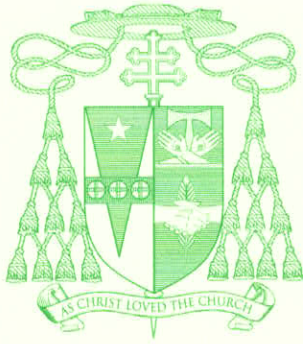




Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Archbishop
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

DECREE

OF THE MERGER OF

**SAINT RITA OF CASCIA PARISH ,
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA,**

WITH

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

Saint Rita of Cascia Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was founded in 1907. Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was founded in 1860. As the result of an Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning initiative, a proposal to merge Saint Rita of Cascia Parish into Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish was studied and discussed with committees from both of the parishes, with the Augustinian Fathers, who staff Saint Rita of Cascia Parish and the National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia, and with the appropriate archdiocesan offices. Throughout this process, sufficient information regarding the proposal was gathered, and consultation was conducted with members of Saint Rita of Cascia Parish and Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish.

The following just causes suggest that Saint Rita of Cascia Parish be merged into Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish:

- 1) to provide more effectively for the pastoral needs of the faithful of Saint Rita of Cascia Parish which is small in population has seen a decrease in pastoral activity;
- 2) to enhance the important ministry of the National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia, which shares space with the parish;
- 3) to enhance evangelization efforts and the vitality of parish life for the people of Saint Rita of Cascia and Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parishes by combining parish ministries and other parish activities;
- 4) to provide for a better stewardship of resources so as to address the serious financial difficulties faced by Saint Rita of Cascia Parish which has few financial resources, has regularly encountered deficits, has required considerable financial support from the Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia, and can no longer afford to maintain Saint Rita of Cascia Church and other associated buildings.

- 5) to provide for the best use of clergy and lay personnel and to prepare the parish communities for an administrative partnership with the other parishes in the area.

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 March 18, 2016, I hereby **DECREE** an extinctive union by which Saint Rita of Cascia Parish, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania will be merged into Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary 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 Rita of Cascia Parish, including their property and treasury, as well as any debts, shall be equitably assigned to the National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia and Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish.

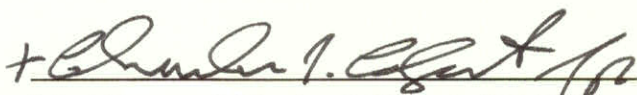
The boundaries of Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish shall be as follows:

13th Street from South Street.; to Washington Avenue.; to 12th Street.; to Federal Street.; to 7th Street.; to Mifflin Street.; to Broad Street.; to Dickinson Street.; to 17th Street.; to Reed Street.; to 18th Street.; to Ellsworth Street.; to 16th Street.; to South Street.; to 13th Street.

Saint Rita of Cascia Church will remain open as the National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia. The sacramental registers of Saint Rita of Cascia Parish shall be preserved at Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Rectory.

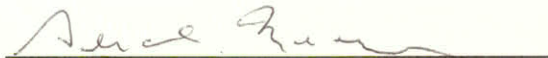
This decree becomes effective as of July 1, 2016, prior to which it is to be communicated to the parishioners of Saint Rita of Cascia and Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parishes and to the Faithful of the Archdiocese in an appropriate manner. All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Curia of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, on the 8th day of April in the Year of Our Lord 2016.



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

SEAL



Reverend Monsignor Gerard C. Measure
Chancellor