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Prot. N. 2019 RMC-8

DECREE

IN THE NAME OF GOD. AMEN.

“Likewise, parishes which are too small should be united insofar as the situation demands it and circumstances permit.” St. Paul VI, Apostolic Letter *motu proprio, Ecclesiae Sanctae*, n. 21, (1), August 6, 1966

Changing demographics have affected the size and wealth of the Archdiocese of Chicago and the vitality of her parishes. This is particularly true in the City of Chicago itself, where the total population has decreased by nearly 20% since 1970, from 3,366,957 to an estimated 2,736,000 today. The archdiocese has many old vacant and underused parochial buildings and increasingly fewer priests to pastor our faith communities.

According to the US Census Bureau, the Archdiocese of Chicago had an estimated total population of 5,914,783 in 2018. The 2018 *Annuario Pontificio* indicates Chicago had 345 parishes serving a Catholic population of 2,512,000. In 2018 the Archdiocese of Los Angeles had a total population of 11,519,517, with 287 parishes for a Catholic population of 4,362,000, more than twice the number of Catholics per parish than Chicago. In the same year the Archdiocese of New York had 2,656,987 Catholics in 294 parishes, also a much larger parishioners per parish ratio than in Chicago. A good number of our parishes were founded in the first half of the last century or earlier. They were established for national, linguistic, or ethnic groups that no longer live in the archdiocese or in the neighborhoods where they once flourished.

Too many of our parishes have been unable to support themselves and are receiving financial subsidies from the archdiocese. Between fiscal year 2012 and fiscal year 2018 these subsidies amounted to \$144,373,461.00, including \$38,171,840.00 to 106 parishes, and \$106,201,621.00 to 83 Catholic schools. More than \$25,000,000.00 was given in the last two fiscal years alone. None of this money will be recovered by the archdiocese. The Archdiocese of Chicago cannot continue this level of financial support for parishes and Catholic schools. Our hope is that our parishes will become more vital, that is, active centers of Christian discipleship, evangelical mission, scholarship, and charitable outreach. To achieve this hope, the parishes must be able to support themselves when possible.

Almost three years ago, inspired by the experience of St. Francis of Assisi before the cross of the ruined church of San Damiano, and by the Holy Father's dream of “a missionary option ... capable of transforming everything” (Pope Francis, Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, n. 27, November 24, 2013), I announced the inauguration of *Renew My Church (RMC)*, a multi-year, intentional process aimed at obtaining and preserving the vitality of our

parishes. It is my intention that every parish of the Archdiocese of Chicago join with some of its neighbors and plan together for the future. Careful planning will create a menu of possible options for future vitality. We will also identify parishes likely to be restructured through pastoral coordination, unions, and other significant alterations, including closing churches no longer useful for divine worship.

This decree arises out of the work of the churches of the Little Italy Grouping: Holy Family Parish (originally a Jesuit foundation established 1857), 1080 West Roosevelt Road, Chicago, Illinois 60608; Notre Dame de Chicago Parish (originally St. Louis Parish for French-speaking Catholics, established 1850, re-established as a territorial parish 1994), 1335 West Harrison Street, Chicago, Illinois 60607-3318; the Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii, (originally a personal parish for Italian-speaking Catholics, established 1910, re-established as a diocesan shrine 1994), 1224 West Lexington Street, Chicago, Illinois 60607-4111; and St. John Paul II Newman Center at the University of Illinois Chicago (established 1979), 700 South Morgan Street, Chicago, Illinois 60607.

Throughout Fall 2018 lay representatives and pastoral leadership from these institutions, met in the RMC grouping to consider the future. The Grouping Team presented a Community Engagement and Planning Feedback Summary dated December 6, 2018, to the Archdiocesan Standards and Recommendations Commission, a group of lay and ordained representatives from across the archdiocese (see Submission of December 6, 2018, attached to this Decree).

The commission's recommendation was conveyed to the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Chicago on January 15, 2019. It called for the union of Holy Family Parish with Notre Dame de Chicago Parish, effective July 1, 2019, leaving the Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii and the St. John Paul II Newman Center in their existing canonical states. Since the 1990s, when the Jesuits withdrew from the pastoral care of Holy Family Parish, they leased the real property of the parish, including Holy Family Church, for continued parochial use. The current lease ends June 30, 2019. The new parish will be located at Notre Dame de Chicago Church. Holy Family Church and property are owned by the Jesuits, any celebrations of the Mass and other sacraments at Holy Family Church after July 1, 2019 will be decided upon collaboratively by leadership of the new parish and the Jesuit community. The life of the new parish and regular Masses will take place at Notre Dame de Chicago Church.

The union of the two parishes is supported by the data and arguments attached to this decree. Significant is the fact that Holy Family Parish has about 300 persons regularly attending Sunday Mass, a 22% decrease over the past five years. About the same number regularly attend Sunday Mass at Notre Dame de Chicago, a 31% decrease over the same period. Each parish had operating income of about \$360,000.00 in fiscal year 2018. Both the attendance figure and income level at each parish is significantly below those recommended for parish vitality in the archdiocese, namely, 800 and \$750,000.00 respectively. The union of the two parishes will result in a larger parish, one of a more reasonable size for future programming, evangelization, and development. Financial savings are expected from the requirement to maintain one parochial staff rather than two.

THEREFORE, know that I, Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago, according to the norms of canon 127 §§1 & 3, canon 166, and canon 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, having before me the recommendations of the Grouping Team and those of the Archdiocesan Standards and Recommendations Commission, convened the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Chicago on January 15, 2019, at Our Lady of Hope Parish in Rosemont, Illinois. There, after hearing the Presbyteral Council, noting the council's vote on the same recommendations, and invoking the Holy Spirit, I accept the Council's advice and

decree the following:

1. Effective July 1, 2019, Holy Family Parish and Notre Dame de Chicago Parish, both on the Westside of the City of Chicago, will be extinguished as separate juridic persons in the Church and united to form a single new juridic person, a territorial parish known, *ad interim*, as Holy Family and Notre Dame de Chicago Parish;

2. The missions of the extinguished Holy Family Parish and the extinguished Notre Dame de Chicago Parish will be subsumed completely into the newly established Holy Family and Notre Dame de Chicago Parish;

3. Each and all the parishioners of the two parishes to be extinguished will be fully and equally parishioners of the new Holy Family and Notre Dame de Chicago Parish;

4. The territory of the new Holy Family and Notre Dame de Chicago Parish will be the combined territories of the former Holy Family Parish and Notre Dame de Chicago Parish, namely the territory located within these boundaries:

Start at the intersection of CB&Q Railroad (2600 West) and Polk Street,
East on south side of Polk Street to Hoyne Avenue,
North on east side of Hoyne Avenue to Eisenhower Expressway,
East on center line of Eisenhower Expressway to Chicago River,
South on west side of Chicago River to C&NW Railroad (1600 South),
West on north side of C&NW Railroad to north fork of B&O CT Railroad,
West on north side of B&O CT Railroad to CB&Q Railroad,
North on east side of CB&Q Railroad to Polk Street.

5. The church of the extinguished Notre Dame de Chicago Parish will be the parish church of the new Holy Family and Notre Dame de Chicago Parish, retaining its own title;

6. Subject to the intention of founders and donors, and with due regard for any acquired rights, the goods and patrimonial rights of the extinguished Holy Family Parish, apart from ecclesiastical property owned by the Jesuits, and those of the extinguished Notre Dame de Chicago Parish, together with obligations with which they may be burdened, will become those of the newly established Holy Family and Notre Dame de Chicago Parish (see canon 121);

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7. The documents presented to the Presbyteral Council on this matter, together with the minutes of the Council meeting of January 15, 2019, will be attached to this decree;

8. In due course, the sacramental records and other materials relevant to historical research concerning the extinguished Holy Family Parish and the extinguished Notre Dame de Chicago Parish will be commended to the Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Archives and Records Center of the Archdiocese of Chicago for safe keeping and suitable access; and

9. Notification of this decree will be given immediately to the pastoral leadership of Holy Family Parish, and Notre Dame de Chicago Parish, and to their parishioners. Publication will be made through the parish bulletins, and on the archdiocesan website.

Before hierarchical recourse may be taken against this decree, a petition to reconsider or amend the decree must be delivered to me within ten (10) useful days from notification of the decree (CIC cc. 1734, 1735, 1737).

Given this 28th day of February, A.D. 2019.
From the Archbishop Quigley Center,
Chicago, Illinois


Archbishop of Chicago




Ecclesiastical Notary

Attachments

THE DATA SUBMITTED TO THE PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL OF
THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO AND THE MINUTES OF
THE RELEVANT MEETING OR MEETINGS OF THE PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL ARE
ATTACHED TO THIS DECREE AND AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST TO THE OFFICE OF THE
CHANCELLOR OR THE OFFICE FOR CANONICAL AFFAIRS