

## DECREE

**Merging Saint Joseph Parish in Hinsdale, New Hampshire, Saint Stanislaus Parish in  
Winchester, New Hampshire  
To form one new canonical person  
And the twinning of Mary, Queen of Peace Parish in Hinsdale/Winchester, New  
Hampshire with Saint Bernard Parish in Keene, New Hampshire**

Saint Joseph Parish has served the Catholic faithful of Hinsdale since 1884. Saint Stanislaus Parish has served the Catholic faithful of Winchester since 1901. 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 in the south western part of the State of New Hampshire, 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 and the sacraments, 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 the reconvened Cluster Task Force # 14 with two liaisons and the pastor from each of the parishes, after consultation with the dean of the Monadnock Deanery, the Long Range Planning Commission and the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Manchester and the Finance Council, and in accord with canons 121, 515 §2 §3 and 518 of the 1983 *Code of Canon Law*, I hereby:

1. Suppress and merge Saint Joseph Parish in Hinsdale, New Hampshire, Saint Stanislaus Parish in Winchester, New Hampshire to form one territorial parish. The union shall take effect at midnight at the end of Sunday, June 18, 2006. The merged parish shall include the membership of the former Saint Joseph Parish and the former Saint Stanislaus Parish. The current Saint Joseph Church edifice shall be the place of worship for the unified parish community with St. Stanislaus Parish edifice serving as a second site for worship.
2. The boundaries of the new parish will encompass the entire towns of Hinsdale, Winchester, Ashuelot and Richmond.
3. Establish that the name of the new territorial parish be from this moment known as **Mary, Queen of Peace Parish**. The name of the current Saint Joseph and St. Stanislaus Parish Church edifices shall remain unchanged.

This decision is based upon a number of components, the historical inability of the two parishes to survive on their own, the fostering of unity, the enhancement of collaborative ministry, and the best use of available priest personnel.

All parish registers containing the records of baptism, confirmation, Eucharist, marriage, and deaths preserved at Saint Joseph Parish, Saint Stanislaus Parish shall be transferred to the new territorial parish office where they will be faithfully preserved in accord with canon 535, §§1-5; and according to the norm of canon 121, all assets, whether movable or immovable, and all liabilities of Saint Joseph Parish, Saint Stanislaus Parish upon this merger, will become the assets and liabilities of the new territorial parish. Furthermore, possession of all ecclesiastical goods and all objects of artistic or historical value belonging to the former Saint Joseph Parish, Saint Stanislaus Parish shall be transferred to the new territorial parish and shall be administered in accordance with canons 1189 and 1292.

The merger of Saint Joseph Parish, Saint Stanislaus Parish will suppress and terminate the juridic personality of Saint Joseph Parish, Saint Stanislaus Parish which it now possesses by law. Therefore, Saint Joseph Parish and Saint Stanislaus Parish shall be no longer the subject in canon law of obligations and rights corresponding to its nature as a juridic person. In addition, said Saint Joseph Parish, Saint Stanislaus Parish shall be capable no longer of acquiring, retaining, administering, and alienating temporal goods according to the norm of law.

Furthermore, in accord with canons 515 §2, and 526 §1 of the 1983 *Code of Canon Law*, I hereby place Mary, Queen of Peace Parish in Hinsdale/Winchester, New Hampshire under the pastoral care of the pastor of Saint Bernard Parish in Keene, New Hampshire, and appoint the pastor of Saint Bernard Parish, pastor of Mary, Queen of Peace Parish. This twinning shall take effect at midnight at the end of Sunday, June 18, 2006.

This decision is based upon the proximity of the worshipping communities and the churches, the size of the parishes, the enhancement of collaborative ministry, and the best use of available priest personnel.

The twinning of Mary, Queen of Peace Parish and Saint Bernard Parish will not affect the juridic personality of either parish, which they now possess by law. Therefore, Mary, Queen of Peace Parish and Saint Bernard 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 Mary, Queen of Peace Parish and Saint Bernard Parish, upon this twinning, will remain attached to each particular parish, with no change in ownership or sharing between the two parishes. Mary, Queen of Peace Parish and Saint Bernard Parish 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 pastor of the new territorial parish and that this information be communicated at all Masses of obligation on the weekend of Saturday, June 17 and Sunday, June 18, 2006.

Given at Manchester this 12<sup>th</sup> day of June 2006

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Bishop of Manchester

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Chancellor