

07/2019 L

12 February 2019

DECREE

The Closing of the Parish of Saint Eugene, Bedford, Ohio
and the Disposition of its Assets and Liabilities

In the Name of the Lord. Amen.

After careful study and prayerful reflection, and having consulted the Presbyteral Council of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma for the Ruthenians (canon 280, §2 CCEO), I, Milan Lach, S.J., the Bishop of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma for the Ruthenians, hereby decree that Saint Eugene Parish in the city of Bedford, Ohio be canonically closed.

The reasons for this action are:

- The number of St. Eugene parishioners has decreased to a number which is insufficient to support financially the parish.
- The eparchial presbyterate is such that the assignment of a priest to service the parish on a regular liturgical schedule is not possible.
- The closure of the parish of Saint Eugene will not leave those residing in the area without reasonable access to a Byzantine Catholic church for the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and other sacraments.

The faithful of the parish of Saint Eugene in Bedford, Ohio are thus exhorted to join a parish of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma for the Ruthenians.

With due regard for the wishes of the founders and donors, after the settlement of the cost of closing the parish facilities, parish assets and liabilities revert to the superior juridic person, i.e., the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma for the Ruthenians (see canons 929, 930, CCEO). The assets of the parish are to be distributed to four established eparchial funds for 1) development of parishes; 2) promotion of vocations and seminary education; 3) the eparchial pension fund for priests; and 4) works of the apostolate.

I direct that care is to be taken to secure the property of the parish of Saint Eugene and all contents of the buildings on the property. Special care is to be taken in the protection of sacred objects within the church building. Precious articles such as vessels used in the Divine Liturgy, sacred images, relics, sacred furnishings, stained glass windows, altars etc. are to be removed for use in other sacred edifices or to be stored in ecclesiastical custody. Sacramental registers are to be delivered and maintained at the Chancery of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma for the Ruthenians. Other miscellaneous articles (rectory furniture, maintenance equipment etc.) are to be disposed of according to the wishes of the Bishop of Parma.

This decree is effective immediately. At the same time, I order this decree to be made public to all the faithful of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma for the Ruthenians through its publication on the eparchial website and in the eparchial publication, *Horizons*. The publication of the decree on the eparchial website is the legitimate notification.

Those who claim to have been aggrieved by this decree are herewith notified that, if they desire to file recourse against the decree, they are required for validity to submit a petition in the sense of canon 999 CCEO within ten (10) useful days from the legitimate notification of this decree.

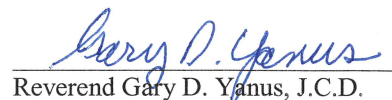
Given at the Chancery of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma for the Ruthenians, on this 12th day of February, 2019.



The Most Reverend Milan, Lach, S.J.
Bishop of Parma



Very Reverend Marek Visnovsky
Protosyncellus/Notary



Reverend Gary D. Yanus, J.C.D.
Chancellor