

## **DECREE**

**Suppressing Saint Theresa Parish in Manchester, New Hampshire**

**And Unifying It with**

**Blessed Sacrament Parish in Manchester, New Hampshire**

Saint Theresa Parish has served the Catholic faithful of Manchester since 1934. 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 important parochial ministries to the elderly, poor and homeless, 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 Councils and Finance Councils of Saint Theresa Parish in Manchester and Blessed Sacrament 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 Saint Theresa Parish in Manchester, New Hampshire and unite it with Blessed Sacrament Parish in Manchester, New Hampshire to form one territorial parish. The suppression and unification shall take effect at midnight at the end of Saturday, July 10, 2004. This unified parish shall include the membership of the present Blessed Sacrament Parish and the former Saint Theresa Parish, and the current Blessed Sacrament Church edifice shall be the place of worship for the unified parish community.

2. Establish that the name of the present Blessed Sacrament Parish shall remain unchanged, and the name of the current Blessed Sacrament Church edifice shall remain unchanged. The perpetual adoration chapel at Blessed Sacrament Church shall be renamed Saint Theresa of Lisieux Eucharistic Adoration Chapel, in recognition of the great heritage of Saint Theresa Parish.

This decision is based upon a number of components, including a decline in the Catholic worshipping community in the Manchester area, 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 Saint Theresa Parish shall be transferred to the present Blessed Sacrament 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 Theresa Parish, upon this suppression and union, will become the assets and liabilities of the present Blessed Sacrament Parish. Furthermore, possession of all ecclesiastical goods and all objects of artistic or historical value belonging to the former Saint Theresa Parish shall be transferred to the present Blessed Sacrament Parish and shall be administered in accordance with canons 1189 and 1292.

The unification of Saint Theresa Parish and Blessed Sacrament Parish will suppress and terminate the juridic personality of Saint Theresa Parish, which it now possesses by law. Therefore, Saint Theresa 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 Theresa 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 Theresa Parish in Manchester, New Hampshire, who is the current pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Manchester, New Hampshire, and that this information be communicated at all Masses of obligation on the weekend of Saturday, July 10, 2004 and Sunday, July 11, 2004.

Given at Manchester this eighth day of July 2004.

*/s/ John B. McCormack*  
Bishop of Manchester

*/s/ Edward J. Arsenault*  
Chancellor