

DAVID ALLEN ZUBIK



By the Grace of God and the Authority of the Apostolic See

BISHOP OF PITTSBURGH

DECREE

**EXTINCTIVE UNION OF SAINT VITUS PARISH, SAINT JAMES THE
APOSTLE PARISH, SAINT CAMILLUS DE LELLIS PARISH,
SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER PARISH, MARY MOTHER OF HOPE
PARISH, SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL PARISH, AND
CHRIST THE KING PARISH
INTO
HOLY SPIRIT PARISH**

Whereas, in the mid to late 1800s and early 1900s, the greater New Castle region underwent significant growth and development, and was home to numerous ethnic immigrant communities. This led to the establishment of a number of parishes to serve the spiritual needs of the growing Catholic community in the area. Some of the parishes were established geographically, while others ministered to specific ethnic communities, such as German, Italian and Polish Catholics.

Whereas, Saint Vitus Parish, a personal parish, was established in 1900 as to serve the population of Italian Catholic immigrants in the New Castle area. However, the once pressing need for pastoral care to Italian-speaking immigrants has ceased.

Whereas, Saint James the Apostle Parish, a territorial parish, was established in 1953 to serve the Catholic faithful in Pulaski.

Whereas, Saint Camillus De Lellis Parish, a territorial parish, was established in 1959 to serve the Catholic faithful of Neshannock and Wilmington Townships, and part of New Castle, relieving congestion from other nearby parishes as a result of continuing population growth.

Whereas, Saint Joseph the Worker Parish, a territorial parish, was established in 1962 when a new church was built and dedicated for the parish previously named Saint Joseph Parish.

Whereas, Mary Mother of Hope Parish was established in 1993 as a result of a merger of two parishes: Saint Mary Parish and Madonna of Czestochowa Parish. Saint Mary Parish was one of the oldest church communities in New Castle, dating back to 1882, and Madonna of Czestochowa Parish had been serving the Polish Catholic population in New Castle since 1902.

Whereas, Saint Vincent de Paul Parish, a territorial parish, was established in 1993, as a result of the merger of the former Holy Cross Parish, Saint Lucy Parish, Saint Margaret Parish, Saint Michael Parish and Saints Philip and James Parish.

Whereas, Christ the King Parish, a territorial parish, was established in 2000 as a merger of the former Saint Anthony Parish and Saint Lawrence Parish. Christ the King Parish serves the Catholic faithful in the Bessemer-Hillsville area.

Whereas, on March 22, 2019, seven (7) petitions were presented to the diocesan bishop, each signed by the one priest who serves as Administrator of Saint Vitus Parish, Saint James the Apostle Parish, Saint Camillus De Lellis Parish, Saint Joseph the Worker Parish, Mary Mother of Hope Parish, Saint Vincent De Paul Parish, and Christ the King Parish, along with the signatures of the seven (7) respective Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils requesting that the seven (7) aforesaid parishes be merged into Holy Spirit Parish, forming an extinctive union.

Whereas, merging these parishes will better help provide for the pastoral needs of the faithful, address serious financial difficulties faced in the area and provide for better stewardship of resources and a better use of the clergy, and allow the new parish to focus on proclaiming the Gospel, facilitating a stronger community of the faithful for liturgical worship, ministry and outreach.

Therefore, having received the petition of the seven (7) parishes and having heard the Priest Council on March 26, 2019 and the Vicars General on the same day, with no harm coming to the good of souls and indeed for the spiritual benefit of the faithful, and all of the requirements of canons 50, 51, 127, 166, and 515 having been fulfilled, we do hereby decree the following:

1. By means of an extinctive union, Saint Vitus Parish, Saint James the Apostle Parish, Saint Camillus De Lellis Parish, Saint Joseph the Worker Parish, Mary Mother of Hope Parish, Saint Vincent De Paul Parish, and Christ the King Parish are merged and subsumed into the newly formed territorial Holy Spirit Parish, which is erected by this decree according to the prescriptions of canon 515§ 2 of the *Code of Canon Law*.

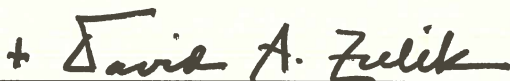
2. The pastoral care previously provided by the personal parish of Saint Vitus to the Italian-speaking Catholics of New Castle and to their descendants who continue Italian-Catholic traditions, while no longer a pressing pastoral concern, is henceforth to be provided directly by the newly established Holy Spirit Parish.
3. In accordance with the norms of law (cf. canon 121), all assets, responsibilities and liabilities of Saint Vitus Parish, Saint James the Apostle Parish, Saint Camillus De Lellis Parish, Saint Joseph the Worker Parish, Mary Mother of Hope Parish, Saint Vincent De Paul Parish, and Christ the King Parish are transferred into the newly formed Holy Spirit Parish. The intention of donors is to be respected.
4. Furthermore, the voluntary offerings of the faithful and all other grants that have been made and will be made to Holy Spirit Parish constitute its revenue.
5. All sacramental records from Saint Vitus Parish, Saint James the Apostle Parish, Saint Camillus De Lellis Parish, Saint Joseph the Worker Parish, Mary Mother of Hope Parish, Saint Vincent De Paul Parish, and Christ the King Parish will be housed at the new parish office of Holy Spirit Parish.
6. All churches will remain open to the faithful for at least occasional sacred worship, whether public or private (cf. can. 1214). If a church is not used for regular public worship, the holy Mass is to be celebrated in these churches at least every year on the solemnity of the anniversary of each respective church's dedication and on the solemnity of the church's title, in accord with current liturgical norms (cf. can. 1167 §2 and 1168 of the former Code of Canon Law, and can. 2 of the present Code). If such an observance is impeded by another date of higher rank according to the Roman calendar, the impeded solemnity is to be transferred to the first available date thereafter.
7. All present members of Saint Vitus Parish, Saint James the Apostle Parish, Saint Camillus De Lellis Parish, Saint Joseph the Worker Parish, Mary Mother of Hope Parish, Saint Vincent De Paul Parish, and Christ the King Parish are entitled to be parishioners of Holy Spirit Parish according to the universal law and legitimate custom within the Diocese of Pittsburgh.
8. The boundaries of Holy Spirit Parish shall be as follows:

BEGINNING at the point at the Pennsylvania/Ohio State line at the southwest corner of North Beaver Township; proceed east along the southern border of North Beaver Township to the end of North Beaver Township in the middle of the Beaver River; take an airline route to the easternmost point of Sandbank Road; take an airline route east to the point of intersection with Upper Boyd School Road and Lower Boyd School Road; take an airline route east to the point of intersection with Harmony Baptist Road and Wiley Lane; proceed east along the centerline of Harmony Baptist Road to the point it becomes Frew Road; proceed east and north along the centerline of Frew Road to the point of intersection with Shaffer Road; proceed east and then northwest along the centerline of Shaffer Road to the point of intersection with Fairview School Road; proceed east and then north along the centerline of Fairview School Road to the point of intersection with Mill Bridge Road; proceed east along the centerline of Mill Bridge Road to the point of intersection with Eckert Bridge Road; proceed southeast along the centerline of Eckert Bridge Road to the end; take an airline route southeast to the point at which Eckert Bridge Road begins again; proceed southeast along the centerline of Eckert Bridge Road to the middle of the Slippery Rock Creek; proceed south and west along the middle of Slippery Rock Creek to the point at which Cheeseman Run begins; proceed east along the middle of Cheeseman Run to the midpoint of Pfeifer Road; take an airline route east to the Lawrence County border; proceed north along the eastern border of Lawrence County to the Mercer County border; proceed northwest and west along the Lawrence County/Mercer County border to the Pennsylvania/Ohio State line; proceed south along the Pennsylvania/Ohio State line to the point of the beginning.

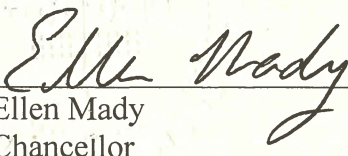
This decree becomes effective on July 1, 2019, anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Finally, those who have the right may appeal this decree in accordance with the prescriptions of the law.

Given at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, this 17th day of May 2019.

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Most Reverend David A. Zubik
Bishop of Pittsburgh


Ellen Mady
Chancellor