

DECREE

Twinning

Mary, Queen of Peace Parish in Salem, New Hampshire

and

Saint Joseph Parish in Salem, New Hampshire

The Catholic faithful of Salem have been served well by Saint Joseph Parish since 1910, and Mary, Queen of Peace Parish since 1966. 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, 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 poor, elderly, families, children, and the community at large, 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 Cluster Task Force number sixteen, the Dean of the Rockingham Deanery and the Long Range Planning Commission, and after consultation with the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Manchester, and in accord with canons 515 and 526 §1 of the 1983 *Code of Canon Law*, I hereby entrust Mary, Queen of Peace Parish in Salem, New Hampshire to the pastoral care of the pastor of Saint Joseph Parish in Salem, New Hampshire. This twinning shall take effect at midnight at the end of Wednesday, September 24, 2008.

This decision is based upon a number of components, including the spiritual welfare of the People of God in Salem, the proximity of the worshipping communities and the church edifices, the current number of parishioners of both parishes, the enhancement of collaborative ministry, and the best use of available priest personnel.

The twinning of Mary, Queen of Peace Parish and Saint Joseph Parish will not affect the juridic personality of either parish, which they now possess by law. Therefore, Mary, Queen of Peace Parish and Saint Joseph Parish shall remain separate and distinct parishes, and shall continue to be the subjects in canon law of obligations and rights corresponding to their natures as juridic persons. Each parish shall retain its own territory, subjects and activities.

All assets, whether movable or immovable, and all liabilities of Mary, Queen of Peace Parish and Saint Joseph Parish, upon this twinning, will remain attached to each particular parish, with no change in or sharing of ownership between the two parishes. Mary, Queen of Peace Parish and Saint Joseph Parish shall retain distinct parish finance councils and parish pastoral councils, and may retain their own parish personnel and staff. Each parish shall continue to maintain independent sacramental, financial and historical records and books.

I direct that this Decree be given to the current pastor of Mary, Queen of Peace Parish and Saint Joseph Parish in Salem, New Hampshire, and that this Decree, as well as the “Manner of Initiating Hierarchical Recourse” against this Decree, be communicated at all Masses of obligation in both parishes on the weekend of Saturday, September 27, 2008, and Sunday, September 28, 2008.

Given at Manchester this 4th day of September, 2008.

/s/ + John B. McCormack
Bishop of Manchester

/s/ Diane Murphy Quinlan
Chancellor