

# Deconsecration

## and Secularizing of a Building

*The Altar(s), Font and all consecrated and dedicated objects that are to be preserved are removed from the building before the service begins.*

*The Bishop, or a minister appointed by the Bishop, officiates.*

*The clergy of the congregation, the church wardens, and other persons who wish to participate, assemble in the building.*

*The officiant, using these or similar words, addresses the congregation.*

*Officiant* We who are gathered here know that this building, which has been consecrated and set apart for the ministry of God's holy Word and Sacraments, will no longer be used in this way, but will be [*taken down / used for other purposes*].

To many of you this building has been hallowed by cherished memories, and we know that some will suffer a sense of loss. We pray that they will be comforted by the knowledge that the presence of God is not tied to any place or building.

The Altar(s) and Font have been removed and protected. It is the intention of the Diocese that the congregation which worshiped here will not be deprived of the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

The Declaration of Secularization will now be read.

*The Declaration is read by the Bishop, a church warden or one appointed by him in the following form.*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

On the ..... day of ....., in the year of our Lord ....., by *N.N.*, Archbishop of ....., this building was duly dedicated and consecrated in honour of ..... [*and named* .....].

The Sentence of Consecration has been in effect until this present date.

I *N.N.*, Bishop of Fredericton, do hereby revoke the said Sentence [*issued by my predecessor*], and do remit this building, and all objects remaining in it, for any lawful and reputable use, according to the laws of this land.

This building, having now been declared deconsecrated and secularized, I declare to be no longer subject to my canonical jurisdiction.

This Declaration, which is to be publically proclaimed before witnesses gathered at the said building, is given under my hand and seal, in the City of ....., in the Province of ....., on this ..... day of ....., in the year of our Lord .....

.....  
Bishop of Fredericton

*After the foregoing Declaration has been read, the officiant continues ...*

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
Let us pray.

*Officiant* In the words our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are  
bold to say, Our Father,

*People* **who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
they will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Lord God, in your great goodness you once accepted to your honour  
and glory this building, now secularized: Receive our praise and  
thanksgiving for the blessings, help, and comfort which you bestowed  
upon your people in this place. Continue, we pray, your many mercies  
in your Church, that we may be conscious at all times of your  
unchanging love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Assist us mercifully, O Lord, in these our prayers, and dispose the  
way of your servants towards the attainment of everlasting salvation;  
that among the swift and varied changes of this world, our hearts may  
surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus  
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make his face to shine upon  
us, and be gracious to us. The Lord lift up his countenance upon us,  
and give us peace. **Amen.**