

DECREE

OF THE MERGER OF

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD PARISH, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

INTO HOLY INNOCENTS PARISH, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

AND

**VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH ,
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA**

Ascension of Our Lord Parish was founded in the City of Philadelphia in 1888. As the result of an Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning initiative, a proposal to merge this parish into the neighboring Holy Innocents Parish and Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish was studied and discussed with committees from all of the parishes and with the appropriate archdiocesan offices. Throughout this process, sufficient information regarding the proposal was gathered, and sufficient consultation was conducted with the members of Ascension of Our Lord Parish, Holy Innocents Parish, and Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish.

The following just causes suggest that Ascension of Our Lord Parish be divided and merged into Holy Innocents Parish and Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish:

- 1) to provide more effectively for the pastoral needs of the faithful of Ascension of Our Lord Parish which has sharply declined in population in recent years and whose church had to be relegated to profane but not sordid use on July 1, 2012 due to an extreme degree of disrepair which made the church building dangerous to enter;
- 2) to assure the vitality of parish life for Holy Innocents and Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parishes;
- 3) to provide for a better stewardship of resources; and,
- 4) to provide for the optimum use of clergy and lay personnel.

Accordingly, in virtue of the prescriptions of canon 122 of the Code of Canon Law, having judged that sufficient just causes are present and that the good of souls will not thereby be impaired, and having consulted the Council of Priests in accord with canon 515, §2, I hereby **DECREE** that Ascension of Our Lord Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania be divided and merged into Holy Innocents Parish and Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, both in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania..

The boundaries of Holy Innocents Parish are hereby altered to the following:

Frankford Creek from junction of Penn-Central R.R. (Oxford Branch); to Friends Hospital property line; to Wyoming Ave. (both sides); to Castor Ave; to Frankford Creek to Kensington Ave.; to Erie-Torresdale Ave.; to J St.; to Ontario St.; to Jasper St.; to Westmoreland St.; to C St.; to Erie-Torresdale Ave.; to G St.; to Penn Central R.R. (Oxford Branch); to Frankford Creek at junction of the Friends Hospital Property line.

The boundaries of Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish are hereby altered to the following:

C St. and Westmoreland Ave., to Emerald St.; to Allegheny Ave.; to Frankford Ave.; to York St.; to Amber St.; to Front St.; Berks St.; to 6th St.; to Germantown Ave.; to Leigh Ave.; to 2nd St.; Cambria St.; to C St.; to Westmoreland Ave.

The intention or will of donors, as well as any acquired rights, have been examined and taken into consideration, especially regarding the allocation of goods and the obligation of debts. The goods of Ascension of Our Lord Parish, including their property and treasury, as well as any debts, shall be equitably assigned to Holy Innocents Parish and Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in accord with canon 122.

The sacramental registers of Ascension of Our Lord Parish shall be preserved at Holy Innocents Parish Rectory.

This decree becomes effective as of October 1, 2012, prior to which it is to be communicated to the parishioners and to the Faithful of the Archdiocese in an appropriate manner. All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Curia of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, on the twenty-fifth day of September in the Year of Our Lord 2012.

Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.
Archbishop of Philadelphia