporal goods of the Diocese to remove the sacred vessels and appointments from the premises, and arrange for the disposition of the building, taking care to observe faithfully the pertinent civil laws in the regard and the provisions of the *Code of Canon Law* concerning the alienation of temporal goods.

FINALLY, in conformity with the provision of Canon 121, I decree that the proceeds from the sale or lease of the church building belong to the Parish of Saint John the Evangelist, located in Attleboro, Bristol County, Massachusetts, the wishes of the founders and benefactors having been duly regarded and taken into consideration.

In the event that anyone with canonical standing who 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 10 useful days.

GIVEN at Fall River, Bristol County, Massachusetts on this 7th day of December in the year Two Thousand Twenty-Three.

Attest:

Kenn R. Hiley
Chancellor

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