

DECREE

Loss of Blessing and Relegation to Profane Use of Saint Helena Church, Weirs Beach, New Hampshire

Whereas Saint Helena mission church, Weirs Beach, New Hampshire, having been merged with Our Lady of the Lakes, Lakeport, New Hampshire and Sacred Heart Parish, Laconia, New Hampshire, into Saint André Bessette Parish, Laconia, New Hampshire, by decree dated June 18, 2010 and effective June 27, 2010, in accord with the 1983 *Code of Canon Law*, canons 50 and 51 relative to the execution of administrative acts, canon 1212 relative to the loss of dedication or blessing of sacred places, and canon 1222, §2 relative to grave causes for the relegation of a church to profane but not sordid use, have secured the consent of the Pastor of Saint André Bessette Parish and of those who legitimately claim rights for themselves in the Church, and am morally certain that the good of souls in the town of Weirs Beach will suffer no detriment. Due to the following grave causes, Saint Helena mission church should be relegated to profane but not sordid use:

1. The present state of the physical plant of Saint Helena church, Weirs Beach, New Hampshire, imposes an inordinate financial burden upon Saint André Bessette Parish, and repairs to the church cannot be reasonably undertaken without causing exceptional harm to the stability of Saint André Bessette Parish, Laconia, New Hampshire (Cf. canon 1222 §1.)
2. The documented and well established shortage of clergy in the Diocese of Manchester, without a foreseeable amelioration, requires a prudent distribution of priests throughout the diocese and an adjustment of their expected ministries in the care of the souls entrusted to them. To fulfill and observe this supreme law, the needs of the faithful of Saint André Bessette will be better guaranteed and nurtured by reducing its accumulated worship places. Relying on the recorded and documented history of the life of the local Church community, it is most propitious to sustain the liturgical life of the Parish using the worship spaces of Our Lady of the Lakes, Lakeport, Sacred Heart and Saint Joseph, Laconia.

Therefore, I hereby:


1. Decree that the Saint Helena mission church, Weirs Beach, New Hampshire is no longer a sacred place and by this Decree, has lost its blessing (Cf. canon 1212);
2. Decree that the Saint Helena mission church, Weirs Beach, New Hampshire may no longer be utilized in any way for divine worship (Cf. canon 1214);
3. Instruct that all sacred objects within Saint Helena mission church be removed to Saint André Bessette Parish with particular attention given to the Altar (Cf. canon 1238);
4. Relegate permanently to profane, but not sordid, use Saint Helena mission church, Weirs Beach, New Hampshire (Cf. canon 1222 §1.)

This Decree takes effect at midnight on Sunday, December 1, 2013. I direct that this Decree be given to the Pastor of Saint André Bessette Parish in Laconia, New Hampshire, to be placed in the records of the Parish.

Given at Manchester this September 30, 2013.



Most Reverend Peter A. Libasci
Bishop of Manchester



Chancellor