

DECREE

Merging Mary, Queen of Peace Parish in Salem, New Hampshire and Saint Joseph Parish in Salem, New Hampshire To form one new juridic person

Mary, Queen of Peace Parish has served the Catholic faithful of Salem since 1966. Saint Joseph Parish has served the Catholic faithful of Salem since 1910. 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 southern part 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 16, consisting of two liaisons and the pastor from each of the parishes, after consultation with the dean of the Rockingham 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 Mary, Queen of Peace Parish and Saint Joseph Parish to form one territorial parish. The union shall take effect at midnight at the end of Sunday, July 4, 2010. The new parish shall include the membership of the former Mary, Queen of Peace 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 Mary, Queen of Peace and Saint Joseph Parishes.
3. Establish that the name of the new territorial parish be known from midnight at the end of Sunday, July 4, 2010 as Saints Mary and Joseph Parish. The name of the current Mary, Queen of Peace 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 Saints Mary and Joseph 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 Salem region, 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 Mary, Queen of Peace Parish and Saint Joseph Parish shall be transferred to the Saints Mary and Joseph 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 Mary, Queen of Peace Parish and Saint Joseph Parish upon this merger, will become the assets and liabilities of Saints Mary and Joseph Parish. Furthermore, possession of all ecclesiastical goods and all objects of artistic or historical value belonging to the former Mary, Queen of Peace Parish and Saint Joseph Parish shall be transferred to Saints Mary and Joseph Parish and shall be administered in accordance with canons 1189 and 1292.

The merger of Mary, Queen of Peace Parish and Saint Joseph Parish will suppress and terminate the juridic personality of Mary, Queen of Peace Parish and Saint Joseph Parish, which they now possess by law. Therefore, Mary, Queen of Peace 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 Mary, Queen of Peace 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 Mary, Queen of Peace 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, July 3, 2010 and Sunday, July 4, 2010.

Given at Manchester this eighteenth day of June, 2010

Bishop of Manchester

Chancellor