



# Diocese of Youngstown

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

May 7, 2026

Dear Parishioners of St. Columba Cathedral Parish,

With a firm hope in the future of St. Columba Cathedral Parish, I write to you concerning the church building of SS. Peter and Paul.

Recently the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Mahoning District Council forwarded a proposal to purchase the SS. Peter and Paul buildings. After a careful review by the St. Columba Parish and Finance Councils, Msgr. Siffrin forwarded a recommendation that the Church building of SS. Peter and Paul be reduced to profane but not sordid use.

In consultation with the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Youngstown on May 4, 2026, and after prayerful consideration I have accepted the recommendation of the leadership of the parish that the church building of SS. Peter and Paul be closed and formally relegated to profane but not sordid use. I will preside at the Holy Mass to close the church building on June 29, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

I understand that this news brings sadness and for many a sense of loss. However, the use of the buildings for service to the poor is a noble ministry and a great benefit to the city.

Let us not fear this time of change but rather trust in God's plan for a vibrant future. Together let us pray "That All May Be One."

Sincerely in Christ

Most Reverend David J. Bonnar  
Bishop of Youngstown

DJB/rs