

DECREE

Uniting Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Manchester, New Hampshire

with

Saint Anthony of Padua Parish in Manchester, New Hampshire

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish has served the Catholic faithful of Manchester since 1911. 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 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 members of Cluster Task Force number four, the Dean Very Reverend C. Peter Dumont, the Long Range Planning Commission and after consultation with the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Manchester and the Finance Council for the Diocese of Manchester, and in accord with canon 515 §2 of the 1983 *Code of Canon Law*, I hereby:

1. Suppress and unite Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Manchester, New Hampshire with Saint Anthony of Padua Parish in Manchester, New Hampshire to form one territorial/personal parish. The union shall take effect at midnight at the end of Sunday, April 30, 2006. This unified parish shall include the membership of the present Saint Anthony of Padua Parish and the former Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, and the current Saint Anthony of Padua Church edifice shall be the place of worship for the unified parish community.

2. Establish that the name of the present Saint Anthony of Padua Parish shall remain unchanged so that the newly unified parish is called Saint Anthony of Padua Parish.

3. Decree that Saint Anthony of Padua Parish, while retaining its identity as a personal parish has, by virtue of this unification, acquired a territorial identity by assuming the geographical identity and territorial boundaries of the former Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish. The new geographical boundaries of Saint Anthony of Padua parish in Manchester, NH shall encompass the geographical boundaries of the former Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Manchester, NH which include: North along the West side of Mammoth Road to the South side of Lake Avenue. West following the South side of Lake Avenue up to but not exclusive of Hall Street. South following Hall Street to Valley Street. West following the South side of Valley Street to Lincoln Street. South along the East side of Lincoln Street turning South East on to South Wilson Street and continuing to South Willow Street. East following South Willow Street East to point of origin at Mammoth Road. (This does not include the Grenier Heights.)

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 strengthening of vibrant parishes, and the best use of available priest personnel.

All parish registers containing the records of baptism, confirmation, Eucharist, marriage, and deaths preserved at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish shall be transferred to the present Saint Anthony of Padua 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 Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, upon this union, will become the assets and liabilities of the present Saint Anthony of Padua Parish. Furthermore, possession of all ecclesiastical goods and all objects of artistic or historical value belonging to the former Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish shall be transferred to the present Saint Anthony of Padua Parish and shall be administered in accordance with canons 1189 and 1292.

The unification of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish and Saint Anthony of Padua Parish will suppress and terminate the juridic personality of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, which it now possesses by law. Therefore, Our Lady of Perpetual Help 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 Our Lady of Perpetual Help 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 Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Manchester, New Hampshire, and to the current pastor of Saint Anthony of Padua Parish in

Manchester, New Hampshire, and that this information be communicated at all Masses of obligation on the weekend of Saturday, April 29, 2006 and Sunday, April 30, 2006

Given at Manchester this 28th day of April, 2006

/s/ + John B. McCormack
Bishop of Manchester

/s/ Diane Quinlan
Chancellor