



DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD
OFFICE OF THE VICAR GENERAL
MODERATOR OF THE CURIA



"At once Jesus spoke to them, 'Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.'"
(Matthew 14:27)

May 13, 2025

Church Patrimony Procedures - Diocese of Springfield

In past years our diocesan patrimony center was located at 35 Pleasant Street - Easthampton at the former Notre Dame church. Recently that property was sold to benefit the local parish.

The sale of that property created an opportunity for us to evaluate the reason for having such a facility. After months of getting all the data together, it became very visible that we stored unwanted items that at the end were either sold to religious companies to benefit the parish of origin or some items being given away to parishes, mostly outside of our diocese. Many of the remaining items like pews, chairs and broken statues were either buried or disposed of at the cost of the diocese.

We reached the conclusion that there is no need for us to have a patrimony center. If a parish has any patrimony items that are listed below but not limited to:

- Stained glass • Ritual furnishings, including altars, ambos, tabernacles, crucifixes, candelabra, Baptismal fonts, celebrant's and ministers' chairs • Sacred vessels, including chalices, ciboria, monstrance and pyxes • Vestments • Ritual books • Statuary • Stations of the Cross • Paintings, murals, frescoes, • Marble, wood and metal appointments, including altar rails, paneling and seating • Organs and bells etc.

Each parish should consider the following options:

1. Giving to the parishes within the deanery of the originating parish.
2. Giving to the parishes in the diocese.
3. Selling to parishes and groups outside the diocese for a donation.
4. Selling to church supplies companies like:

<https://adrianhamers.com> or <https://kingrichards.com>

It is important to understand that in any option chosen, consultation with the Parish Finance Council is required. Proceeds from sale are to benefit parish projects based on previous consent.

Respectful disposal

Once a religious object is blessed and dedicated for divine worship or veneration, it must be treated with reverence and must not be used in either an improper or profane way (cf. Code of Canon Law, #1171). Therefore, the normal "rule of thumb" is that anything that has been blessed should be burned (and then the ashes buried) or simply buried.

Please contact Diocesan Catholic Cemeteries if you need any assistance.

Thank you
Stay with God

Co-Vicar General & Moderator of the Curia