



5.20.21

Clarification regarding the sale of property by Mercyhurst University

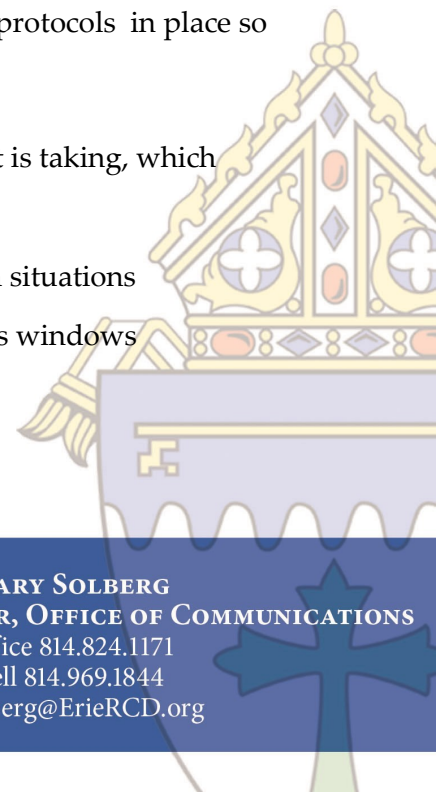
Mercyhurst University owns both the property the chapel sits on at its former campus in North East, as well as the chapel itself. The Diocese of Erie does not.

In preparing to sell the property, including the chapel, Mercyhurst has followed the correct procedures as outlined by church law. The Holy See requires when a church or chapel is no longer going to be used for sacred worship, the liturgical or sacred materials, including stained glass windows, must be removed and either used in another church or chapel or properly disposed of in a dignified way.

The diocese provides this information to all parishes when church buildings are closed, including the names of reputable companies that accept sacred items and make them available to other churches that need them, and it has done the same for Mercyhurst. No one wants to see a beautiful church or chapel removed from its community. But when it happens, there are clear protocols in place so sacred and blessed objects are not used inappropriately.

The diocese will not receive any benefit from the steps Mercyhurst is taking, which are in line with church law.

The Vatican updated its protocols for this process based, in part, on situations such as the Church Brew Works in Pittsburgh that retained its stained glass windows after being transformed into a bar. # # #



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