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Prot. N. 2020 RMC-15

## 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 2,705,994 in 2018. 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 5,881,250 in 2018. The 2018 *Annuario Pontificio* indicates our archdiocese had 345 parishes serving a Catholic population of 2,512,000: an average of 7,281 Catholics per parish. According to the same source, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles had a total population of 11,519,517, with 287 parishes for a Catholic population of 4,362,000: an average 15,199 Catholics per parish. For the Archdiocese of New York, the figures are 2,656,987 Catholics in 294 parishes: an average 9,037 Catholics per parish. A good number of our parishes were founded in the first half of the last century or earlier. Many 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 have been receiving financial subsidies from the archdiocese. Between fiscal year 2012 and fiscal year 2019 these subsidies amounted to \$160,014,332.00, including \$40,039,909.00 to 115 parishes, and \$119,974,423.00 to 93 Catholic schools. This was entirely due to the generosity of the faithful of the archdiocese and other donors. We cannot continue this level of financial support for parishes and Catholic schools, especially while the number of those contributing to the support of their parishes increasingly declines. 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 have a growing or stable membership and the ability to support themselves whenever possible.

Five 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 has



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been my intention that every parish of the Archdiocese of Chicago will 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 are identifying parishes likely to be reconfigured through pastoral coordination with neighboring parishes, divisions, unions, and other significant alterations.

This decree concerns two neighboring parishes located in the municipality of Elk Grove Village, Illinois: Queen of the Rosary Parish (established 1959), 750 West Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove Village, Illinois 60007; and St. Julian Eymard Parish (established 1968), 601 Biesterfield Road, Elk Grove Village, Illinois 60007. For several months in 2019 the pastoral leadership and lay representatives from the two parishes met in an *RMC* grouping to consider the future of their area of the archdiocese. The Grouping Team presented a Community Engagement and Planning Feedback Summary to the Archdiocesan Standards and Recommendations Commission, a group formed by lay and ordained representatives from across the archdiocese. The Commission's proposal to be put before the Presbyteral Council was that the two be extinguished as separate juridic persons in the Church and united to form one new territorial parish, with Queen of the Rosary Church designated the parish church.

The proposal is supported by the data and arguments mentioned herein or attached to this decree. Significant is the support among local leaders and parishioners that uniting as one parish will most effectively support the work of evangelization in the municipality covered by the two parishes. Additionally, recent figures of annual parish operating income at both parishes was below the archdiocesan benchmark of \$750,000.00 generally needed for a parish's mission and survival. The operating income at St. Julian Eymard was most recently \$668,273.00, at Queen of the Rosary it was \$585,572.00. These realities coexist with a continuing decline in the number of priests available to pastor our parishes.

THEREFORE, know that I, Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago, according to the norms of canon 50, canon 127 §§1 & 3, canon 166, and canon 515 §2, of the Code of Canon Law, have before me the proposal of the Archdiocesan Standards and Recommendations Commission that Queen of the Rosary Parish and St. Julian Eymard Parish, both in Elk Grove Village, Illinois, be extinguished as separate juridic persons in the Church and united to form a single new territorial parish. I convened the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Chicago on January 27-28, 2020, at Mundelein Seminary of the University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, Illinois. There, after hearing the Presbyteral Council and its vote of 32 for and 0 against the proposal of extinctive union and invoking the Holy Spirit, I accepted the Presbyteral Council's advice and now

***decree the following:***

1. Effective July 1, 2020, Queen of the Rosary Parish and St. Julian Eymard Parish, both in Elk Grove Village, Illinois, are extinguished as separate juridic persons in the Church and united to form a single new territorial parish to be called, *ad interim*, Queen of the Rosary and St. Julian Eymard Parish;



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2. The missions of the two former parishes will be subsumed completely into the mission of the new Queen of the Rosary and St. Julian Eymard Parish;

3. Each and all the parishioners of the two parishes to be united are to be fully and equally parishioners of the new Queen of the Rosary and St. Julian Eymard Parish;

4. The territory of the new parish will be the combined territories of two united parishes, namely, the territory described as follows:

Start at the intersection of Route 53 (I-290) and Jane Addams Tollway (I-90),  
Southeast on south side of Jane Addams Tollway (I-90) to the intersection at Touhy Avenue,  
West on the north side of Touhy Avenue to Wolf Road,  
South on west side of Wolf Road and extension of Wolf Road to extension of Devon Avenue,  
West on north side of extension of Devon Avenue and Devon Avenue to Meacham Road,  
North on the east side of Meacham Road to Access Road of Egan Water Reclamation plant,  
East on south side of Access Road to Route 53 (I-290),  
North on east side of Route 53 (I-290) to Jane Addams Tollway (I-90).

5. The churches of the former Queen of the Rosary Parish and the former St. Julian Eymard Parish will be churches of the new Queen of the Rosary and St. Julian Eymard Parish, retaining their titles, and Queen of the Rosary Church will be designated the parish church of the new parish;

6. Subject to the intention of founders and donors, and with due regard for any acquired rights, the goods and patrimonial rights of each of the two parishes to be united, together with any obligations with which they may be burdened, will become those of the new Queen of the Rosary and St. Julian Eymard Parish (see canon 121);

7. The documents given to the Presbyteral Council on this matter, together with the minutes of the Council meeting of January 27-28, 2020, will be attached to this decree;

8. Unless otherwise determined by professional staff of the Archives of the Archdiocese of Chicago, the sacramental records and other materials relevant to historical research concerning the two parishes to be united will be collected and maintained at the campus of Queen of the Rosary Church; and

9. Notification of this decree will be given immediately to the pastoral leadership of both Queen of the Rosary Parish and St. Julian Eymard Parish, and to the parishioners of these two parishes. Notice will be made on the archdiocesan website and through the parish bulletins or other suitable means available to each parish.



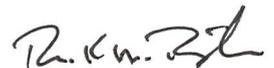
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*Before hierarchical recourse (appeal) may be taken against this decree, a petition to reconsider or amend the decree must be delivered to me within ten (10) useful days from notification of the decree (CIC cc. 1734, 1735, 1737).*

Given this 5<sup>th</sup> day of June, A.D. 2020.  
From Holy Name Cathedral,  
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 PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL MEETING OF JANUARY 27-28, 2020,  
WILL BE ATTACHED TO THIS DECREE AND, WHEN READY,  
AVAILABLE THROUGH THE OFFICE FOR CANONICAL AFFAIRS