



From the Vatican, 3 November 2021

CONGREGATIO
PRO CLERICIS

Prot. N. 2021 3872

The Most Reverend William MCGRATTAN
Bishop of Calgary
120 17th Avenue SW
Calgary, AB T2S 2T2
CANADA

Your Excellency,

The Congregation has now received, and has had the opportunity to study, the definitive sentence of the Apostolic Signatura regarding the relegation to profane use of Saint Patrick Church in Lethbridge. As Your Excellency may already be aware, this Dicastery's decree upholding that decision was declared to have violated the law *in discernendo*, that is, in our study of the correct application of canon 1222 §2 in this case.

The principle error was the use of the desired gain from the sale of the sacred edifice as grave cause for the relegation. However, it is noteworthy that in the last full paragraph of page 7 of the sentence, it is acknowledged that grave cause could consist of the impossibility to maintain a subsidiary church *while at the same time* trying to fund the construction of a new parish church. Because the need was based on a proposal, and because the church in question was the only one of the three reduced, and it was not shown that sufficient funds were not available from other sources, grave cause was determined to be lacking in this case.

Although this matter has been longstanding, the Congregation has an additional task in the recourse. Per the proper law of the Supreme Tribunal, the Dicastery who handled the hierarchical recourse challenged at the Signatura is entrusted with the execution of the sentence (cf. *m.p. Antiqua ordinatione*, 92). With that duty in mind, the Congregation would ask Your Excellency kindly to inform the Dicastery what steps have been taken to reopen the sacred edifice. In similar circumstances, the Congregation has advised that, to comply with the law, a church must be open for private prayer at least on occasion, and the Holy Eucharist must be celebrated in the sacred edifice at least twice *per annum*: on the titular feast (17 March in this case) and on the anniversary of its dedication (cf. *CIC* can. 2; *CIC* 1917 cann. 1167-1168). These obligations fall to Your Excellency and the Pastor of All Saints Parish.

The Congregation has also observed from local media reports that the church in question remains in the possession of the parish. Moreover, there were indications that Your Excellency, following the decision of the Apostolic Signatura, would begin a dialogue with the Recurrents and others interested in the preservation of Saint Patrick's Church. This Dicastery would encourage such pastoral measures, to allow a peaceful way forward for the parish and the Diocese of Calgary.

Taking this occasion to express my sentiments of esteem, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Lazzaro You Heung sik*

✠ Lazzaro You Heung sik
Archbishop-Bishop Emeritus of Daejeon
Prefect

+ *Andrés Ferrada*

✠ Andrés Ferrada Moreira
Titular Archbishop of Tiburnia
Secretary

(Enclosure)