



April 21, 2015

Your Excellency,

I beseech and implore you to please reconsider your current plans to demolish Philadelphia's most sacred and divinely beautiful St. Laurentius church. This church means so much to the community whose parents, grandparents and great great grandparents built it. It is steeped in tradition firmly rooted in faith and bound by love. To destroy something so beautiful - not only the building, but this fervent community - would be a crime against the Catholic community at large. When you undermine the foundation of any structure whether it is brick and mortar or something less tangible such as a community or organization, the results are the same... that structure is inevitably compromised. By taking away St. Laurentius and other historic parishes you are compromising the already wavering community of Catholics throughout Philadelphia.

I realize that the Archdiocese is in financial straits and that many parishes cannot support their church buildings' financial needs. And while Philadelphia has a treasure trove of historically significant churches, this does not mean we should take these treasures for granted. I believe that it is time for the Archdiocese to see these old churches as an asset not a liability. There are viable ways to save them and I would love nothing more than to see the Archdiocese create a foundation trust to achieve this and then shout to the world your efforts and successes so that others might follow your lead. Our generation does not want to be remembered as the generation that turned a blind-eye to preservation; sacred, 19th century architecture such as Saint Laurentius' church in Fishtown is important, irreplaceable and truly priceless.

Please give all of us the opportunity to save St. Laurentius' sacred church, a most beloved, historic and sacred place so that our children and grandchildren can sit in this holy place and be inspired by its beauty. Give future generations the gift of awe, reverence and wonder that so many who love it have been so fortunate to experience.

Respectfully Yours,

Printed name: _____

CC: Office of the Nuncio, Washington D.C.
Philadelphia's City Council President, Darrell Clarke