

CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH

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October 28, 2022

Preservation Burlington

RE: 20 Pine Street

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the Parishioners of Saint Joseph's Cathedral, I want to thank you for taking interest in our Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception property located at 20 Pine Street in Burlington. I am writing to share with the members of Preservation Burlington our perspective on the future of 20 Pine Street so that you may better understand our intentions and wishes.

As a house of worship, this property designed by Edward Larrabee Barnes and Daniel Urban Kiley has served our community well. We have deep respect for the architecture and history of the property, but the Parish's primary goal at this time is to desanctify the Church and take this property out of liturgical use.

One of the methods of completing the deconsecration of a sacred space, recognized by canon law is the demolition of a Church. This Roman Catholic traditional act is what's best for our Parish because it is the clearest way to complete the reduction of the property's sacredness. The Parish believes that the razing of the Church is the best way to help our parishioners cope with the loss of this parish, cleanse the site, and prevent any future non-sacred use of the property.

A denial of our demolition permit application would mean the Parish is unable to traditionally desanctify the Church and its property in the way we believe would best serve our community of parishioners. Moreover, transitioning a sacred building of worship into a new, non-sacred use runs afoul of our religious traditions and our community's wishes. This building has hosted baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and funerals, and to have the space be used for anything other than sacred acts will cause pain for members of the Parish. The goal of this tradition is to reduce such pain.

I understand the mission of Preservation Burlington is to advocate for “an appropriate adaptive reuse solution for 20 Pine Street.” I hope that this letter has helped express how your mission is in conflict with our religious practices and how “reuse” of this property would cause harm to our Parish community. We appreciate your right to appeal any decisions made by the City of Burlington, but respectfully request that Preservation Burlington reconsider your advocacy efforts and respect the religious practices that underpin our decision to move forward with the demolition of the property at 20 Pine Street.

Furthermore, I would like to extend to you and all your members an invitation to visit Saint Joseph’s Cathedral. This would give us an opportunity to discuss the topic more and for you to see the many items from the Immaculate Conception Parish we have preserved, and how we plan to honor and remember the 20 Pine Street property.

Respectfully,



Monsignor Peter A. Routhier