



DAVID MICHAEL O'CONNELL, C.M., D.D., J.C.D.

By the Grace of God and Favor of the Apostolic See

Bishop of Trenton

DECREE

for the Merging
of

Blessed Sacrament – Our Lady of the Divine Shepherd Parish, Trenton
into

Parish of the Sacred Heart, Trenton, New Jersey

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 Blessed Sacrament – Our Lady of the Divine Shepherd Parish into the Parish of the Sacred Heart.

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 Blessed Sacrament – Our Lady of the Divine Shepherd Parish, Trenton be merged into the existing Sacred Heart Parish, Trenton, New Jersey;
2. That the name of the merged parish will be the Parish of the Sacred Heart, Trenton, New Jersey;
3. That this territorial parish will serve the needs of those who reside in the parish territory, and will have particular ministry among Polish Catholics and Black Catholics in the area for as long as is pastorally required;
4. The territorial boundaries, which exist in two parts that are not contiguous, are as follows:

Part 1

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 along Freeway Route 129, to the city limits to Delaware River;

West: Delaware River from the city limits to the Assunpink Creek

Part 2

North: From the Delaware River, following Lower Ferry Road to Stuyvesant Avenue, to the Trenton City line, to Homan Avenue, to Hillcrest Avenue;

East: from Hillcrest Avenue to Parkway Avenue, to Prospect Street;

South: from the intersection of Parkway Avenue and Prospect Street, in a westerly direction along Prospect Street to the Delaware River;
West: the Delaware River from Prospect Street to Lower Ferry Road.

5. That in addition to the residents of the parish territory, all the faithful who are currently registered members of the existing parishes will comprise the parish;
6. That the intention or will of the donors, as well as any acquired rights of each of the merging parishes have been examined and taken into consideration, especially with regard to the allocation of goods and the obligation of debts;
7. That Sacred Heart Church and Holy Cross Church will both continue to be utilized for the spiritual needs of the faithful as long as they are needed and the parish can allocate resources for their operation and maintenance;
8. That Blessed Sacrament Church will be closed;
9. That the goods belonging or assigned or given to Blessed Sacrament – Our Lady of the Divine Shepherd Parish and Sacred Heart Parish, including patrimony, property, funds, gifts, grants and pious legacies, pious foundations, and any debts and obligations, shall be assigned to the Parish of the Sacred Heart;
10. That the sacramental registers, death registers and matrimonial files of each of the parishes will be kept at the office of the Parish of the Sacred Heart at 343 South Broad Street, Trenton, New Jersey;
11. 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 Blessed Sacrament – Our Lady of the Divine Shepherd Parish and Sacred Heart Parish constitute the revenue of the Parish of Sacred Heart.

This decree becomes effective on the 1st day of July 2018, prior to which it is to be communicated to the faithful in an appropriate manner. All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Trenton on the 15th day of May 2018.



✠ Most Reverend David Michael O'Connell, C.M., D.D., J.C.D.

Bishop of Trenton



Terry A. Ginther, *Chancellor*