

DECREE

OF THE MERGER OF

**SAINT CECILIA PARISH, COATESVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA
INTO OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY PARISH, COATESVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA
AND SAINT JOSEPH PARISH, COATESVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA**

AND

**SAINT STANISLAUS KOSTKA, COATESVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA
INTO SAINT JOSEPH PARISH, COATESVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA**

Saint Cecilia Parish was founded in the City of Coatesville in 1869 and has served the faithful of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for one hundred and forty three years. Saint Stanislaus Kostka Parish was founded in the City of Coatesville in 1907 and has served serve the Polish speaking people of the Coatesville area for one hundred and five years. As the result of an Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning initiative, a proposal to merge a portion of Saint Cecilia Parish with Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Coatesville (an Italian ethnic parish) and a portion of Saint Cecilia Parish with Saint Joseph Parish, Coatesville (an Slovak ethnic parish), as well as to merge Saint Stanislaus Kostka Parish with Saint Joseph Parish was studied and discussed with committees from all four parishes and with the appropriate Archdiocesan offices. Throughout this process, sufficient information regarding the proposal was gathered, and sufficient consultation was conducted with the members of Saint Cecilia Parish, Saint Stanislaus Kostka Parish, Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, and Saint Joseph Parish.

The following just causes suggest that Saint Cecilia Parish be merged into Our Lady of the Rosary Parish and into Saint Joseph Parish; and that Saint Stanislaus Kostka Parish be merged into Saint Joseph Parish:

- 1) to provide more effectively for the pastoral needs of the faithful of Saint Cecilia Parish, Saint Stanislaus Kostka Parish, Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, and Saint Joseph Parish; since areas of Coatesville have declined in population in recent years and there is less of a need for parishes to serve exclusively Slovak, Polish and Italian communities in this area;
- 2) to assure the vitality of parish life for the faithful of the Coatesville area;
- 3) to provide for a better stewardship of resources; and,
- 4) to provide for the optimum use of clergy and lay personnel.

Accordingly, in virtue of the prescriptions of canon 122 of the Code of Canon Law, 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** that Saint Cecilia Parish, Coatesville is to be merged into Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Coatesville and into Saint Joseph Parish, Coatesville; and that Saint Stanislaus Kostka Parish, Coatesville is to be merged into Saint Joseph Parish, Coatesville.

The new boundaries of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish are Manor Road (Route 82) at East Reeceville Road; to First Avenue North; to First Avenue South; to Youngsburg Road; to Strasburg Road; Strasburg Road East to Frog Hollow Road; to East Fallowfield Township Line; Township Line to Oakwood Road; to South Baily Road; to North Baily Road; to Bondsville Road; to East Reeceville Road; to Manor Road (Route 82).

The new boundaries of Saint Joseph Parish are Cedar-Knoll Road from West Cain-West Brandywine Township Line to Manor Road at Route 82; Manor Road to First Avenue North; to First Avenue South; to Youngsburg Road; to Strasburg Road; Strasburg Road East to Frog Hollow Road; to East Fallowfield Township Line; to Doe Run Road (Route 82); to Strasburg Road; airline to Route 372 at Red Road; airline to Honey Brook Township Line where it meets West Brandywine; follow West Brandywine - West Cain Township Line to Cedar-Knoll Road.

Parishioners of Saint Cecilia Parish will become members of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish or Saint Joseph Parish, depending upon their place of residence. Parishioners of Saint Stanislaus Kostka Parish will become members of Saint Joseph Parish. They may also have the option of joining another Polish ethnic parish or, if they live outside of the new territory of Saint Joseph Parish, the territorial parish in which they live. Current members of Our Lady of Rosary Parish and of Saint Joseph Parish will remain members of those parishes. They may also have the option of joining another Italian or Slovak ethnic parish or, if they live outside of the new territory of the parish, the territorial parish in which they live.

The rich legacy and history of Saint Cecilia Parish and of Saint Stanislaus Kostka Parish are to be promoted and honored. Together, all of the parishioners are encouraged to unite the newly merged parishes through union with Jesus Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

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. In accord with canon 122, the goods of Saint Cecilia Parish, Coatesville including its treasury as well as any debts, shall be assigned in approximately equal parts to Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Coatesville and Saint Joseph Parish, Coatesville; with the exception of Saint Cecilia Church, other real estate, and the objects therein, owned by Saint Cecilia Parish, which shall be assigned exclusively to Our Lady of the Rosary Parish. The goods of Saint Stanislaus Kostka Parish, Coatesville including its property and treasury, as well as any debts, shall be assigned to Saint Joseph Parish, Coatesville.

Saint Cecilia Church will remain open as a worship site of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish. The sacramental registers of Saint Cecilia Parish shall be preserved at Our Lady of the Rosary Rectory.

Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church will remain open as a worship site of Saint Joseph Parish. The sacramental records of Saint Stanislaus Kostka Parish shall be preserved at Saint Joseph Rectory.

This decree becomes effective as of July 1, 2012, 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 eleventh day of April, in the Year of Our Lord 2012.

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

SEAL

Reverend Monsignor Gerard C. Mesure
Chancellor

DECREE

OF THE MERGER OF

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA AND SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA INTO SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL PARISH, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Immaculate Conception Parish was founded in the City of Philadelphia in 1902 and has served the faithful of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for one hundred and ten years. Saint Francis of Assisi Parish was founded in the City of Philadelphia in 1899 and has served the faithful of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for one hundred and thirteen years. As the result of an Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning initiative, a proposal to merge these parishes with the neighboring Saint Vincent De Paul Parish was studied and discussed with committees from all three parishes, with the Congregation of the Mission, which staffs the parishes, and with the appropriate Archdiocesan offices. Throughout this process, sufficient information regarding the proposal was gathered, and sufficient consultation was conducted with the members of Immaculate Conception Parish, Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, and Saint Vincent de Paul Parish.

The following just causes suggest that Immaculate Conception Parish and Saint Francis of Assisi Parish be merged into Saint Vincent de Paul Parish:

- 1) to provide more effectively for the pastoral needs of the faithful of Immaculate Conception Parish and Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, which have greatly declined in population in recent years;
- 2) to assure the vitality of parish life for Saint Vincent de Paul Parish;
- 3) to provide for a better stewardship of resources; and,
- 4) to provide for the optimum use of clergy and lay personnel.

Accordingly, in virtue of the prescriptions of canon 122 of the Code of Canon Law, 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** that Immaculate Conception Parish, Philadelphia and Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, Philadelphia be merged into Saint Vincent de Paul Parish, Philadelphia.

The new boundaries of Saint Vincent de Paul Parish are Washington Lane to Stenton Avenue; to Wister Street; to Laveer Street; to 21st Street; to Nedro Avenue; to 20th Street; to Belfield Avenue; to Courtland Street; to 18th Street; to Winghocking Street; to 16th Street; to Cayuga Street; to Clarissa Street (both sides); to Roberts Avenue (both sides); to Wissahickon Avenue; to Wissahickon Drive; to Wissahickon Creek (at Rittenhouse Street); to Walnut Lane; to Park Lane (exclusive); to Wissahickon Avenue; to West Johnson Street; to Wayne Avenue; to Washington Lane.

Parishioners of Immaculate Conception Parish and Saint Francis of Assisi Parish will become members of Saint Vincent de Paul Parish. The rich legacy and history of Immaculate Conception Parish and Saint Francis of Assisi Parish are to be promoted and honored. Together, all of the parishioners are encouraged to unite the newly merged parish through union with Jesus Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

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 Immaculate Conception Parish and Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, including their property and treasury, as well as any debts, shall be assigned to Saint Vincent de Paul Parish, Philadelphia, in accord with canon 122. The sacramental registers of Immaculate Conception Parish and Saint Francis of Assisi Parish shall be preserved at Saint Vincent de Paul Rectory.

This decree becomes effective as of July 1, 2012, 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 eleventh day of April, in the Year of Our Lord 2012.

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

Reverend Monsignor Gerard C. Mesure
Chancellor

DECREE

OF THE RELEGATION OF

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

TO PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE

Due to the deteriorating condition of Immaculate Conception Church, Philadelphia and a lack of the funding necessary to repair and maintain the church, consideration must be given as to whether sufficient grave causes exist for the relegation of Immaculate Conception Church to profane but not sordid use.

The following grave causes suggest that the church be so relegated and no longer be used for divine worship:

- 1) Immaculate Conception Church has been examined by experts who have determined that the building is in need of extensive repairs. Most notably the heating system for the main body of the church is not operational, the roof needs extensive repairs, and the church windows have leaks which have resulted in water damage to the interior of the church;
- 2) Immaculate Conception Parish does not have the resources to repair and maintain the church building. The parish has a debt of \$130,427 and an effective annual operating deficit of \$202,520. While Immaculate Conception parish is being merged into Saint Vincent de Paul Parish, Philadelphia, that parish is also unable to pay for the needed repairs as it is also in debt and has only a small operational surplus of \$6,978.
- 3) there is no other source of funding and the financial burden of repairing and maintaining the church would cause important pastoral programs of Saint Vincent de Paul Parish, such as much needed outreach to the poor of the area and educational efforts, to suffer due to lack of funds;
- 4) the church building does not have any particular architectural, historical, or artistic significance; and,
- 5) the people who have been attending Immaculate Conception Church are in reasonably close proximity to Saint Vincent de Paul Church.

Accordingly, in virtue of the precepts of canon 1212 and canon 1222, §2 of the Code of Canon Law, having judged that sufficient grave causes are present and that the good of souls will not thereby be impaired, having consulted with the Congregation of the Mission who staff the

church, and having consulted with the Council of Priests, I hereby **DECREE** that Immaculate Conception Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, be relegated to profane but not sordid use.

This decree is effective as of July 1, 2012, and is to be communicated to the members of Immaculate Conception Parish 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 eleventh day of April, in the Year of Our Lord 2012.

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

Reverend Monsignor Gerard C. Mesure
Chancellor

DECREE

OF THE MERGER OF

SAINT LUCY PARISH, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

INTO HOLY FAMILY PARISH, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Saint Lucy Parish was founded in the City of Philadelphia in 1927 to serve Italian speaking people of a portion of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. As the result of an Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning initiative, a proposal to merge this parish with the neighboring territorial Holy Family Parish was studied and discussed with committees from both parishes and with the appropriate Archdiocesan offices. Throughout this process, sufficient information regarding the proposal was gathered, and sufficient consultation was conducted with the members of Saint Lucy Parish and Holy Family Parish.

The following just causes suggest that Saint Lucy Parish be merged into Holy Family Parish:

- 1) to provide more effectively for the pastoral needs of the faithful of Saint Lucy Parish which has declined in population over the years and no longer serves a predominately Italian speaking community;
- 2) to assure the vitality of parish life for Holy Family Parish;
- 3) to provide for a better stewardship of resources; and,
- 4) to provide for the optimum use of clergy and lay personnel.

Accordingly, in virtue of the prescriptions of canon 122 of the Code of Canon Law, 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** that Saint Lucy Parish, Philadelphia be merged into Holy Family Parish, Philadelphia.

Parishioners of Saint Lucy Parish will become members of Holy Family Parish. They may also have the option of joining another Italian ethnic parish or, if they live outside of Holy Family Parish, the territorial parish in which they live.

The rich legacy and history of Saint Lucy Parish is to be promoted and honored. Together, all of the parishioners are encouraged to unite the newly merged parish through union with Jesus Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

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 Lucy Parish, including their property and treasury, as well as any debts, shall be assigned to Holy Family Parish, Philadelphia, in accord with canon 122.

Saint Lucy Church will remain open as a worship site for Holy Family Parish. The sacramental registers of Saint Lucy Parish shall be preserved at Holy Family Rectory.

This decree becomes effective as of July 1, 2012, 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 eleventh day of April, in the Year of Our Lord 2012.

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

Reverend Monsignor Gerard C. Mesure
Chancellor

DECREE

OF THE MERGER OF

**SAINT MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION PARISH, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA
AND SAINT JOSAPHAT PARISH, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA**

INTO SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish was founded in the City of Philadelphia in 1849 to serve German speaking people of a portion of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Saint Josaphat Parish was founded in the City of Philadelphia in 1898 to serve Polish speaking people of a portion of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. As the result of an Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning initiative, a proposal to merge these parishes with the neighboring territorial Saint John the Baptist Parish was studied and discussed with committees from all three parishes and with the appropriate Archdiocesan offices. Throughout this process, sufficient information regarding the proposal was gathered, and sufficient consultation was conducted with the members of Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish, Saint Josaphat Parish, and Saint John the Baptist Parish.

The following just causes suggest that Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish and Saint Josaphat Parish be merged into Saint John the Baptist Parish:

- 1) to provide more effectively for the pastoral needs of the faithful of Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish and Saint Josaphat Parish, which have declined in population over the years and no longer serve predominately German and Polish speaking communities;
- 2) to assure the vitality of parish life for Saint John the Baptist Parish;
- 3) to provide for a better stewardship of resources; and,
- 4) to provide for the optimum use of clergy and lay personnel.

Accordingly, in virtue of the prescriptions of canon 122 of the Code of Canon Law, 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** that Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish, Philadelphia and Saint Josaphat Parish, Philadelphia be merged into Saint John the Baptist Parish, Philadelphia.

Parishioners of Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish and Saint Josaphat Parish will become members of Saint John the Baptist Parish. They may also have the option of joining another German or Polish ethnic parish; or if they live outside of Saint John the Baptist parish, the territorial parish in which they live.

The rich legacy and history of Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish and Saint Josaphat Parish are to be promoted and honored. Together, all of the parishioners are encouraged to unite the newly merged parish through union with Jesus Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

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 of the Assumption Parish and Saint Josaphat Parish, including their property and treasury, as well as any debts, shall be assigned to Saint John the Baptist Parish, Philadelphia, in accord with canon 122.

Saint Mary of the Assumption Church and Saint Josaphat Church will remain open as worship sites for Saint John the Baptist Parish. The sacramental registers of Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish and Saint Josaphat Parish shall be preserved at Saint John the Baptist Rectory.

This decree becomes effective as of July 1, 2012, 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 eleventh day of April, in the Year of Our Lord 2012.

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

Reverend Monsignor Gerard C. Measure
Chancellor

DECREE

OF THE MERGER OF

HOLY TRINITY PARISH, PHOENIXVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

**INTO SAINT MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION PARISH,
PHOENIXVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA**

Holy Trinity Parish was founded in the Borough of Phoenixville in 1903 to serve Polish speaking people in Phoenixville and vicinity. As the result of an Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning initiative, a proposal to merge this parish with the neighboring territorial Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish, Phoenixville was studied and discussed with committees from both parishes and with the appropriate Archdiocesan offices. Throughout this process, sufficient information regarding the proposal was gathered, and sufficient consultation was conducted with the members of Holy Trinity Parish and Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish.

The following just causes suggest that Holy Trinity Parish be merged into Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish:

- 1) to provide more effectively for the pastoral needs of the faithful of Holy Trinity Parish which has declined in population over the years and no longer serves a predominately Polish speaking community;
- 2) to assure the vitality of parish life for Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish;
- 3) to provide for a better stewardship of resources; and,
- 4) to provide for the optimum use of clergy and lay personnel.

Accordingly, in virtue of the prescriptions of canon 122 of the Code of Canon Law, 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** that Holy Trinity Parish, Phoenixville a be merged into Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish, Phoenixville.

Parishioners of Holy Trinity Parish will become members of Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish. They may also have the option of joining another Polish personal parish or, if they live outside of Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish, the territorial parish in which they live.

The rich legacy and history of Holy Trinity Parish is to be promoted and honored. Together, all of the parishioners are encouraged to unite the newly merged parish through union with Jesus Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

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 Holy Trinity Parish, including their property and treasury, as well as any debts, shall be assigned to Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish in accord with canon 122.

Holy Trinity Church will remain open as a worship site for Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish. The sacramental registers of Holy Trinity Parish shall be preserved at Saint Mary of the Assumption Rectory.

This decree becomes effective as of July 1, 2012, 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 first day of June, in the Year of Our Lord 2012.

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

SEAL

Reverend Monsignor Gerard C. Mesure
Chancellor

DECREE

OF THE MERGER OF

SACRED HEART PARISH, PHOENIXVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

INTO SAINT ANN PARISH, PHOENIXVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

Sacred Heart Parish was founded in the Borough of Phoenixville in 1900 to serve Slovak speaking people in Phoenixville and vicinity. As the result of an Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning initiative, a proposal to merge this parish with the neighboring territorial Saint Ann Parish, Phoenixville was studied and discussed with committees from both parishes and with the appropriate Archdiocesan offices. Throughout this process, sufficient information regarding the proposal was gathered, and sufficient consultation was conducted with the members of Sacred Heart Parish and Saint Ann Parish.

The following just causes suggest that Sacred Heart Parish be merged into Saint Ann Parish:

- 1) to provide more effectively for the pastoral needs of the faithful of Sacred Heart Parish which has declined in population over the years and no longer serves a predominately Slovak speaking community;
- 2) to assure the vitality of parish life for Saint Ann Parish;
- 3) to provide for a better stewardship of resources; and,
- 4) to provide for the optimum use of clergy and lay personnel.

Accordingly, in virtue of the prescriptions of canon 122 of the Code of Canon Law, 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** that Sacred Heart Parish, Phoenixville a be merged into Saint Ann Parish, Phoenixville.

Parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish will become members of Saint Ann Parish. They may also have the option of joining another Slovak personal parish or, if they live outside of Saint Ann Parish, the territorial parish in which they live.

The rich legacy and history of Sacred Heart Parish is to be promoted and honored. Together, all of the parishioners are encouraged to unite the newly merged parish through union with Jesus Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

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 Sacred Heart Parish, including their property and treasury, as well as any debts, shall be assigned to Saint Ann Parish in accord with canon 122.

Sacred Heart Church will remain open as a worship site for Saint Ann Parish. The sacramental registers of Sacred Heart Parish shall be preserved at Saint Ann Rectory.

This decree becomes effective as of July 1, 2012, 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 first day of June, in the Year of Our Lord 2012.

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

SEAL

Reverend Monsignor Gerard C. Measure
Chancellor

DECREE

OF THE MERGER OF

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD PARISH, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

INTO HOLY INNOCENTS PARISH, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

AND

**VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH ,
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA**

Ascension of Our Lord Parish was founded in the City of Philadelphia in 1888. As the result of an Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning initiative, a proposal to merge this parish into the neighboring Holy Innocents Parish and Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary 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 sufficient consultation was conducted with the members of Ascension of Our Lord Parish, Holy Innocents Parish, and Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish.

The following just causes suggest that Ascension of Our Lord Parish be divided and merged into Holy Innocents Parish and Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish:

- 1) to provide more effectively for the pastoral needs of the faithful of Ascension of Our Lord Parish which has sharply declined in population in recent years and whose church had to be relegated to profane but not sordid use on July 1, 2012 due to an extreme degree of disrepair which made the church building dangerous to enter;
- 2) to assure the vitality of parish life for Holy Innocents and Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parishes;
- 3) to provide for a better stewardship of resources; and,
- 4) to provide for the optimum use of clergy and lay personnel.

Accordingly, in virtue of the prescriptions of canon 122 of the Code of Canon Law, 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** that Ascension of Our Lord Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania be divided and merged into Holy Innocents Parish and Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, both in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania..

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

Frankford Creek from junction of Penn-Central R.R. (Oxford Branch); to Friends Hospital property line; to Wyoming Ave. (both sides); to Castor Ave; to Frankford Creek to Kensington Ave.; to Erie-Torresdale Ave.; to J St.; to Ontario St.; to Jasper St.; to Westmoreland St.; to C St.; to Erie-Torresdale Ave.; to G St.; to Penn Central R.R. (Oxford Branch); to Frankford Creek at junction of the Friends Hospital Property line.

The boundaries of Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish are hereby altered to the following:

C St. and Westmoreland Ave., to Emerald St.; to Allegheny Ave.; to Frankford Ave.; to York St.; to Amber St.; to Front St.; Berks St.; to 6th St.; to Germantown Ave.; to Leigh Ave.; to 2nd St.; Cambria St.; to C St.; to Westmoreland 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 Ascension of Our Lord Parish, including their property and treasury, as well as any debts, shall be equitably assigned to Holy Innocents Parish and Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in accord with canon 122.

The sacramental registers of Ascension of Our Lord Parish shall be preserved at Holy Innocents Parish Rectory.

This decree becomes effective as of October 1, 2012, 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 twenty-fifth day of September in the Year of Our Lord 2012.

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

DECREE

OF THE RELEGATION OF

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

TO PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE

Due to the deteriorating and possibly dangerous condition of Ascension of Our Lord Church, Philadelphia and a lack of the funding necessary to repair and maintain the church, consideration must be given as to whether sufficient grave causes exist for the relegation of Ascension of Our Lord Church to profane but not sordid use.

The following grave causes suggest that the church be so relegated and no longer be used for divine worship:

- 1) Ascension of Our Lord Church has been examined by experts who have determined that the building is no longer safe for use. The church needs extensive and urgent repairs. Most notably the church floor is in grave danger of collapsing into the basement of the church;
- 2) Ascension of Our Lord Parish does not have the resources to repair and maintain the church building. Necessary repairs and renovations would cost an estimated \$3,000,000. The parish has a debt of \$287,561, an effective annual operating deficit of \$362,686, an annual subsidy from the Archdiocese of \$287,561, and an annual regular collection of only \$54,000.
- 3) there is no other source of funding and the financial burden of repairing and maintaining the church would cause important pastoral programs of Ascension of Our Lord Parish, such as outreach to the poor of the area and support of Catholic education, to suffer due to lack of funds;
- 4) the church building does not have any particular architectural, historical, or artistic significance; and,
- 5) provision has been made for another suitable location for divine worship within the parish.

Accordingly, in virtue of the precepts of canon 1212 and canon 1222, §2 of the Code of Canon Law, having judged that sufficient grave causes are present and that the good of souls will not thereby be impaired and having consulted with the Council of Priests, I hereby **DECREE** that Ascension of Our Lord Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, be relegated to profane but not sordid use.

This decree is effective as of July 1, 2012, and is to be communicated to the members of Ascension of Our Lord Parish 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 eleventh day of April, in the Year of Our Lord 2012.

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

Reverend Monsignor Gerard C. Mesure
Chancellor