



My Dear Parishioners of Holy Rosary,

It is with great sadness and a heavy heart that I write to you today. As you know, your parish leaders, along with leaders of the Pierce Deanery and staff members of the Archdiocese of Seattle, have worked diligently over many months to assess the significant safety issues of your beautiful church building.

More than 800 hours of staff time and consultant resources went into identifying a solution to restore Holy Rosary Church as a safe worship site for you. The Archdiocese prepared six separate assessments to understand fully the situation. Through that process, it became clear that the renovation cost to re-occupy the building and complete the required envelope repairs, would be approximately \$7 million. To make all required structural repairs, the total cost would be nearly \$18 million.

Unfortunately, the Archdiocese does not have the funds to pay for these significant repairs, nor does your Holy Rosary community. Needless to say, both you and I wish that the situation was different. At the same time, however, an important question must be asked: Even if the necessary financial resources could be found, would it be the most prudent use of \$18 million to repair one church building serving a small community of faithful, when there are so many other pressing needs, both spiritual and social? Faithful stewardship of both parish and archdiocesan resources says no.

It is clear that the costs to fully repair, restore and maintain Holy Rosary Church are simply unaffordable. Therefore, after a great deal of prayer and wide consultation, I have decided to issue a decree to close and raze the church building.

As you know, this decision has been a very difficult one – not only for me, but also for everyone involved in the process. I want to recognize especially Deacon Jim Fish and the key leaders from the Holy Rosary pastoral and finance councils for their leadership, service and fortitude during this emotionally charged and tumultuous time. They have worked tirelessly since last October, and I thank them for their dedicated and thoughtful efforts.

I also want to thank you, the parish community of Holy Rosary, for your patience during these past months. The process has taken a long time, as it was important to me that we complete the due diligence and explore all possibilities for restoring Holy Rosary Church. You will see that my decree includes the results from six assessments, as well information regarding the process for requesting reconsideration of my decision.

I pray fervently for you and the spiritual welfare of your parish, knowing that over the years you have experienced dramatic demographic changes, shifting economic and sociological conditions, and the deep personal loss of a beloved pastor, Fr. Michael Wagner. These losses have understandably been the source of deep pain for your community, and I want you to know that the people of the Archdiocese, the clergy and I are with you in prayer. Moreover, we are here to support you as you enter the next phase as Holy Rosary Parish. May the Lord Jesus give you his healing and peace, and may Our Lady of the Holy Rosary protect you in the mantle of her motherly embrace.

Sincerely in Christ,



J. Peter Sartain
Archbishop of Seattle