

DECREE

Twinning Saint Mary Parish in Rollinsford, New Hampshire with Saint Martin Parish in Somersworth, New Hampshire and Holy Trinity Parish in Somersworth, New Hampshire with Saint Martin Parish in Somersworth

The Catholic faithful of Rollinsford have been served well by Saint Mary Parish since 1856. The Catholic faithful of Somersworth have been served well by Saint Martin Parish since 1882 and by Holy Trinity Parish since 1857. 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 the Cluster Task Force #21 consisting of laity and clergy, the dean of the Seacoast Deanery, the Long Range Planning Commission, and after consultation with the pastors of Saint Mary Parish in Rollinsford, Saint Martin Parish in Somersworth and Holy Trinity Parish in Somersworth and in accord with canons 515 §2, and 526 §1 of the 1983 *Code of Canon Law*, I hereby place Saint Mary Parish in Rollinsford, New Hampshire, St. Martin Parish in Somersworth, New Hampshire and Holy Trinity Parish in Somersworth, New Hampshire under the pastoral care of the pastor of Saint Martin Parish in Somersworth, New Hampshire. This twinning shall take effect at midnight at the end of Sunday, June 18, 2006.

This decision is based upon a number of components, including a shift in the Catholic worshipping community in the Somersworth and Rollinsford area, 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 Saint Mary Parish, and Holy Trinity Parish with Saint Martin Parish respectively, will not affect the juridic personality of either parish, which they now possess by law. Therefore, Saint Mary Parish, Saint Martin Parish and Holy Trinity 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 Mary Parish, Saint Martin Parish and Holy Trinity Parish, upon this “twinning”, will remain attached to each particular parish, with no change in ownership or sharing between the three parishes. Saint Mary Parish, Saint Martin Parish and Holy Trinity 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 current pastors of Saint Mary Parish in Rollinsford, New Hampshire, Saint Martin Parish in Somersworth, New Hampshire, and Holy Trinity Parish in Somersworth, New Hampshire and that this information be communicated at all Masses of obligation on the weekend of June 17-18, 2006.

Given at Manchester this 6th day of June, 2006

Bishop of Manchester

Chancellor