

# **DECREE**

**OF THE DIVISION AND MERGER OF  
INCARNATION OF OUR LORD PARISH, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA,  
INTO  
SAINT HELENA PARISH, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA,  
AND  
SAINT VERONICA PARISH, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA**

Incarnation of Our Lord Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania was founded in 1900. Saint Helena Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania was founded in 1924. Saint Veronica Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania was founded in 1872. As the result of an Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning initiative, a proposal to divide Incarnation of Our Lord Parish and merge it into the neighboring Saint Helena Parish and Saint Veronica Parish was studied and discussed with all 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 Incarnation of Our Lord Parish, Saint Helena Parish, and Saint Veronica Parish .

The following just causes suggest that Incarnation of Our Lord Parish be divided and merged into Saint Helena Parish and Saint Veronica Parish:

- 1) to provide more effectively for the pastoral needs of the faithful of the area ,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 Incarnation of Our Lord, Saint Helena, and Saint Veronica Parishes;
- 3) to address serious financial difficulties at Incarnation of Our Lord 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** a total dismemberment by which Incarnation of Our Lord Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania will be divided and merged into Saint Helena Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Saint Veronica Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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

66th Ave. from the Reading R.R.; to 2nd St.; to 65th Ave.; to Walnut Park Dr.; to Claremont Rd.; to Fariston Rd.; to Walnut Park Dr.; to Crescentville Rd.; then by air to the Reading R.R.; to Olney Ave.; then to the Roosevelt Blvd.; to 10th St.; to Wagner Ave.; to 10th St.; to Champlost St.; to Broad St.; to Old York Rd.; to Melrose Ave.; to the Reading R.R.; to 66th Ave.

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

Roosevelt Blvd. from 9th St. and Wingohocking; to air (Rockland St.): to R.R.; to Bristol St.; then by air to Penn Central R.R.; to Erie Ave.; then by air to C St.; to Cambira St.; to 2nd St.; to Lehigh Ave.; to Germantown Ave.; to Cambria.; to 9th St.; to Wingohocking St.; to Roosevelt Blvd.

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 Incarnation of Our Lord Parish, including their property and treasury, as well as any debts, are to be equitably divided between Saint Helena Parish and Saint Veronica Parish.

The rich legacy and history of Incarnation of Our Lord Parish is to be promoted and honored. Incarnation of Our Lord Church will remain open as a worship site for Saint Helena Parish. The sacramental registers of Incarnation of Our Lord Parish shall be preserved at Saint Helena Rectory.

This decree becomes effective as of July 1, 2013, 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 29<sup>th</sup> day of May in the Year of Our Lord 2013.

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

**SEAL**

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Reverend Monsignor Gerard C. Mesure  
Chancellor