



Response to the Holy Rosary Recourse

SEATTLE, May 16, 2024 – After receiving the letter from the Dicastery for the Clergy on the recourse related to Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church in Tacoma, the Archdiocese of Seattle has the following statement:

It is important to note that the recourse process does not examine the merits of the case, but rather the process that led to the recommendation to Archbishop Paul D. Etienne to issue the decree. This appeal specifically relates to the recent decree that sought to relegate the Our Lady of the Holy Rosary church building to profane but not sordid use.

The Dicastery for the Clergy informed the Archdiocese of Seattle that there was a process error, which made the necessary consultation with the Presbyteral Council (an advisory council of priests) invalid. Specifically, they noted that “the Presbyteral Council (meeting) was convened in a mixed mode, some in person and others via Zoom.” The Dicastery shared that the permission to hold video conference meetings “on account of the COVID-19 pandemic, has expired.”

This means that the Presbyteral Council would need to be consulted again to issue a valid decree to relegate the Our Lady of the Holy Rosary church building to profane but not sordid use.

Since the decree has been revoked, Archbishop Etienne will work with Father Tuan Nguyen, the pastor of Pope St. John XXIII parish, to once again listen to the people and organizations who have expressed interest in preserving the Our Lady of the Holy Rosary church building to determine if there is a viable future for this building.

The church building remains closed because it is not structurally sound and is unsafe for people to enter.

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