



DAVID MICHAEL O'CONNELL, C.M., DD, JCD
Bishop of Trenton

DECREE

For the Merging of

Divine Mercy Parish into Sacred Heart Parish

Following the completion of a Diocesan-wide planning process known as *Faith In Our Future* involving representatives from each parish, recommendations were made to a Diocesan Planning Commission consisting of Clergy and Lay representatives. The final recommendations of the Commission were evaluated through the episcopal consultation with the Diocesan Presbyteral Council, Consultors, Episcopal Council, Curia and the priests of the Diocese. Through this process, a proposal was initiated and accepted to merge Divine Mercy Parish into Sacred Heart Parish.

The following just causes support this proposal:

1. To better provide for the pastoral needs of the faithful who reside in the vicinity of these parishes;
2. To provide for a better stewardship of resources;
3. To provide for the optimum use of clergy, religious and lay personnel;
4. To promote the vitality of parish life in the area.

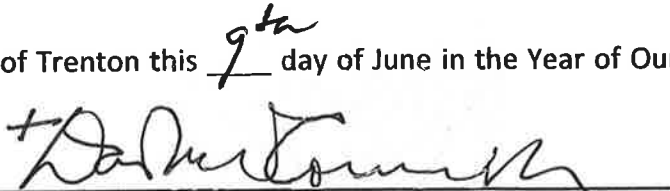
Accordingly, by virtue of the prescriptions of canon 121 and canon 515 of the *Code of Canon Law*, in order to provide more effectively for the spiritual welfare of the faithful and the salvation of souls, having judged that sufficient just causes are present and having consulted the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Trenton in accord with canon 515, §2, I hereby

DECREE

1. That Divine Mercy Parish be altered and merged into the existing Sacred Heart Parish.
2. That the name of the parish remains as Sacred Heart Parish, Trenton, N.J.
3. That this new parish shall be territorial with the following boundaries:
 - NORTH: From the Delaware River east along the Assunpink Creek, to Market Street, to Route 129;**
 - EAST: Route 129 South to junction with South Broad Street to Dye Street to South Clinton Avenue to Liberty Street to Chambers Street to Cedar Lane;**
 - SOUTH: Cedar Lane to Lalor Street, to Freeway south long Freeway Route 129, to the city limits to Delaware River;**
 - WEST: Delaware River at city limits to Delaware River at the Assunpink Creek.**
4. That in addition to persons living within the aforementioned boundaries, all the faithful who are currently registered members of the existing parishes will comprise the territorial parish;
5. That the intention or will of the donors, as well as any acquired rights, have been examined and taken into consideration, especially with regard to the allocation of goods and the obligation of debts.
6. That the parish will worship in both the Sacred Heart Church and the Holy Cross Church.
7. That the goods belonging to or assigned or given to Divine Mercy Parish, including its patrimony, property, funds, gifts, grants and pious legacies, pious foundations, and any debts and obligations, shall be assigned to Sacred Heart Parish, Trenton, New Jersey.
8. That the sacramental registers, death registers and matrimonial files of each of the parishes will be kept at the office of Sacred Heart Parish;
9. Finally , that the voluntary offerings of the faithful, as well as other gifts, grants, pious wills and pious foundations which have been or will be made to the Sacred Heart Parish constitute its revenue.

This decree becomes effective on July 1, 2017. Prior to which this decree must be published on the website for the Diocese of Trenton, the website for Divine Mercy Parish, and in the church bulletin for Divine Mercy Parish. The Pastor is to make a copy of this decree available to any who requests it.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Trenton this 9th day of June in the Year of Our Lord 2017.


+Most Reverend David M. O'Connell, C.M., DD, JCD
Bishop of Trenton



Anthony J. Mingarino
Chancellor
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