

DECREE

Twinning

Saint John the Baptist Parish in Suncook, New Hampshire

and

Holy Rosary Parish in Hooksett, New Hampshire

The Catholic faithful of Suncook have been served well by Saint John the Baptist Parish since 1873 and the Catholic faithful of Hooksett have been served well by Holy Rosary Parish since 1886. During that time, many people have heard the Word of God, have worshiped and received the sacraments of the Church in these parishes. Now, in an effort to strengthen the preaching of the Gospel and to ensure the vitality of parish life, with concern for the best stewardship of resources and the right of the People of God to receive assistance from the Church, especially the Word of God, spiritual sustenance, the sacraments, and the continuation of important parochial ministries to the poor, elderly, families, children, and the community at large, it is necessary to make new provisions for the spiritual care of the parishioners of these parishes.

To that end, having asked parishioners to make known their needs and desires, having received the recommendations of Cluster Task Force Number Two, the Deans of the Amoskeag and Capital Deaneries and the Long Range Planning Commission, and after consultation with the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Manchester, and in accord with canons 515 and 526 §1 of the 1983 *Code of Canon Law*, I hereby entrust Saint John the Baptist Parish in Suncook, New Hampshire to the pastoral care of the pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in Hooksett, New Hampshire. This twinning shall take effect at midnight at the end of Sunday, May 11, 2008.

This decision is based upon a number of components, including the spiritual welfare of the People of God in Suncook and Hooksett, the proximity of the worshipping communities and the church edifices, the current number of parishioners of both parishes, the enhancement of collaborative ministry, and the best use of available priest personnel.

The twinning of Saint John the Baptist Parish and Holy Rosary Parish will not affect the juridic personality of either parish, which they now possess by law. Therefore, Saint John the Baptist Parish and Holy Rosary Parish shall remain separate and distinct parishes, and shall continue to be the subjects in canon law of obligations and rights corresponding to their natures as juridic persons. Each parish shall retain its own territory, subjects and activities.

All assets, whether movable or immovable, and all liabilities of Saint John the Baptist Parish and Holy Rosary Parish, upon this twinning, will remain attached to each particular parish, with no change in or sharing of ownership between the two parishes. Saint John the Baptist Parish and Holy Rosary Parish shall retain distinct parish finance councils and parish pastoral councils, and may retain their own parish personnel and staff. Each parish shall continue to maintain independent sacramental, financial and historical records and books.

I direct that this Decree be given to the current pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in Hooksett, New Hampshire and Saint John the Baptist Parish in Suncook, New Hampshire, and that this Decree, as well as the “Manner of Initiating Hierarchical Recourse” against this Decree, be communicated at all Masses of obligation in both parishes on the weekend of Saturday, May 10, 2008, and Sunday, May 11, 2008.

Given at Manchester this 2 day of May, 2008.

/s/ +John B. McCormack
Bishop of Manchester

/s/ Diane Murphy Quinlan
Chancellor