

DAVID ALLEN ZUBIK



By the Grace of God and the Authority of the Apostolic See
BISHOP OF PITTSBURGH

DECREE

THE EXTINGTIVE UNION OF ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH, SAINT JOHN NEUMANN PARISH, AND SACRED HEART PARISH INTO REGINA COELI PARISH

Whereas, the origins of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the Beautiful River Parish date back to 1903. The parish was founded to meet the needs of the growing suburban communities of Bellevue and Avalon. Bishop Richard Phelan suggested the name of the new parish to commemorate the first log chapel built by the French in 1754 where the first Mass west of the Alleghenies was offered. The cornerstone of the present church was laid on August 17, 1930, and the building was dedicated on November 22, 1931.

Whereas, Saint John Neumann Parish was established on July 2, 1979 in response to the growth of the North Hills suburbs of Pittsburgh. Ground for the church was broken on September 13, 1981, and the completed church was dedicated on May 23, 1982.

Whereas, Sacred Heart Parish was established in 1891. Before then, local Catholics had to travel to Saint Mary Parish in Glenfield to attend Mass. On February 22, 1891, a committee of local Catholics met to discuss plans for a new church. Work on the church began later that year. The completed building was dedicated on February 21, 1892.

Whereas, information regarding the future of the parishes has been consistently communicated to the parishioners in the weekly, combined parish bulletin, on the parish website, and at announcements during weekend Masses.

Whereas, parish assemblies were held on February 10, 13 & 14, 2022, and a recording of the presentation was posted on the parish websites for those who could not attend in person, to provide information to the people of the parishes and to receive parishioner input regarding the possible merger of the parishes.

Whereas on March 29, 2022, three (3) petitions were presented to the diocesan bishop, each signed by the one priest who serves as Administrator of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Saint John Neumann Parish, and Sacred Heart Parish, along with the signatures of the respective Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils requesting that Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Saint John Neumann Parish, and Sacred Heart Parish be merged into Regina Coeli Parish forming an extinctive union.

Whereas merging these parishes will provide more vibrant and effective ministries to the faithful and, because of the fewer number of priests in the diocese and faithful in the territory, forming one parish will facilitate a stronger community of the faithful for liturgical worship, ministry, and outreach.

Whereas, merging these parishes will better facilitate the ability of the assigned clergy to work together, building upon one another's individual talents, in order to better serve the People of God entrusted to their pastoral care.

Whereas, merging these parishes will provide greater and more accessible resources for parochial administration and the employment of effective staff members.

Whereas, the need for evangelization is pressing in the territories concerned and merging these parishes will make resources available for the effective proclamation of the Gospel so as to enliven the Faith, bring the people closer to the Lord, and win souls for Christ.

Therefore, having received the petition of the three (3) parishes and having heard the Presbyteral Council on April 7, 2022 and the Vicars General on the same day, and 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 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Saint John Neumann Parish, and Sacred Heart Parish are merged and subsumed into the newly formed Regina Coeli Parish, which is erected by this decree according to the prescriptions of canon 515§ 2 of the *Code of Canon Law*.

2. In accordance with the norms of law (cf. canon 121), all assets, responsibilities and liabilities of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Saint John Neumann Parish, and Sacred Heart Parish are transferred into the newly erected Regina Coeli Parish. The intention of donors is to be respected.
3. Furthermore, the voluntary offerings of the faithful and all other grants that have been made and will be made to Regina Coeli Parish constitute its revenue.
4. All sacramental records from Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Saint John Neumann Parish, and Sacred Heart Parish will be housed at the Archives and Records Center of the Diocese of Pittsburgh.
5. All churches are to 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 there at least every year on the solemnity of the anniversary of the 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.
6. All present members of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Saint John Neumann Parish, and Sacred Heart Parish are entitled to be parishioners of Regina Coeli Parish according to the universal law and legitimate custom within the Diocese of Pittsburgh.
7. The boundaries of Regina Coeli Parish shall be as follows:

Beginning at the point of beginning at the intersection of Rochester Road and the McCandless Township-Ross Township border; proceed west on the McCandless Township border to the Franklin Park Borough border; proceed south on the Franklin Township border to the Ohio Township border; proceed south on the Ohio Township border to the Kilbuck Township border; proceed south on the Kilbuck Township border to the intersection of the Avalon Borough-Ross Township-Bellevue Borough-Kilbuck Township borders; proceed east via airline route to Union Avenue; proceed northeast along the centerline of Union Avenue to the intersection with William Street; proceed southeast via airline route to the intersection with Cornell Avenue Extension and Forest Avenue; proceed south along the centerline of Cornell Avenue Extension to the intersection with Bellevue Road; proceed east along the centerline of Bellevue Road to the intersection with Jacks Run Road; proceed south along the centerline of Jacks Run Road to the intersection with Longmount Drive; proceed west and south along the centerline of Jacks Run Road to the intersection with Brighton

Road; proceed northwest along the centerline of Brighton Road to the Bellevue Borough border; proceed southwest on the Bellevue Borough border to the middle of the Ohio River; proceed northwest in the middle of the Ohio River, north of Davis Island and Neville Island, to the southwest border of Kilbuck Township; proceed north on the Kilbuck Township border to the Ohio Township border; proceed north on the Ohio Township border to the Franklin Park Borough border; proceed southeast on the Ohio Township Borough border to the intersection with McAleer Road; proceed north and east along the centerline of McAleer Road to the intersection with Rochester Road; proceed east and south along the centerline of Rochester Road to the intersection with West Ingomar Road; proceed north, east and southeast along the centerline of West Ingomar Road to the intersection with Highland Road; proceed southeast along the centerline of Highland Road to the intersection with Sloop Road; proceed west along the centerline of Sloop Road to the intersection with Wittmer Road; proceed southwest along the centerline of Wittmer Road to its endpoint; proceed southwest via airline route to the endpoint of Village Drive; proceed southwest along the centerline of Village Drive to the intersection with Rochester Road; proceed south along the centerline of Rochester Road to the intersection with the McCandless Township-Ross Township border, the point of beginning

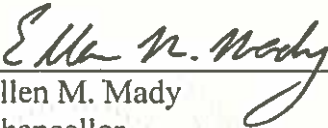
This decree becomes effective at 12:01 AM on July 1, 2022, anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

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

Given at Pittsburgh, PA, this 23rd day of May, in the Year of Our Lord 2022.

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Most Reverend David A. Zubik
Bishop of Pittsburgh



Ellen M. Mady
Chancellor