

## Diocese of Sioux City Policy on Sacred Patrimony



The care of the sacred items that belong to the parishes of the Diocese of Sioux City is an important task that the Bishop of the Diocese of Sioux City shares with the pastors of the Diocese. Once an item is purchased or donated for sacred use it must be perpetually cared for.

Because these sacred items have been dedicated to the service of the Lord it is important that care is taken to assure that they should never be cast aside or turned over to secular, profane or sordid purposes (see Canon 1269).

Because these items are of a sacred nature they are not to be sold or given away to entities outside of the church. We have a long standing protocol that was established by the Bishops of the Diocese of Sioux City for the distribution of sacred items from closed churches within the diocese.

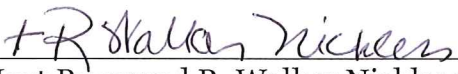
Below you will find a list of guiding principles that will assist you in establishing a procedure for removing the sacred items from a closed church/parish. The pastor or his delegate are to make a record of the final disposition of each item on the inventory.

The following principles and procedure are to be followed when it becomes necessary to close a church within the Diocese of Sioux City:

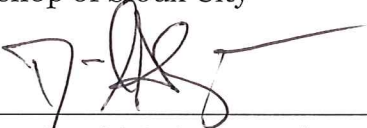
- 1) All items of a sacred nature are to be inventoried and labeled. A record of the inventory, a description of each item and the final disposition of each item is to be maintained in the archives of the Diocese of Sioux City and in the archives of the parish that receives the greatest number of parishioners from the closed parish.
- 2) Once an inventory of sacred items has been completed the pastor(s) of the parish(s) receiving parishioners from the closed parish is to cull through the sacred items and choose the things that he wishes to retain for continued sacred use or for preservation as valuable historic artifacts. These sacred items are not to be dispersed to members of the lay faithful. They are not to be sold or allowed to fall into secular, profane or sordid use. Once an item is donated to a parish for sacred use the item belongs to the service of the Lord and is not to be returned to the donors or their heirs. It is incumbent upon the pastors of the church to protect the sacred nature of the items that are dedicated to Lord and blessed by sacred use.

- 3) Once the local parish has selected items to be retained for continued sacred use or kept for historic purposes then the pastor is to invite the other pastors of the parishes of the Diocese of Sioux City to select items that they may want to make use of. Again, it is important to remember that these sacred items are not to be sold or allowed to fall into secular, profane or sordid use. An announcement of the availability of such items can be electronically communicated to all pastors and administrators and a copy of the inventory could be made available.
- 4) Sufficient time should be provided for the pastors of the Diocese of Sioux City to select items for sacred use within the Diocese. Once this stage is complete then the local pastor is encouraged to seek religious institutions and/or domestic and foreign missionary institutions that may be interested in receiving the remaining sacred items. All items that are left unclaimed should be disposed of after consultation with the Diocesan Office of Worship.
- 5) At every stage of the above process the pastor or his delegate should complete the section of the inventory which indicates final disposition of each object. Once completed a paper and electronic copy of the completed inventory should be given to the archivist of the Diocese of Sioux City and a copy consigned to the archives of the parish.

Approved and promulgated for the Diocese of Sioux City on the 26 day of October, 2015.

  
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Most Reverend R. Walker Nickless  
Bishop of Sioux City

  
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Reverend Brent C. Lingle  
Director of Worship

  
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Dcn. David A. Lopez, Ph.D.  
Chancellor

