



PONTIFICIUM CONSILIUM
DE CULTURA

Vatican, June 23, 2020

PROT.N. 02360/2020

Dear Mr. Bednarek,

A few days ago I received a letter from H.E. Mons. Dennis J. Sullivan, Bishop of Camden, regarding St. Joseph's in Sea Island City, NJ.

Bishop Sullivan sent me a copy of the Decree of Reduction to Profane Use of the building in question, dated February 5, 2020, explaining the reasons that led him to take this step.

However, Bishop Sullivan also wrote that a decision has not yet been taken about what will become of the building.

On the basis of this statement, I have expressed to him my hope that the historical monument can be preserved as a cultural heritage and perhaps repurposed in the cultural or ecclesial sphere. Unfortunately, the building appears to have significant conservation issues requiring costly restoration, beyond the means of the parish.

At this point, I appeal to you and to all the other faithful interested in the subject that your good intentions may be accompanied by concrete gestures.

I take the occasion to offer you my sincere regards,


Gianfranco Cardinal Ravasi

President

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