



Archdiocese of Philadelphia  
Office of the Archbishop  
222 North 17th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

## **DECREE**

### **OF THE MERGER OF**

**SAINT ANN PARISH, BRISTOL, PENNSYLVANIA,**

**WITH**

**SAINT MARK PARISH, BRISTOL, PENNSYLVANIA**

Saint Ann Parish, Bristol, Pennsylvania was founded in 1906 to serve Italian speaking people in the area. Saint Mark Parish, Bristol, Pennsylvania was founded in 1844. As the result of an Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning initiative, a proposal to merge Saint Ann Parish into the neighboring Saint Mark Parish was studied and discussed with committees from both of the parishes and with the appropriate archdiocesan offices. Throughout this process, sufficient information regarding the proposal was gathered, and consultation was conducted with members of Saint Ann Parish and Saint Mark Parish.

The following just causes suggest that Saint Ann Parish be merged into Saint Mark Parish:

- 1) to provide more effectively for the pastoral needs of the faithful of Saint Ann Parish which has declined in population in recent years and no longer serves a predominately Italian speaking community;
- 2) to enhance evangelization efforts and to improve the vitality of parish life for the people of Saint Ann and Saint Mark Parishes;
- 3) to address financial difficulties and to provide for a better stewardship of resources; and,
- 4) to provide for the optimum use of clergy and lay personnel.

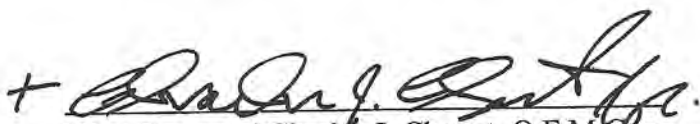
Accordingly, having judged that sufficient just causes are present and that the good of souls will not thereby be impaired, and having consulted the Council of Priests in accord with canon 515, §2, I hereby **DECREE** an extinctive union by which Saint Ann Parish, Bristol, Pennsylvania will be merged into Saint Mark Parish, Bristol, Pennsylvania.. Saint Mark Church will continue to serve as the parish church.

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 Saint Ann Parish, including their property and treasury, as well as any debts, are assigned to Saint Mark Parish.

The rich legacy and history of Saint Ann Parish are to be promoted and honored. Saint Ann Church will remain open for worship as a part of Saint Mark Parish. Saint Mark Parish will provide for the pastoral care of the Italian speaking people of the area. The sacramental registers of Saint Ann Parish shall be preserved at Saint Mark Rectory.

This decree becomes effective as of July 1, 2014, 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 Pastoral Center of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of May in the Year of Our Lord 2014.

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

SEAL



Reverend Monsignor Gerard C. Mesure  
Chancellor



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## **DECREE**

### **OF THE MERGER OF**

**OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH, BENSALEM, PENNSYLVANIA,**

**WITH**

**SAINT CHARLES BORROMEO PARISH, BENSALEM, PENNSYLVANIA**

Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Bensalem, Pennsylvania was founded in 1954. Saint Charles Borromeo Parish, Bensalem, Pennsylvania was founded in 1903. As the result of an Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning initiative, a proposal to merge Our Lady of Fatima Parish into the neighboring Saint Charles Borromeo Parish was studied and discussed with committees from both of the parishes and with the appropriate archdiocesan offices. Throughout this process, sufficient information regarding the proposal was gathered, and consultation was conducted with members of Our Lady of Fatima Parish and Saint Charles Borromeo Parish.

The following just causes suggest that Our Lady of Fatima Parish be merged into Saint Charles Borromeo Parish:

- 1) to provide more effectively for the pastoral needs of the faithful of Our Lady of Fatima Parish which has declined in population in recent years;
- 2) to enhance evangelization efforts and to improve the vitality of parish life for the people of Our Lady of Fatima and Saint Charles Borromeo Parishes;
- 3) to utilize Saint Charles Borromeo Church as the seat of the parish as the site which will best serve the needs of the parish,
- 4) to address financial challenges in both parishes and to provide for a better stewardship of resources; and,
- 5) to provide for the optimum use of clergy and lay personnel.

Accordingly, 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** an extinctive union by which Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Bensalem, Pennsylvania will be merged into Saint Charles Borromeo Parish, Bensalem, Pennsylvania. Saint Charles Borromeo Church will continue to serve as the parish church.

The boundaries of Saint Charles Borromeo Parish are hereby altered to the following:

Bristol Rd. from Rt. 1 to Galloway Rd.; to Knights Rd.; to Street Rd. (extended); to Delaware River; to Poquessing Creek; to Rt. 1; to Bristol Rd.

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 Our Lady of Fatima Parish, including their property and treasury, as well as any debts, are assigned to Saint Charles Borromeo Parish.

The rich legacy and history of Our Lady of Fatima Parish are to be promoted and honored. Our Lady of Fatima Church will remain open for worship as a part of Saint Charles Borromeo Parish. The sacramental registers of Our Lady of Fatima Parish shall be preserved at Saint Charles Borromeo Rectory.

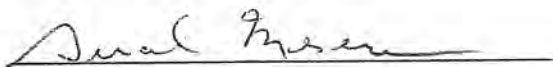
This decree becomes effective as of July 1, 2014, prior to which it is to be communicated to the parishioners and to the Faithful of the Archdiocese in an appropriate manner. All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

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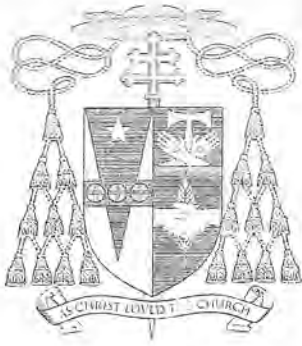


Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M.Cap.  
Archbishop of Philadelphia

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## **DECREE**

### **OF THE MERGER OF**

**SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON PARISH, BENSLEM, PENNSYLVANIA,**

**WITH**

**SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH, CROYDON, PENNSYLVANIA**

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Bensalem, Pennsylvania was founded in 1976. Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish, Croydon, Pennsylvania was founded in 1922. As the result of an Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning initiative, a proposal to merge Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish into the neighboring Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish was studied and discussed with committees from both of the parishes and with the appropriate archdiocesan offices. Throughout this process, sufficient information regarding the proposal was gathered, and consultation was conducted with members of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish and Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish.

The following just causes suggest that Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish be merged into Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish:

- 1) to provide more effectively for the pastoral needs of the faithful of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish which has declined in population in recent years;
- 2) to enhance evangelization efforts and to improve the vitality of parish life for the people of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton and Saint Thomas Aquinas Parishes by uniting their efforts;
- 3) to utilize Saint Thomas Aquinas Church as the seat of the parish as the site which has the best physical resources and access for the faithful,
- 4) to address financial difficulties in Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish and to provide for a better stewardship of resources for both parishes; and,
- 5) to provide for the optimum use of clergy and lay personnel.

Accordingly, 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** an extinctive union by which Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Bensalem, Pennsylvania will be merged into Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish, Croydon, Pennsylvania. Saint Thomas Aquinas Church will remain the parish church.

The boundaries of Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish are hereby altered to the following:

Durham Rd. from New Falls Rd. to PA Turnpike; to Rt. 413; to Delaware River; to Street Rd. (extended); to Knights Rd.; to Galloway Rd.; to Hulmeville Rd.; to Byberry Rd.; to Bridgewater Rd. to Ford Rd.; to Kasmir Ave.; to Bensalem Blvd.; to Ashton Rd.; to Rt. I-95; to Neshaminy Creek; to New Falls Rd.; to Durham Rd.

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 Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, including their property and treasury, as well as any debts, are assigned to Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish.

The rich legacy and history of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish are to be promoted and honored. Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Church will remain open for worship as a part of Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish. The sacramental registers of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish shall be preserved at Saint Thomas Aquinas Rectory.

This decree becomes effective as of July 1, 2014, 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 Pastoral Center of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of May in the Year of Our Lord 2014.



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