

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

## **DECREE**

### **OF THE MERGER OF**

**SAINT AUGUSTINE PARISH, BRIDGEPORT, PENNSYLVANIA,**

**OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH, BRIDGEPORT, PENNSYLVANIA**

**AND**

**SACRED HEART PARISH, SWEDESBURG, PENNSYLVANIA**

Saint Augustine Parish, Bridgeport, Pennsylvania was founded in 1892. Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Bridgeport, Pennsylvania was founded in 1924 to serve Italian speaking people in the area. Sacred Heart Parish, Swedesburg, Pennsylvania was founded in 1907 to serve Polish speaking people in the area. As the result of an Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning initiative, a proposal to merge these three parishes together to form one new parish was studied and discussed with committees from all of the area 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 Augustine Parish, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, and Sacred Heart Parish.

The following just causes suggest that Saint Augustine Parish, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and Sacred Heart Parish be merged into one parish:

- 1) to provide more effectively for the pastoral needs of the faithful of all three parishes which have declined in population in recent years.
- 2) Our lady of Mount Carmel Parish no longer serves a predominately Italian speaking community and Sacred Heart Parish no longer serves a predominately Polish speaking community;
- 3) to enhance evangelization efforts and to improve the vitality of parish life for the people of all three Parishes;
- 4) to address financial difficulties in several of the 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 Saint Augustine Parish, Bridgeport, Pennsylvania; Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Bridgeport, Pennsylvania; and Sacred Heart Parish, Swedesburg, Pennsylvania will be merged to form one territorial parish.

Having judged that the facilities at Sacred Heart Church will best serve the needs of the parish, I further **DECREE** that Sacred Heart Church will serve as the parish church and that the title of the parish will be Sacred Heart.

The boundaries of the parish are as follows:

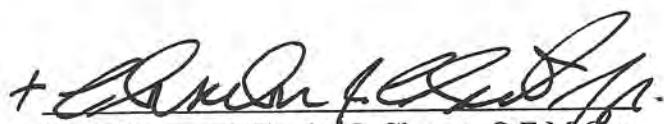
Schuylkill River from Henderson Rd. to B St. (Swedeland); then by air line to South Gulph Rd. At Swedeland Rd.; to Henerson Rd.; to the Schuylkill River

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 all three parishes, including their property and treasury, as well as any debts, are assigned to Sacred Heart Parish.

The rich legacy and history of all three parishes is to be promoted and honored. Saint Augustine Church and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church will remain open for worship as parts of Sacred Heart Parish. Sacred Heart Parish will provide for the pastoral care of the Italian and Polish speaking people of the area insofar as it is feasible and necessary. The sacramental registers of Saint Augustine Parish, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, and Sacred Heart Parish shall be preserved at Sacred Heart Rectory.

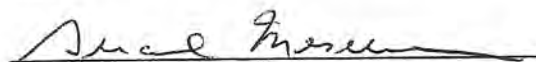
This decree becomes effective as of July 1, 2014, prior to which it is to be communicated to the parishioners and to the Faithful of the Archdiocese in an appropriate manner. All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

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.

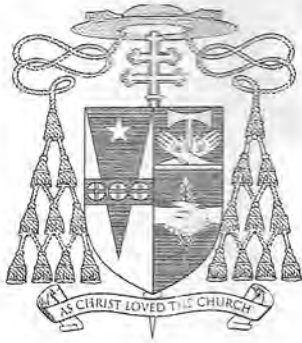


Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M.Cap.  
Archbishop of Philadelphia

**SEAL**



Reverend Monsignor Gerard C. Mesure  
Chancellor



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## DECREE

### OF THE MERGER OF

**SAINT MARY PARISH, CONSHOHOCKEN, PENNSYLVANIA,**

**WITH**

**SAINT MATTHEW PARISH, CONSHOHOCKEN, PENNSYLVANIA**

Saint Mary Parish, Conshohocken, Pennsylvania was founded in 1905 to serve Polish speaking people in the area. Saint Matthew Parish, Conshohocken, Pennsylvania was founded in 1851. As the result of an Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning initiative, a proposal to merge Saint Mary Parish into the neighboring Saint Matthew 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 Mary Parish and Saint Matthew Parish.

The following just causes suggest that Saint Mary Parish be merged into Saint Matthew Parish:

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

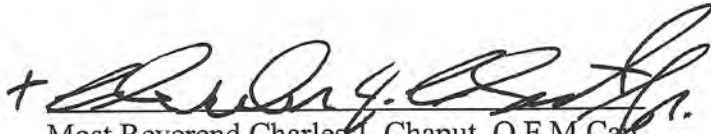
Accordingly, having judged that sufficient just causes are present and that the good of souls will not thereby be impaired, and having consulted the Council of Priests in accord with canon 515, §2, I hereby **DECREE** an extinctive union by which Saint Mary Parish, Conshohocken, Pennsylvania will be merged into Saint Matthew Parish, Conshohocken, Pennsylvania. Saint Matthew 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 Mary Parish, including their property and treasury, as well as any debts, are assigned to Saint Matthew Parish.

The rich legacy and history of Saint Mary Parish are to be promoted and honored. Saint Mary Church will remain open for worship as a part of Saint Matthew Parish. Saint Matthew Parish will provide for the pastoral care of the Polish speaking people of the area insofar as it is feasible and necessary. The sacramental registers of Saint Mary Parish shall be preserved at Saint Matthew 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.

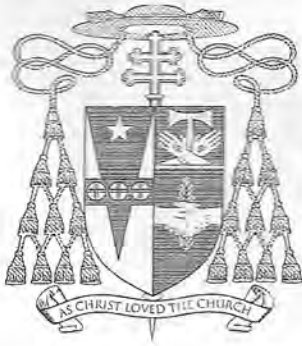
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles J. Chaput", with a small cross symbol to the left of the first letter.

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

**SEAL**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerard C. Mesure".

Reverend Monsignor Gerard C. Mesure  
Chancellor



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## **DECREE**

### **OF THE MERGER OF**

**SAINTS COSMAS AND DAMIAN PARISH, CONSHOHOCKEN, PENNSYLVANIA,**

**WITH**

**SAINT MATTHEW PARISH, CONSHOHOCKEN, PENNSYLVANIA**

Saints Cosmas and Damian Parish, Conshohocken, Pennsylvania was founded in 1912 to serve Italian speaking people in the area. Saint Matthew Parish, Conshohocken, Pennsylvania was founded in 1851. As the result of an Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning initiative, a proposal to merge Saints Cosmas and Damian Parish into the neighboring Saint Matthew 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 Saints Cosmas and Damian Parish and Saint Matthew Parish.

The following just causes suggest that Saints Cosmas and Damian Parish be merged into Saint Matthew Parish:

- 1) to provide more effectively for the pastoral needs of the faithful of Saints Cosmas and Damian 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 Saints Cosmas and Damian and Saint Matthew Parishes;
- 3) to address financial difficulties in Saints Cosmas and Damian Parish and to provide for a better stewardship of resources; and,
- 4) to provide for the optimum use of clergy and lay personnel.

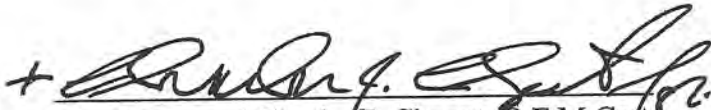
Accordingly, having judged that sufficient just causes are present and that the good of souls will not thereby be impaired, and having consulted the Council of Priests in accord with canon 515, §2, I hereby **DECREE** an extinctive union by which Saints Cosmas and Damian Parish, Conshohocken, Pennsylvania will be merged into Saint Matthew Parish, Conshohocken, Pennsylvania. Saint Matthew 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 Saints Cosmas and Damian Parish, including their property and treasury, as well as any debts, are assigned to Saint Matthew Parish.


The rich legacy and history of Saints Cosmas and Damian Parish are to be promoted and honored. Saints Cosmas and Damian Church will remain open for worship as a part of Saint Matthew Parish. Saint Matthew Parish will provide for the pastoral care of the Italian speaking people of the area insofar as it is feasible and necessary. The sacramental registers of Saints Cosmas and Damian Parish shall be preserved at Saint Matthew 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.

  
Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.  
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## **DECREE**

### **OF THE MERGER OF**

**SAINT GERTRUDE PARISH, WEST CONSHOHOCKEN, PENNSYLVANIA,**

**WITH**

**SAINT MATTHEW PARISH, CONSHOHOCKEN, PENNSYLVANIA**

Saint Gertrude Parish, West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania was founded in 1888. Saint Matthew Parish, Conshohocken, Pennsylvania was founded in 1851. As the result of an Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning initiative, a proposal to merge Saint Gertrude Parish into the neighboring Saint Matthew 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 Gertrude Parish and Saint Matthew Parish.

The following just causes suggest that Saint Gertrude Parish be merged into Saint Matthew Parish:

- 1) to provide more effectively for the pastoral needs of the faithful of Saint Gertrude 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 Gertrude and Saint Matthew Parishes;
- 3) to provide for a better stewardship of resources in the parishes;
- 4) to utilize Saint Matthew Church as the seat of the parish as the site best suited by its size and location to serve the needs of the parish, 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 Gertrude Parish, West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania will be merged into Saint Matthew Parish, Conshohocken, Pennsylvania. Saint Matthew Church will continue to serve as the parish church.

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

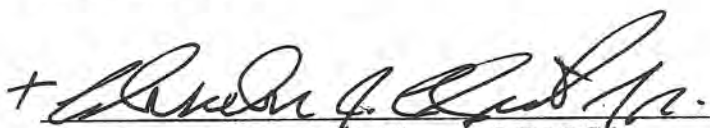
Spring Mill Rd. from Butler Pk. to Cedar Grove Rd.; to Barren Hill Rd.; to Ridge Pk.; to Northwestern Ave.; then by air line to Schuylkill River; then to air line to N Spring Mill Rd.; to Old Gulph Rd.; to Matsonford Rd.; to S Gulf Rd.; to Gypsy La.; to Montgomery Ave.; to Swedeland Rd.; then air line crossing B. St. to I-276; to Schuylkill River; then air line to the juncture of Alan Wood and Brook Rds.; east side of Alan Wood Rd.; to W Ridge Pk.; to Butler Pk.; to Spring Mill 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 Gertrude Parish, including their property and treasury, as well as any debts, are assigned to Saint Matthew Parish.

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

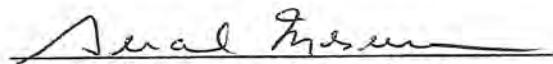
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