

DECREE

Merging Our Lady of the Lakes Parish in Lakeport, New Hampshire, including Saint Helena Mission, Sacred Heart Parish in Laconia, New Hampshire and Saint Joseph Parish in Laconia, New Hampshire To form one new juridic person

Our Lady of the Lakes Parish has served the Catholic faithful of Lakeport since 1905. Sacred Heart Parish has served the Catholic faithful of Laconia since 1891. Saint Joseph Parish has served the Catholic faithful of Laconia since 1871. 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 lakes region 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, the sacraments and the continuation of ministries, 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 10, consisting of two liaisons and the pastor from each of the parishes, after consultation with the dean of the Lakes Region Deanery, the Long Range Planning Commission and the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Manchester and the Diocesan Finance Council, and in accord with canons 121, 515 §2 §3 and 518 of the *1983 Code of Canon Law*, I hereby:

1. Merge Our Lady of the Lakes Parish including Saint Helena Mission, Sacred Heart Parish and Saint Joseph Parish to form one territorial parish. The union shall take effect at midnight at the end of Sunday, June 27, 2010. The new parish shall include the membership of the former Our Lady of the Lakes Parish, the former Sacred Heart Parish and the former Saint Joseph Parish. The existing church edifice of each of the former parishes will remain the sites of worship for the new parish community, until such time that the pastor, with the advice of his parish pastoral and finance councils, and with my consent, determines otherwise.
2. The boundaries of the new parish will encompass the entire territory of the former Our Lady of the Lakes, Sacred Heart and Saint Joseph Parishes.
3. Establish that the name of the new territorial parish be known from midnight at the end of Sunday, June 27, 2010 as Blessed André Bessette Parish. The name of the current Our Lady of the Lakes Church, Saint

Helena Mission Church, Sacred Heart Church, and Saint Joseph Church edifices shall remain unchanged.

4. Establish that, in accord with canon 519, a pastor will be appointed to foster the pastoral care of Blessed André Bessette Parish.

This decision is based upon a number of components, among them the spiritual welfare of the parish communities, the spread of the Gospel, the fostering of unity of the People of God in the Lakes Region Deanery, 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 Our Lady of the Lakes Parish, Sacred Heart Parish and Saint Joseph Parish shall be transferred to Blessed André Bessette 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 Our Lady of the Lakes Parish, Sacred Heart Parish and Saint Joseph Parish upon this merger, will become the assets and liabilities of Blessed André Bessette Parish. Furthermore, possession of all ecclesiastical goods and all objects of artistic or historical value belonging to the former Our Lady of the Lakes Parish, Sacred Heart Parish and Saint Joseph Parish shall be transferred to Blessed André Bessette Parish and shall be administered in accordance with canons 1189 and 1292.

The merger of Our Lady of the Lakes Parish, Sacred Heart Parish and Saint Joseph Parish will suppress and terminate the juridic personality of Our Lady of the Lakes Parish, Sacred Heart Parish and Saint Joseph Parish, which they now possess by law. Therefore, Our Lady of the Lakes Parish, Sacred Heart Parish and Saint Joseph Parish shall be no longer subject in canon law of obligations and rights corresponding to their nature as juridic persons. In addition, said Our Lady of the Lakes Parish, Sacred Heart Parish and Saint Joseph Parish shall be capable no longer of acquiring, retaining, administering, and alienating temporal goods according to the norm of law.

I direct that this Decree be given to the pastor of Our Lady of the Lakes Parish, Sacred Heart Parish and Saint Joseph Parish, and that this information, as well as the “Manner of Initiating Recourse Against an Administrative Decree”, be communicated at all Masses of obligation on the weekend of Saturday, June 26, 2010 and Sunday, June 27, 2010.

Given at Manchester this eighteenth day of June, 2010

Bishop of Manchester

Chancellor