



ARCHDIOCESE OF

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HIS EXCELLENCY

THE MOST REVEREND GEORGE L. THOMAS, Ph.D.

By the Grace of God and the Authority of the Apostolic See

ARCHBISHOP OF LAS VEGAS

DECREE RELEGATING THE CHURCH OF THE SHRINE OF THE MOST HOLY REDEEMER IN LAS VEGAS TO PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE

THE FACTS

In 1990, Bishop Daniel Walsh, seeing a growing need for an additional location at the expanding southern end of the Las Vegas Strip at which to provide sacramental care for Las Vegas tourists, completed the purchase of land at the current location of the Shrine of the Most Holy Redeemer (cf. c. 1230) (hereafter, the Shrine). In 1993, Bishop Walsh dedicated the Shrine as a diocesan shrine of the then Diocese of Reno-Las Vegas. The Shrine consists of a church (cf. c. 1214) and is directly under diocesan control and expressly excluded from being a part of any parish, either personal or territorial.

In April of 2023, the Oakland Athletics, a major league baseball franchise, declared its intention to relocate to Las Vegas, building a new 30,000 seat stadium on property adjacent to the Shrine. In February of 2026, the foundation of the ballpark was completed and construction began on the new buildings.

In this process, the Archdiocese concluded that due to game day crowds and associated traffic, continual non-impaired access to the Shrine could not be guaranteed. Thus, we anticipate traffic will severely impede the Shrine's ability to meet the pastoral needs of the tourist community.

Given the anticipated inaccessibility of the Shrine, especially on Sundays and Holy Days, due to traffic closures, together with construction of new buildings in the immediate area to accommodate the tourist inflow for the ballpark, there are clearly foreseeable significant problems if the Shrine remains at its current location.

With this in mind, I consulted the Archdiocesan Presbyteral Council, the College of Consultors, the Archdiocesan Finance Council, and others. Based upon these discussions, I have determined that the good of the faithful requires that the Shrine's Church of the Most Holy Redeemer be relegated to profane but not sordid use as a necessary step for the Shrine to be relocated to a new location near the southern end of the Las Vegas Strip, in order that the Archdiocese might continue to provide pastoral care especially to the tourists to the greater Las Vegas area.

THE LAW

The Shrine is a church according to the norms of c. 1214 and to relegate it to profane but not sordid use must be done in accord the norms of c. 1222, §2, which states, "*Where other grave causes suggest that a church no longer be used for divine worship, the diocesan bishop, after having heard the presbyteral council, can regulate it to*

profane but not sordid use, with the consent of those who legitimately claim rights for themselves in the church and provided that the good of souls suffers no detriment thereby."

The 2013 Instruction from the Congregation for Clergy (§2, f) helpfully points out that, "To assess the gravity of a cause, each must be considered individually, weighing the whole context of the situation. At times, the gravity of a cause will arise only from a combination of just causes, each insufficient in itself, but which together manifest the seriousness of the situation." ("Procedural Guidelines for the Modification of Parishes, the Closure, Relegation, and Alienation of Churches – Protocol 20131348)

Canon 1238 §2, states "*Altars, whether fixed or movable, do not lose their dedication or blessing if the church or other sacred place is relegated to profane uses.*" The relegation of a church does not automatically relegate its altars; they must be mentioned specifically if they are to be included in the reduction of the sacred building.

THE ARGUMENT

For validity, the diocesan bishop must hear the Presbyteral Council. The Presbyteral Council has been consulted multiple times in the past two years. Having considered the various relevant factors for and against relocating the Shrine, on August 20, 2026, I heard the Presbyteral Council on this issue; the members were fully in support of this action.

The grave cause (c. 1222, §2) arises not from a single fact standing alone, but from a combination of distinct and interrelated causes which, taken together, establish the gravity and seriousness of the present matter and justify the reduction of the Shrine to profane but not sordid use. After hearing the Archdiocesan councils, I find that there are multiple separate causes that fulfill the aforementioned 2013 Instruction from the Congregation for Clergy.

Canonical Elements for Relegation under Canon 1222, §2:

Canon 1222, §2, offers three items that are to be attended to:

First, the Presbyteral Council must be informed and their opinions heard.

- See above - The Presbyteral Council has been heard.

Second, obtaining the consent of those who legitimately claim rights for themselves in the church. Regarding this, for those who may have legitimate claims by way of restricted donations:

- Donors are hereby notified that all accepted Mass intentions will be transferred to the Guardian Angel Cathedral, or other arrangements can be made.
- Where possible, all moveable sacred items will be used in the new location or at another parish in the Archdiocese.

The third element requires that the good of souls suffers no detriment by this action. Regarding this, the current plans to attend to the 'good of souls' includes:

- A temporary venue close to the Shrine is being sought where the celebration of the Most Holy Eucharist may be celebrated on Sundays and Holy Days of

Obligation. The Guardian Angel Cathedral will continue to provide pastoral services to all its parishioners.

- Weekday Masses are available at several nearby locations, including the Guardian Cathedral, St. Anne Church, and St. Joan of Arc Church; all are accessible by private or public transportation.

We have confirmed that no restrictions on the Shrine's future use or sale have been found, civilly or canonically. No organizations, individuals, or heirs were identified who qualify as having legitimate rights for this consideration concerning the real property. On July 2, 2026, the Rector of the Shrine gave his consent.

Considering the totality of the circumstances, I have recognized an abundance of issues that combined, lead to a sufficiently 'grave cause' and decided to reduce the Shrine to "profane but not sordid use" following the norm of canon 1222, §2.

THEREFORE

by this instrument, I decree:

That the Shrine of the Most Holy Redeemer, located at 55 E. Reno Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89119, be reduced to profane but not sordid use in accord with canon 1222, §2. In addition to the Shrine building itself, I decree that the altar in the Shrine loses its consecration, dedication, or blessing by this same decree. (c.f. canon 1238) This decree is to be effective on December 31, 2027.

This decree is to be communicated to the Rev. Manuel Quintero, the Rector of the Shrine of the Most Holy Redeemer. Any request to revoke or emend this decree must be set forth in writing postmarked within ten (10) days of the date of this decree and addressed to me at the Archdiocese of Las Vegas, 336 Cathedral Way, Las Vegas, NV, 89109. Letters must come from individuals only; collective submissions, anonymous submissions, or those that do not have a complete name and return address will not be accepted.

Given at the Chancery of the Archdiocese of Las Vegas
this 24th day of August in the Year of Our Lord, 2026.



Most Reverend George Leo Thomas, Ph.D.
Archbishop of Las Vegas



Very Reverend Robert M. Herbst, OFM Conv, JCD
Chancellor/Judicial Vicar – Archdiocese of Las Vegas