



Prot. N.D. 17/2019

## **D E C R E E**

### **Closure of Catholic Church of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque of Ottawa and its reduction to a profane state but not sordid use**

1. Whereas, the parish of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in Ottawa was canonically erected on January 20, 1931, by the Most Rev. Guillaume Forbes, Archbishop of Ottawa;
2. Whereas, this new parish gradually developed thanks to the devoted work of Fr. A.E. Armstrong and his successors and their collaboration with the parishioners of the parish, and the church building was consecrated by Archbishop Gervais on October 16, 1993;
3. Whereas, on April 23, 2019, we issued a decree (Prot. N.D. 09/2019) determining that St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Parish of Ottawa was united to Blessed Sacrament Parish after the last Eucharist celebrated in the Parish church on Sunday June 23, 2019;
4. Whereas, a building condition report of the church from September 12, 2017 recommended significant repairs to the church in the next five years, including repairs to the exterior masonry walls;
5. Whereas, considering the significant challenges of meeting basic operating expenses, it is not feasible to foresee that, in the near future, the parish would be capable of assuming the costs of needed building repairs and whereas the responsible stewardship of limited funds would call for their use in other forms of ministry and pastoral outreach;
6. Whereas, without the repairs, the building would continue to deteriorate and, would not be suitable for divine worship and would therefore stand empty and be rendered both unseemly and unsuitable;
7. I, the undersigned, Archbishop of Ottawa, in virtue of my ordinary power, after receiving the favourable consent of the Pastor of the parish and that of the Episcopal Vicar for the English Sector, and having consulted the Presbyteral Council on April 16, 2019, in conformity with canon 1212 and 1222 § 2 of the Code of Canon Law and being satisfied that the care of souls would not be harmed as Blessed Sacrament church is within 1.6km, by this decree, declare the closure of the church of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque of Ottawa, that it be no longer designated as a place of divine worship and that it be reduced to profane/non-sordid use.

8. I hereby authorize the sale of the building previously known as the church St. Margaret Mary Alacoque of Ottawa, on condition that it be approved by the College of Consultors and the Diocesan Finance Council, and that the sale respect any comments or conditions placed by either of these two bodies. Likewise, the canonical conditions relating to the alienation of stable patrimony are to be observed, if applicable.
9. If it has not already been done, at an opportune time under the supervision of the Pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish, the Blessed Sacrament is to be removed from the church, as are any relics in the altar, the sacred vessels, liturgical vestments and any other external signs of Catholic worship, whether inside or outside the church, that can be removed without great difficulty.
10. For all other matters, the provisions of the Code of Canon Law will be observed.
11. This decree is to be made known to the parishioners of Blessed Sacrament Parish by insertion in the parish bulletin or by notice posted on the doors of the churches of the parish concerned, or by being read aloud the Sunday after this decree is received. It will become effective **August 1, 2019**. The date of publication of this decree determines the start of the period of hierarchical recourse of ten days according to canon 1734, §2 of the Code of Canon Law.

Given at Ottawa, at the Metropolitan Curia, under our sign and seal and the countersign of our Chancellor, on the 27th day of the month of June in the year of Our Lord two thousand and nineteen.



✠ Terrence Prendergast, S. J.  
Archbishop of Ottawa

Father Daniel Van Delst, JCL  
Chancellor

Cc: Blessed Sacrament Parish  
Fr. Geoffrey Kerslake, EV  
Fr. Vincent Pereira, Regional Vicar, Region II  
Diocesan Administration