

DECREE

Unifying Immaculate Conception Parish in Troy, New Hampshire

with

Saint Bernard Parish in Keene, New Hampshire

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. 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 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 parish pastoral councils of Immaculate Conception Parish and Saint Bernard Parish, Keene, the finance councils of Immaculate Conception Parish and Saint Bernard Parish, Keene, after consultation with the Dean of the Monadnock Deanery, 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. Unite Immaculate Conception Parish in Troy, New Hampshire with Saint Bernard Parish in Keene, New Hampshire to form one territorial parish with the resulting suppression of the present Immaculate Conception Parish. The union shall take effect at midnight at the end of Sunday, January 3, 2010. This unified parish shall include the membership of the present Saint Bernard Parish and the former Immaculate Conception Parish, and the current Immaculate Conception Church edifice and the current Saint Bernard Parish Church edifice shall be the places of worship for the unified parish community. The new boundaries of Saint Bernard Parish shall include the current boundaries of Immaculate Conception Parish, in addition to the current boundaries of Saint Bernard Parish,

2. Establish that the name of the present Saint Bernard Parish shall remain unchanged so that the newly unified parish shall be called Saint Bernard Parish.

This decision is based upon a number of components, the proximity of the worshipping communities and the churches, the 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.

All parish registers containing the records of baptism, confirmation, Eucharist, marriage, and deaths preserved at Immaculate Conception Parish shall be transferred to the present Saint Bernard 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 Immaculate Conception Parish, upon this union, will become the assets and liabilities of the present Saint Bernard Parish. Furthermore, possession of all ecclesiastical goods and all objects of artistic or historical value belonging to the former Immaculate Conception Parish shall be transferred to the present Saint Bernard Parish and shall be administered in accordance with the prescriptions of Church law.

The unification of Immaculate Conception Parish and Saint Bernard Parish will suppress and terminate the juridic personality of Immaculate Conception Parish, which it now possesses by law. Therefore, Immaculate Conception Parish shall be no longer the subject in canon law of obligations and rights corresponding to its nature as a juridic person. In addition, Immaculate Conception Parish shall no longer be capable 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 Immaculate Conception Parish in Troy, New Hampshire, and to the pastor of Saint Bernard Parish in Keene, New Hampshire, and that this information, as well as the "Manner of Initiating Hierarchical Recourse" against this Decree, be communicated at all Masses of obligation on the weekend of Saturday, January 2, 2010 and Sunday, January 3, 2010.

Given at Manchester this eleventh day of December, 2009.

Bishop of Manchester

Chancellor