



DAVID J. WALKOWIAK

**DECREE of RELEGATION
Of the Sacred Heart Parish Church Building, Muskegon Heights
To Profane but not Sordid Use**

Whereas Sacred Heart Parish, Muskegon Heights is to be merged into Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish, Muskegon, Michigan by canonical decree on February 19, 2024, and

Whereas, in light of the closure of the Sacred Heart church building and Sacred Heart parish buildings due the decline in its Mass attendance and decline in revenue to cover parish expenses, and due to its immediate proximity to other parishes in Muskegon, and cessation of worship and parish activities, and

Whereas, since the community which had previously worshipped at Sacred Heart Parish has now been integrated into the worshipping community at Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish, and the maintenance of an unused church building and facilities would create a grave financial burden for Saint Thomas the Apostle parish, and

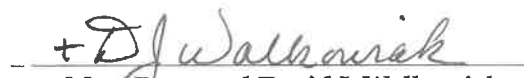
Whereas the pastor, following consultation with the Finance Council of the parish, requested of me in a letter dated January 8, 2023 that such action be taken, and in addition to my having heard the Presbyteral Council in a meeting convened on January 24, 2024,

Therefore I, the Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak, Bishop of Grand Rapids, in order to provide for the present and future pastoral needs of Saint Thomas the Apostle parish, do hereby decree that in accord with canon 1222§2, the Sacred Heart church building be relegated to profane but not sordid use effective February 19, 2024.

Recourse against this decree must be in accord with the procedures set forth in canons 1732-1739.

Given at Grand Rapids, Michigan on this 13th day of February in the Year of Our Lord two thousand twenty-four.


Ecclesiastical Notary


Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak
Bishop of Grand Rapids