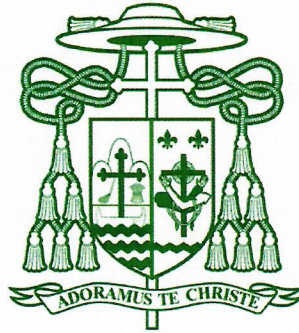


WILLIAM PATRICK

By the Grace of God and



the Favor of the Apostolic See

BISHOP OF LA CROSSE

DECREE RELEGATING SACRED HEART OF JESUS CHURCH IN DE SOTO, WISCONSIN
TO PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE

It is with some sadness as well as an abundance of gratitude that I write this decree. While the parish of Sacred Heart of Jesus in De Soto has been suppressed since September 28, 1997 at that time it was given the status an oratory. Unfortunately, over the years even the annual Mass on their feast day has ceased. All of the financial savings and support has stopped and we are left with the grave circumstances of having a church without a community or financial support. The church being present within the community still brings fond memories, like a childhood home it may not be visited often but just knowing it is there warms the heart. Change comes hard to me and when I see a church close it always saddens me that this place to encounter God will cease to be in our presence.

Although the regular worship ended when the parish was suppressed in 1997, and with this decree Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in De Soto will be deconsecrated for the purpose of being sold. At the beginning of its life as a Catholic church it was consecrated, set aside and made holy. It was reserved to be used for the celebration of the Sacred Mysteries of our faith and to welcome the community of the faithful to prayer and worship. This action is very much like a death and to the many who will feel this loss deeply, know of my prayers for each of you as you mourn this loss.

The gratitude I hold in my heart is for the many families that made Sacred Heart of Jesus a spiritual home over the years, with its beginnings in 1894 when construction was completed to today many people have been touched by the grace of God and brought together as a community of believers in this simple yet beautiful church. While this home will close and will be given over to another use the memories we share are the foundations of our faith and this faith is the unbreakable bond that binds us together as a family in Christ Jesus our Lord.

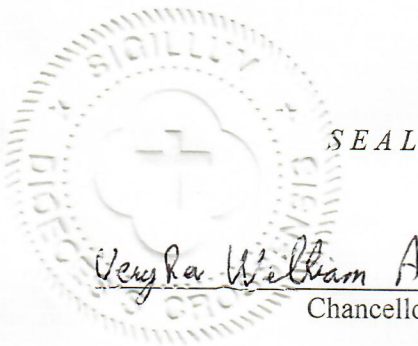
While it is with a somber demeanor that I accept the request of the Parochial Administrator of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Genoa, Father Daniel Sedlacek, and the Parish Council and Finance Council's recommendation to deconsecrate the church so it might be sold. I, hereby decree the church building of Sacred Heart of Jesus in De Soto, Wisconsin to be relegated to profane (ordinary, non-sacred) but not sordid (evil, ignoble) use. Father Daniel Sedlacek shall remove all consecrated items from the church building,

storing them for safe keeping and possible future use or, when necessary, disposing of them appropriately.

Having consulted with the College of Consultors and the Diocesan Finance Council, I also grant permission for the Church to be sold.

Offering my heartfelt prayers that the Holy Spirit might bring peace to the hearts of those troubled by this decision.

Given at Holy Cross Diocesan Center this tenth day of November in the year of our Lord 2020, the Feast of Saint Charles Borromeo.



Very Rev. William A. Rhein
Chancellor

William Patrick Bell
Bishop of La Crosse