

DECREE

Uniting Saint Anne Parish in Manchester, New Hampshire

with

Saint Augustine Parish in Manchester, New Hampshire

Saint Anne Parish has served the Catholic faithful of Manchester since 1848. During that time, many people have heard the Word of God, have worshiped and received the sacraments of the Church in this parish. 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 already-existing multicultural ministries, it is necessary to make new provisions for the spiritual care of the parishioners of this parish.

To that end, having asked parishioners to make known their needs and desires, having received the recommendations of the Joint Parish Councils and Finance Councils of Saint Anne Parish in Manchester and Saint Augustine Parish in Manchester, after consultation with the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Manchester and the Diocesan Finance Council, and in accord with canon 515 §2 of the 1983 *Code of Canon Law*, I hereby:

1. Suppress and unite Saint Anne Parish in Manchester, New Hampshire with Saint Augustine Parish in Manchester, New Hampshire to form one territorial parish. The union shall take effect at midnight at the end of Sunday, April 18, 2004. This unified parish shall include the membership of the present Saint Augustine Parish and the former Saint Anne Parish, and the current Saint Augustine Church edifice shall be the place of worship for the unified parish community.

2. Establish that the name of the present Saint Augustine Parish be augmented to reflect the inclusion of the Saint Anne worshiping community and be changed to "Saint Anne - Saint Augustine Parish." The name of the current Saint Augustine Church edifice shall remain unchanged.

This decision is based upon a number of components, including a decline in the Catholic worshiping community in the Manchester area, the proximity of the worshiping communities and the churches, the size of the parishes, the desire to avoid duplication of services and programs in a small geographic area, the prohibitive costs associated with necessary repairs and maintenance to aging structures, 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 Anne Parish shall be transferred to the present Saint Augustine Parish 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 Anne Parish, upon this union, will become the assets and liabilities of the present Saint Augustine Parish. Furthermore, possession of all ecclesiastical goods and all objects of artistic or historical value belonging to the former Saint Anne Parish shall be transferred to the present Saint Augustine Parish and shall be administered in accordance with canons 1189 and 1292.

The unification of Saint Anne Parish and Saint Augustine Parish will suppress and terminate the juridic personality of Saint Anne Parish, which it now possesses by law. Therefore, Saint Anne 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 Anne 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 Saint Anne Parish in Manchester, New Hampshire, who is the current pastor of Saint Augustine Parish in Manchester, New Hampshire, and that this information be communicated at all Masses of obligation on the weekend of Saturday, April 17, 2004 and Sunday, April 18, 2004.

Given at Manchester this sixteenth day of April 2004.

/s/ + John B. McCormack
Bishop of Manchester

/s/ Edward J. Arsenault
Chancellor