

DECREE

Twinning

All Saints Parish in Lancaster, New Hampshire

and

Saint Matthew Parish in Whitefield, New Hampshire

The Catholic faithful of Lancaster have been served well by All Saints Parish since 1856, and the Catholic faithful of Whitefield have been served well by Saint Matthew 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 Forces number thirty and thirty-one, the Dean of the White Mountain Deanery 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 Matthew Parish in Whitefield, New Hampshire to the pastoral care of the pastor of All Saints Parish in Lancaster, New Hampshire. This twinning shall take effect at midnight at the end of Wednesday, September 17, 2008.

This decision is based upon a number of components, including the spiritual welfare of the People of God in Lancaster and Whitefield, the proximity of the worshiping 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 All Saints Parish and Saint Matthew Parish will not affect the juridic personality of either parish, which they now possess by law. Therefore, All Saints Parish and Saint Matthew 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 All Saints Parish and Saint Matthew Parish, upon this twinning, will remain attached to each particular parish, with no change in or sharing of ownership between the two parishes. All Saints Parish and Saint Matthew 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 All Saints Parish and Saint Matthew Parish 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, September 20, 2008, and Sunday, September 21, 2008.

Given at Manchester this 4th day of September, 2008.

/s/ + John B. McCormack
Bishop of Manchester

/s/ Diane Murphy Quinlan
Chancellor