



+ June 3, 2023

Dear Parishioners of Pope St. John XXIII,

May the peace of our Lord be with each of you. After much prayer, consultation and at the request of your parish leadership, I have issued a decree to relegate the Our Lady of the Holy Rosary church building to profane, but not sordid use in accordance with canon 1222, effective June 15, 2023.

This means that this building may no longer be used for Catholic divine worship.

After hearing the recommendation from Fr. Tuan and your leadership councils, I agree that this is the right path forward. The building is in disrepair and there is no adequate, sustainable funding to fix it, retrofit it and maintain it for years to come. Additionally, your parish community reviewed its ministries and needs, and determined that the souls in your parish are served even without this worship site.

This decision by your parish leadership teams was not easy, especially with the mounting public pressure. I am grateful to them for their service to your community. They spent months in prayer discerning the guidance of the Holy Spirit, while remaining focused on the good of the greater parish community. I ask that you please join me in thanking them for their generosity of time and talent for a decision-making process that was no doubt difficult and challenging.

It is a sad moment when a beautiful church building comes to an end. As much as we may feel attached to the building, I encourage all of us to remember that Jesus calls us to be the Body of Christ as Church – as the people of God. Our Catholic faith should not be tied to a physical building, but instead be tied to our love for Christ and for each other. Please know of my continued prayers for you and for the hopeful future of your new parish community. As always, I remain,

In the Heart of Christ,

Most Rev. Paul D. Etienne, DD, STL
Archbishop of Seattle