

DECREE

Uniting Saint Patrick Parish in Manchester, New Hampshire

with

Parish of the Transfiguration in Manchester, New Hampshire

Saint Patrick Parish has served the Catholic faithful of Manchester since 1898. 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 Cluster Task Force Number Three, consisting of the pastors and two liaisons from each of the parishes, after consultation with the Dean of the Amoskeag Deanery, the Long Range Planning Commission, 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 Saint Patrick Parish in Manchester, New Hampshire with Parish of the Transfiguration in Manchester, New Hampshire to form one territorial parish with the resulting suppression of the present Saint Patrick Parish. The union shall take effect at midnight at the end of Sunday, June 10, 2007. This unified parish shall include the membership of the present Parish of the Transfiguration and the former Saint Patrick Parish, and the current Parish of the Transfiguration Church edifice shall be the place of worship for the unified parish community. The new boundaries of Parish of the Transfiguration shall include the current boundaries of Saint Patrick Parish, in addition to the current boundaries of Parish of the Transfiguration,

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

This decision is based upon a number of components, including a decline in the Catholic worshipping community at Saint Patrick Parish, 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 costs associated with necessary repairs and maintenance to aging structures, 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 Patrick Parish shall be transferred to the present Parish of the Transfiguration 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 Patrick Parish, upon this union, will become the assets and liabilities of the present Parish of the Transfiguration. Furthermore, possession of all ecclesiastical goods and all objects of artistic or historical value belonging to the former Saint Patrick Parish shall be transferred to the present Parish of the Transfiguration and shall be administered in accordance with the prescriptions of Church law.

The unification of Saint Patrick Parish and Parish of the Transfiguration will suppress and terminate the juridic personality of Saint Patrick Parish, which it now possesses by law. Therefore, Saint Patrick Parish shall be no longer the subject in canon law of obligations and rights corresponding to its nature as a juridic person. In addition, Saint Patrick 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 Saint Patrick Parish in Manchester, New Hampshire, and to the pastor of Parish of the Transfiguration in Manchester, 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, June 9, 2007 and Sunday, June 10, 2007.

Given at Manchester this fourth day of June, 2007

Bishop of Manchester

Chancellor