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Prot. N. 2019 RMC-11

DECREE

IN THE NAME OF GOD. AMEN.

“Likewise, parishes which are too small should be united insofar as the situation demands it and circumstances permit.” St. Paul VI, Apostolic Letter *motu proprio, Ecclesiae Sanctae*, n. 21, (1), August 6, 1966

Changing demographics have affected the size and wealth of the Archdiocese of Chicago and the vitality of her parishes. This is particularly true in the City of Chicago itself, where the total population has decreased by nearly 20% since 1970, from 3,366,957 to an estimated 2,736,000 today. The archdiocese has many vacant old and underused parochial buildings and fewer priests to pastor our faith communities.

According to the US Census Bureau, the Archdiocese of Chicago had an estimated total population of 5,914,783 in 2018. The 2018 *Anuario Pontificio* indicates Chicago had 345 parishes serving a Catholic population of 2,512,000. In 2018 the Archdiocese of Los Angeles had a total population of 11,519,517, with 287 parishes for a Catholic population of 4,362,000, more than twice the number of Catholics per parish than Chicago. In the same year the Archdiocese of New York had 2,656,987 Catholics in 294 parishes, also a much larger parishioners per parish number than in Chicago. A good number of our parishes were founded in the first half of the last century or earlier. They were established for national, linguistic, or ethnic groups that no longer live in the archdiocese or in the neighborhoods where they once flourished.

Too many of our parishes have been unable to support themselves and are receiving financial subsidies from the archdiocese. Between fiscal year 2012 and fiscal year 2018 these subsidies amounted to \$144,373,461.00, including \$38,171,840.00 to 106 parishes, and \$106,201,621.00 to 83 Catholic schools. More than \$25,000,000.00 was given in the last two fiscal years alone. None of this money will be recovered by the archdiocese. The Archdiocese of Chicago cannot continue this level of financial support for parishes and Catholic schools. Our hope is that our parishes will become more vital, that is, active centers of Christian discipleship, evangelical mission, scholarship, and charitable outreach. To achieve this hope, the parishes must be able to support themselves when possible.

More than three years ago, inspired by the experience of St. Francis of Assisi before the cross of the ruined church of San Damiano, and by the Holy Father's dream of “a missionary option ... capable of transforming everything” (Pope Francis, Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, n. 27, November 24, 2013), I announced the inauguration of *Renew My Church*

(RMC), a multi-year, intentional process aimed at obtaining and preserving the vitality of our parishes. It is my intention that every parish of the Archdiocese of Chicago join with some of its neighbors and plan together for the future.

Careful planning will create a menu of possible options for future vitality. We will also identify parishes likely to be restructured through pastoral coordination, unions, and other significant alterations, including closing churches no longer useful for divine worship. This decree arises out of the work of the parishes of the South Holland Grouping. Three parishes constituted the grouping: St. Jude the Apostle Parish (established 1957), 880 East 154th Street, South Holland, Illinois 60473-1105; Holy Ghost Parish (established 1962), 700 East 170th Street, South Holland, Illinois 60473-3498; and St. Mary Queen of Apostles Parish (established 2011 from the union of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Chicago, and Queen of the Apostles Parish, Riverdale), 207 West 145th Street, Riverdale, Illinois 60827-2710.

In 2018 the pastoral leadership and lay representatives from these parishes, met in the RMC grouping to consider their future. The Grouping Team presented a Community Engagement and Planning Feedback Summary dated November 30, 2018, to the Archdiocesan Standards and Recommendations Commission, a group of lay and ordained representatives from across the archdiocese (see Submission of November 30, 2018, attached to this Decree).

The ultimate recommendation was conveyed to the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Chicago on January 15, 2019. It called for the union of St. Jude the Apostle Parish, South Holland, Holy Ghost Parish, South Holland, and St. Mary Queen of Apostles Parish, Riverdale, effective July 1, 2019. The union of the three parishes is supported by the data and arguments attached to this decree. Significant is that neither the three parishes combined, nor any of the three alone, meets two important recommended minimum levels needed for parish vitality in the archdiocese, namely, 800 parishioners and \$750,000.00 annual operating revenue. Moreover, since 1998 there has been a combined overall 74% decline in Sunday Mass attendance at the three parishes, from 3,069 to 793. In the last fiscal year there were a combined total of 19 Baptisms, three weddings, and 42 funerals.

THEREFORE, know that I, Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago, according to the norms of canon 127 §§1 & 3, canon 166, and canon 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, having before me the recommendations of the Grouping Team and those of the Archdiocesan Standards and Recommendations Commission, convened the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Chicago on January 15, 2019, at Our Lady of Hope Parish in Rosemont, Illinois. There, hearing the Presbyteral Council, noting the Council's deliberations on the matter, and witnessing the Council's vote, I accepted the Council's advice. Consequently, after invoking the Holy Spirit, I

decree the following:

1. Effective July 1, 2019, Holy Ghost Parish, South Holland, St. Mary Queen of Apostles Parish, Riverdale, and St. Jude the Apostle Parish, South Holland, will be extinguished as separate juridic persons in the Church and united to form a single new juridic person, a territorial parish known, *ad interim*, as Holy Ghost and SS. Mary and Jude Parish;

2. The missions of the extinguished Holy Ghost Parish, the extinguished St. Mary Queen of Apostles Parish, and the extinguished St. Jude the Apostle Parish, will be subsumed completely into the newly established Holy Ghost and SS. Mary and Jude Parish;

3. Each and all the parishioners of the three parishes to be extinguished will be fully and equally parishioners of the new Holy Ghost and SS. Mary and Jude Parish;

4. The territory of the new Holy Ghost and SS. Mary and Jude Parish will be the combined territories of the three extinguished parishes, namely the territory located within these boundaries:

Start at Ashland Avenue and the Calumet Sag Channel,
East along south side of Calumet Sag Channel to the Bishop Ford Expressway (I- 94),
South on the centerline of the Bishop Ford Expressway to 159th Street,
East on south side of 159th Street to Torrence Avenue,
South on west side of Torrence Avenue to Kingery Expressway (I-294/94/80),
West on centerline of Kingery Expressway to Indiana Avenue/State Street,
North on east side of Indiana Avenue/State Street to Sibley Boulevard/147th Street,
West on north side of Sibley Boulevard/147th Street to Halsted Street,
North on east side of Halsted Street to the Little Calumet River,
Northwest on east side of Little Calumet River to Ashland Avenue,
North on Ashland Avenue to Calumet Sag Channel.

5. The churches of the extinguished Holy Ghost Parish, the extinguished St. Mary Queen of Apostles Parish, and the extinguished St. Jude the Apostle Parish will, for now, remain open as parochial churches of the new Holy Ghost and SS. Mary and Jude Parish, retaining their own titles;

6. Subject to the intention of founders and donors, and with due regard for any acquired rights, the goods and patrimonial rights of the extinguished Holy Ghost Parish, the extinguished St. Mary Queen of Apostles Parish, and the extinguished St. Jude the Apostle Parish, together with any obligations with which they may be burdened, will become those of the newly established Holy Ghost and SS. Mary and Jude Parish (see canon 121);

7. The documents given to the Presbyteral Council on this matter, together with the minutes of the Council meetings of January 15, 2019, will be attached to this decree;

8. In due course, the sacramental records and other materials relevant to historical research concerning the extinguished Holy Ghost Parish, the extinguished St. Mary Queen of Apostles Parish, and the extinguished St. Jude the Apostle Parish will be commended to the

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Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Archives and Records Center of the Archdiocese of Chicago for safe keeping and suitable access; and

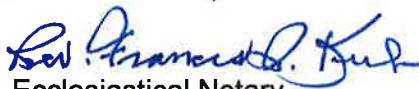
9. Notification of this decree will be given immediately to the pastoral leadership of Holy Ghost Parish, South Holland, St. Mary Queen of Apostles Parish, Riverdale, and St. Jude the Apostle Parish, South Holland, and to their parishioners. Publication will be made through the parish bulletins, and generally on the archdiocesan website.

Before hierarchical recourse [appeal] may be taken against this decree, a petition to reconsider or amend the decree must be delivered to me at my office within ten (10) useful days from notification of the decree (CIC cc. 1734, 1735, 1737).

Given this 18th day of March, A.D. 2019.
From the Archbishop Quigley Center,
Chicago, Illinois


Archbishop of Chicago




Ecclesiastical Notary

Attachments

THE DATA SUBMITTED TO THE PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL OF
THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO AND THE MINUTES OF
THE RELEVANT MEETINGS OF THE PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL ARE
ATTACHED TO THIS DECREE AND AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST TO THE OFFICE OF THE
CHANCELLOR OR THE OFFICE FOR CANONICAL AFFAIRS