



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

DECREE

OF THE MERGER OF

**OUR LADY OF RANSOM PARISH,
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA,**

WITH

**RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD PARISH,
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA**

Our Lady of Ransom Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was founded in 1954. Resurrection of Our Lord Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was founded in 1928. As the result of an Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning initiative, a proposal to merge Our Lady of Ransom Parish into Resurrection of Our Lord Parish was studied and discussed with a planning committee comprised of parishioners from both of the parishes and with the appropriate archdiocesan officials. Throughout this process, sufficient information regarding the proposal was gathered, and consultation was conducted with the pastors and parishioners of Our Lady of Ransom Parish and Resurrection of Our Lord Parish.

The following just causes suggest that Our Lady of Ransom Parish be merged into Resurrection of Our Lord Parish:

- 1) to provide more effectively for the pastoral needs of the faithful of Our Lady of Ransom Parish which has declined by approximately 40% in registered parishioners over the last five years;
- 2) to enhance evangelization efforts and the vitality of parish life for the people of both Our Lady of Ransom and Resurrection of Our Lord Parishes by combining parish ministries and other parish activities;
- 3) to provide for a better stewardship of resources so as to address financial difficulties of Our Lady of Ransom Parish. The parish has been running large operating deficits (\$179,412 in FY 2013-14, \$145,540 in FY 2014-15, and \$88,193 in FY 2015-16). In addition, Our Lady of Ransom Church is in need of expensive repairs due to years of deferred maintenance. (While the parish has obtained a large sum of money from the sale of the former school building, giving the parish reserves of over \$1 million, it is foreseen that the necessary property repairs and ongoing annual deficits would deplete this reserve over a number of years.)

- 4) to provide much needed stability for the Church in this area by putting into place a parish configuration that should be able to remain secure for many years.
- 5) to provide for the best use of lay workers and our limited clergy 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 on May 15, 2017, I hereby **DECREE** an extinctive union by which Our Lady of Ransom Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania will be merged into Resurrection of Our Lord Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

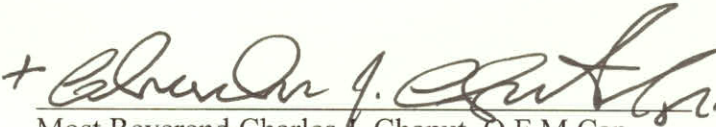
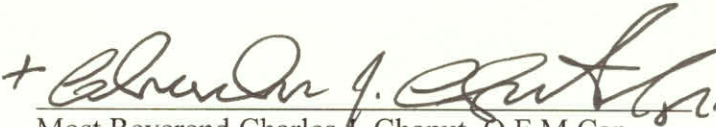
The intention or will of donors, as well as any acquired rights, have been examined and taken into consideration, especially regarding the allocation of goods and the obligation of debts. The goods of Our Lady of Ransom Parish, including their property and treasury, as well as any debts, shall be assigned to Resurrection of Our Lord Parish.

The boundaries of Resurrection of Our Lord Parish are hereby altered to encompass the territories of both Our Lady of Ransom and Resurrection of Our Lord Parishes.


Our Lady of Ransom Church will remain open as a sacred place of worship for Resurrection of Our Lord Parish. The sacramental registers of Our Lady of Ransom Parish shall be preserved at Resurrection of Our Lord Rectory.

This decree becomes effective as of June 19, 2017, 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 17th day of May in the Year of Our Lord 2017.


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

SEAL


Reverend Monsignor Gerard C. Mesure
Chancellor