

DECREE

OF THE MERGER OF

SAINT LAURENTIUS PARISH, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA,

WITH

HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Saint Laurentius Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a personal parish for Polish speaking people, was founded in 1882. Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a territorial parish, was founded in 1905. As the result of an Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning initiative, a proposal to merge Saint Laurentius Parish into Holy Name of Jesus 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 Laurentius Parish and Holy Name of Jesus Parish.

The following just causes suggest that Saint Laurentius Parish be merged into Holy Name of Jesus Parish:

- 1) to provide more effectively for the pastoral needs of the faithful of Saint Laurentius Parish and Holy Name of Jesus Parish, both of which have declined in population;
- 2) to enhance evangelization efforts and to improve the vitality of parish life for the people of Saint Laurentius and Holy Name of Jesus Parishes;
- 3) to address serious financial difficulties in the parishes and to provide for a better stewardship of resources;
- 4) to address circumstances in which there is no longer a need for an Polish personal parish in the area; 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 Laurentius Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania will be merged into Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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 Laurentius Parish, including their property and treasury, as well as any debts, are assigned to Holy Name of Jesus Parish.

The rich legacy and history of Saint Laurentius Parish are to be promoted and honored. Saint Laurentius Church will remain open as a worship site for Holy Name of Jesus Parish. The sacramental registers of Saint Laurentius Parish shall be preserved at Holy Name of Jesus Rectory. Holy Name of Jesus Parish will provide pastoral care to Polish speaking people in the area, as needed and insofar as is possible.

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 29th day of May in the Year of Our Lord 2013.

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

SEAL

Reverend Monsignor Gerard C. Mesure
Chancellor