

PETER A. LIBASCI

by the Grace of God, and the Pleasure of the Apostolic See Bishop of Manchester

- Whereas: **Saint Bernard Parish** has served the Catholic faithful of **Keene** since 1862. During that time, many people have heard the Word of God, have worshiped and received the sacraments of the Church in these parishes;
- Whereas: **Saint Margaret Mary Parish** has served the Catholic faithful of **Keene** since 1955. During that time, many people have heard the Word of God, have worshiped and received the sacraments of the Church in that parish;
- Whereas: **Saint Joseph Parish** has served the Catholic faithful of **Hinsdale** since 1884. During that time, many people have heard the Word of God, have worshiped and received the sacraments of the Church in that parish;
- Whereas: **Sacred Heart Parish** has served the Catholic faithful of **Marlborough** since 1886. During that time, many people have heard the Word of God, have worshiped and received the sacraments of the Church in this parish;
- Whereas: **Immaculate Conception Parish** has served the Catholic faithful of **Troy** since 1902. During that time, many people have heard the Word of God, have worshiped and have received the sacraments of the Church in this parish;
- Whereas: **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 that parish;
- Whereas: **Saint Joseph Parish, Hinsdale, and Saint Stanislaus, Winchester**, by suppressive union decreed on June 18, 2006, were established as **Mary, Queen of Peace Parish**, a new territorial parish, with all rights and privileges afforded juridic persons in canon law. The boundaries of the new parish encompass the entire towns of Hinsdale, Winchester, Ashuelot and Richmond;

Whereas: **Sacred Heart Parish, Marlborough**, by extinctive union, was juridically subsumed by **Saint Bernard, Keene**, by decree dated June 24, 2006. The new boundaries of St. Bernard Parish in Keene include, in addition to the current boundaries of St. Bernard Parish, the boundaries of the former Sacred Heart Parish in Marlborough, which include the entire incorporated community of Marlboro to the point where it touches the town lines of Dublin, Jaffrey, Keene and Troy;

Whereas: **Immaculate Conception Parish, Troy**, by extinctive union, was juridically subsumed by **Saint Bernard, Keene**, by decree dated January 3, 2010. The new boundaries of St. Bernard Parish in Keene include, in addition to the boundaries established on June 24, 2006, the current boundaries of Immaculate Conception Parish, Troy;

Whereas: **Saint Bernard Parish, Keene**, and **Saint Margaret Mary Parish, Keene**, by extinctive union decreed September 26, 2010, became **Parish of the Holy Spirit**, a juridic person with all the rights and obligations normalized by canon law. The boundaries of the new parish will encompass the entire territory of the former Saint Bernard Parish and Saint Margaret Mary Parish, including the city of Keene and the towns of Marlborough and Troy and the entire township of Swanzezy;

Whereas: All above referenced decrees provided the necessary causes for such restructuring, including a number of components: the proximity of the worshipping communities and the churches, the population size of the parishes, the desire to avoid duplication of services and programs in a small geographic area, the fostering of unity, the enhancement of collaborative ministry, and the best use of available priest personnel;

Whereas: The above-mentioned established causes remain, that further demographic changes, Catholic and non-Catholic demand a better structure to properly serve the needs of the faithful and of the Church, and that exact administration has its requirements;

Whereas: The Presbyteral Council, in keeping with the requirements of law, was convened and consulted on August 9, 2021;

Whereas: The Pastor of the parish of the Holy Spirit, the Dean of the Monadnock Deanery, and the Administrator of Mary, Queen of Peace Parish were consulted and their supportive consent was expressed;

hereby

DECREE

MARY, QUEEN OF PEACE PARISH,
by extinctive union, to be subsumed by
PARISH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,
effective at midnight on September 12, 2021

The boundaries of Parish of the Holy Spirit shall be its current territory with the added territories of Mary, Queen of Peace Parish.


All parish registers containing the records of Baptisms, Confirmations, Eucharist, Marriages, and deaths preserved at Saint Bernard Parish, Keene, Saint Margaret Mary Parish, Keene, Saint Joseph Parish, Hinsdale, Sacred heart Parish, Marlborough, Immaculate Conception Parish, Troy, and Saint Stanislaus Parish, Winchester, shall be transferred to Parish of the Holy Spirit, 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 Bernard Parish, Keene, Saint Margaret Mary Parish, Keene, Saint Joseph Parish, Hinsdale, Sacred heart Parish, Marlborough, Immaculate Conception Parish, Troy, upon their suppressive unions or subsumption, have become, or are now becoming, the assets and liabilities of Parish of the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, possession of all ecclesiastical goods and all objects of artistic or historical value belonging to the former parishes shall be transferred to Parish of the Holy Spirit and shall be administered in accordance with the prescriptions of canon and particular law.

The pastoral care of the Parish of the Holy Spirit remains the pastorate of Very Reverend Alan TREMBLAY. Tthe Administrator of Mary, Queen of Peace, Reverend Britto ADAIKALAM, H.G.N., is hereby named Associate Pastor of the Parish of the Holy Spirit.

I direct that this Decree be given to the pastor of the new territorial Parish of the Holy Spirit and that this information be communicated at all Masses of obligation on the weekend of Saturday, September 11 and Sunday September 12, 2021.

Given at Manchester the 1st day of September 2021.


Most Reverend Peter A. LIBASCI, D.D.
Bishop of Manchester


Meredith COOK
Chancellor
Diocese of Manchester