

DECREE

Merging Holy Trinity Parish in Somersworth, New Hampshire, Saint Martin Parish in Somersworth, New Hampshire To form one new juridical person

Holy Trinity Parish has served the Catholic faithful of Somersworth since 1857. Saint Martin Parish has served the Catholic faithful of Somersworth since 1882. 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 eastern 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 and the sacraments, 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 21 b, consisting of two liaisons and the pastor from each of the parishes, after consultation with the dean of the Seacoast Deanery, the Long Range Planning Commission and the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Manchester and the Finance Council, and in accord with canons 121, 515 §2 §3 and 518 of the 1983 *Code of Canon Law*, I hereby:

1. Merge Holy Trinity Parish in Somersworth, New Hampshire and Saint Martin Parish in Somersworth, New Hampshire to form one territorial parish. The union shall take effect at midnight at the end of Sunday, April 26, 2009. The merged parish shall include the membership of the former Holy Trinity Parish and the former Saint Martin Parish. The existing church edifice of each of the former parishes will remain the sites of worship for the merged 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 Holy Trinity and Saint Martin Parishes.

3. Establish that the name of the new territorial parish be known from midnight at the end of Sunday, April 26, 2009 as Saint Ignatius of Loyola Parish. The name of the current Holy Trinity Church and Saint Martin Church edifices shall remain unchanged.
4. Establish that, in accord with canon 519, a pastor will be appointed to foster the pastoral care of Saint Ignatius of Loyola 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 Seacoast Deanery, 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 Holy Trinity Parish and Saint Martin Parish shall be transferred to the new territorial 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 Holy Trinity Parish and Saint Martin Parish upon this merger, will become the assets and liabilities of the new territorial parish. Furthermore, possession of all ecclesiastical goods and all objects of artistic or historical value belonging to the former Holy Trinity Parish and Saint Martin Parish shall be transferred to the new territorial parish and shall be administered in accordance with canons 1189 and 1292.

The merger of Holy Trinity Parish and Saint Martin Parish will suppress and terminate the juridic personality of Holy Trinity Parish and Saint Martin Parish, which they now possess by law. Therefore, Holy Trinity Parish and Saint Martin Parish shall be no longer subject in canon law of obligations and rights corresponding to their nature as juridic persons. In addition, said Holy Trinity Parish and Saint Martin 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 Holy Trinity Parish, Saint Martin Parish and Saint Mary Parish, 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, April 25, 2009 and Sunday, April 26, 2009.

Given at Manchester this 15th day of April, 2009

/s/ _____
Bishop of Manchester

/s/ _____
Chancellor