



SACRED HEART OF JESUS CATHOLIC PARISH

Statement of Fr. Robert Sirico, pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Grand Rapids, MI on vandalism to the church.

Early in the morning of August 8, a series of symbols were spray-painted on three of the doors of Sacred Heart of Jesus parish on the west side of Grand Rapids. The symbols consist of two pentagrams surrounded by circles on two of the doors and the numbers 666 above what appears to be an attempted upside down cross on the other.

We have no specific details at this time on whom or why these symbols were placed on our doors and we are presently working with police, reaching out to neighbors and possible witnesses, as well as looking for any video recordings of the incident. The local neighborhood association, South West Area Neighborhood, has been here and has been very supportive.

As pastor, I invite the perpetrators to come forward and allow me to have a conversation with them about this incident. In the meantime, we offer our forgiveness for this act and pledge our prayers for whoever did this and for their reconciliation to God.

Sacred Heart of Jesus has been a vital presence in this neighborhood since 1904, serving this community through aid to the poor, education and the administration of the sacraments. The parish and academy are presently undergoing a vibrant renewal with the growth of the school and parish and the expansion of our social service and evangelizing activities in the area. Our plan is to continue and to increase these efforts.