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## **Saint James Parish creates the Mount Calvary Legacy Empowerment Trust**

Saint James Parish has completed the sale of the Mount Calvary church and school buildings to the Robert Benjamin Wiley Community Charter School. The proceeds from the sale will directly benefit Saint James Parish.

As a parish asset, the proceeds are held in trust under the charitable structure of the Diocese of Erie. In accordance with diocesan and canonical norms, the pastor – serving as the parish administrator – is entrusted with the stewardship of these funds.

The purchase by an educational mission is a well-meaning use that continues the site's commitment of service to the community.

“Following its relegation in March 2025, the Mount Calvary church and school building has been purchased by the Robert Benjamin Wiley Community Charter School. This worthy use continues the legacy of the Sisters of St. Benedict, who first opened the Mount Calvary School and had a special love for education and outreach to the poor,” said The Reverend James McCormick, pastor of Saint James Parish.

“Proceeds from the sale will be placed in a designated fund that will be called the Mt. Calvary Legacy Empowerment Trust, which will be used to support outreach, maintenance, faith formation and other charitable initiatives, ensuring that the love and legacy of Mount Calvary parishioners endures,” Father McCormick continued. “The purchase protects vitality and property values of the neighborhood and carries forward a mission of service rooted in faith.”

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Father McCormick announced on March 8 that The Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico, bishop of Erie, after consultation with the Presbyteral Council, relegated Mount Calvary Church in Erie, a secondary church of Saint James Parish, Erie, to “profane but not sordid use.” The technical designation refers to the canon law process by which a bishop removes the blessing or consecration of a church building. The building then ceases to be reserved for divine worship, and therefore, the building can be used for non-religious purposes.

The diocese remains grateful for the generations of faithful who worshiped at Mount Calvary and is committed to ensuring that the property continues to serve a mission rooted in hope and service.

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