

SAINT PHILIP NERI PARISH

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March 22, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The future of the Holy Cross campus has been the subject of a years-long process of consultation and discernment. Many proposed uses have been considered as we sought new ownership for the property. Unfortunately, none of these proposals have met the canonical criteria which protect former church buildings from uses inconsistent with its inherent dignity. In consultation with parish leaders, and through much prayer, I have discerned that the time has come to remove the church building and its attached rectory.

When a Catholic church is constructed, it is dedicated to the worship of God and the sanctification of its members. The re-use of a former church is restricted to honor the sacred purpose of its construction. The building has already been relegated to “profane but not sordid use” in accordance with canon 1222 of the *Code of Canon Law*. Protecting the building from uses inconsistent with its dignity would mean ensuring, in perpetuity, that nothing ever takes place in the former church that would contradict Catholic teaching or the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Practically speaking, that is not possible.

It is understandable that the closure of a beloved institution has caused sadness and grief. With so many former members of Holy Cross, I, too, grieve the loss of a place of worship. Having met with representatives of the neighborhood association and after giving consideration to their concerns, the school building and gymnasium will remain. The church building and its attached rectory will be removed in the coming weeks to make the land available for the benefit of the community under future ownership.

I ask that you please pray for our community as we move forward in this endeavor.

Sincerely yours,

Fr. Dufresne
Pastor, St. Philip Neri Parish