

DECREE

OF THE MERGER OF

SAINT BENEDICT PARISH, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA,

WITH

SAINT ATHANASIUS PARISH, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Saint Benedict Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania was founded in 1922. Saint Athanasius Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania was founded in 1928. As the result of an Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning initiative, a proposal to merge Saint Benedict Parish into the neighboring Saint Athanasius 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 Benedict Parish and Saint Athanasius Parish.

The following just causes suggest that Saint Benedict Parish be merged into Saint Athanasius Parish:

- 1) to provide more effectively for the pastoral needs of the faithful of Saint Benedict Parish and Saint Athanasius 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 Benedict and Saint Athanasius Parishes;
- 3) to address serious financial difficulties in the parishes 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 Benedict Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania will be merged into Saint Athanasius Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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

Old York Rd. from Ashbourne Rd.; to Broad St.; to Nedro Ave., to 21st St.; to Kemble Ave.; to Church La., to 21st St.; to Laveer St., to Wister St.; to Stenton Ave.; to Washington La.; to Lowber Ave.; to Cliveden St.; to Fayette St.; to 76th Ave. to Washington Ln.; to Ashbourne Rd.; to Old York 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 Benedict Parish, including their property and treasury, as well as any debts, are assigned to Saint Athanasius Parish.

The rich legacy and history of Saint Benedict Parish are to be promoted and honored. Saint Benedict Church will remain open as a worship site for Saint Athanasius Parish. The sacramental registers of Saint Benedict Parish shall be preserved at Saint Athanasius 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 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

DECREE

OF THE MERGER OF

SAINT MADELEINE SOPHIE PARISH, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA,

AND

**SAINT THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS PARISH,
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA,**

WITH

HOLY CROSS PARISH, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Saint Madeleine Sophie Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania was founded in 1925. Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania was founded in 1925. Holy Cross Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania was founded in 1890. As the result of an Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning initiative, a proposal to merge Saint Madeleine Sophie Parish and Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Parish into the neighboring Holy Cross 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 consultation was conducted with members of Saint Madeleine Sophie Parish, Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Parish, and Holy Cross Parish.

The following just causes suggest that Saint Madeleine Sophie Parish and Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Parish be merged into Holy Cross Parish:

- 1) to provide more effectively for the pastoral needs of the faithful of Saint Madeleine Sophie Parish, Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Parish, and Holy Cross Parish, two of which have declined in population in recent years;
- 2) to enhance evangelization efforts and to improve the vitality of parish life for the people of Saint Madeleine Sophie, Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, and Holy Cross Parishes;
- 3) to address serious financial difficulties in the parishes 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 Madeleine Sophie Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania will be merged into Holy Cross Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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

Stenton Ave. from Springfield Ave. to Gorgas Lane; to Lowber St. to Washington Lane; to Wayne Ave.; to Johnson St.; to Wissahickon Ave.; to Park Lane; to Walnut Lane; to Wissahickon Creek; to Cresheim Creek; to Mc Callum St.; to Mermaid Lane; to Cherokee St.; to Springfield; to Stenton 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 Saint Madeleine Sophie Parish and Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Parish, including their property and treasury, as well as any debts, are assigned to Holy Cross Parish.

The rich legacy and history of Saint Madeleine Sophie Parish and Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Parish are to be promoted and honored. Saint Madeleine Sophie Church and Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Church will remain open as a worship site for Holy Cross Parish. The sacramental registers of Saint Madeleine Sophie Parish and Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Parish shall be preserved at Holy Cross 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 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. Measure
Chancellor