



Prot. N. 2021 RMC-23

DECREE
IN THE NAME OF GOD. AMEN.

By my decree dated April 22, 2021 (Prot. N. 2021 RMC-22), and effective July 1, 2021, the separate juridic persons of Epiphany Parish and Good Shepherd Parish, both in the West Little Village neighborhood of the City of Chicago, will be extinguished and united in one new territorial parish within the boundaries of Epiphany Parish west of Pulaski Road. The decree left the eastern portion of the territory unassigned. With this decree, I now assign the eastern portion of the territory of Epiphany Parish to St. Agnes of Bohemia Parish, 2651 South Central Park Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60623-4631.

St. Agnes of Bohemia Parish was established as Blessed Agnes Parish in 1904. From its foundation, the parish was a personal parish for Latin Catholic faithful of Czech origin. Over the following decades, the parish continued to serve this personal mission. Following the Second World War, the mission expanded, as faithful of Polish and Italian origins began to live in the neighborhood and participate in the life of the parish. In the 1960s, the population of neighborhood was again changing, ultimately becoming the predominantly Hispanic community that exists today. Consequently, the personal mission of the parish to those of Czech language and ancestry ceased to exist.

After centuries of popular veneration and long wait, Blessed Agnes of Bohemia (January 20, 1211 to March 2, 1282) was duly canonized by the late Pope St. John Paul II on November 12, 1989. At that time, the parish name was changed to St. Agnes of Bohemia Parish.

Prior to the temporary closing of churches imposed by the novel coronavirus pandemic of COVID-19, the average Sunday Mass attendance at St. Agnes of Bohemia Parish was 2,718. Of this number, 76% (2,066) attended Masses celebrated in Spanish, 15% (408) attended the Spanish-English bilingual Masses, and 9% (244) attended the English Mass.

THEREFORE, know that I, Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago, after first consulting the pastor and others concerned, summoned the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Chicago to a meeting on March 2, 2021. Having then heard the Council's deliberations and the vote of 31 for and none against a proposal to change the status of St. Agnes of Bohemia Parish,

I decree the following:

1. Because the personal mission of St. Agnes of Bohemia Parish to Catholic faithful of Czech origin no longer exists, the personal status of the parish will cease, and the parish will become a territorial parish on July 1, 2021;

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Decree

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2. The territory of St. Agnes of Bohemia Parish will be the portion of the territory of Epiphany Parish east of Pulaski Road to its eastern boundary at Kedzie Avenue, as depicted and described on the map and in the document attached to this decree;

3. The data submitted to the Presbyteral Council on this matter, together with the minutes of the Council meeting of March 2, 2021, are to be attached to this decree and will become available upon request to those eligible to receive them.

4. Each and all the parishioners of the personal parish of St. Agnes of Bohemia and the faithful residing within the territorial boundaries of the new territorial parish will be parishioners of the St. Agnes of Bohemia Parish; and

5. Notification of this decree shall be given immediately through the official Website of the Archdiocese of Chicago. The decree shall be conveyed to the pastor of St. Agnes of Bohemia Parish, who will inform his parishioners through the parish bulletin or other suitable means.

Before hierarchical recourse (appeal) may be taken against this decree, a written, dated, and signed petition asking me to revoke or amend the decree must be sent or delivered to me within ten (10) useful days from notification of the decree (CIC cc. 1734, 1735, 1737). The address is Office of the Archbishop of Chicago, Archbishop Quigley Center, 835 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

Given this 22nd day of April, A.D. 2021.

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 MARCH 2, 2021, WILL BE ATTACHED TO THE FOREGOING DECREE AND WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE OFFICE FOR CANONICAL AFFAIRS UPON REQUEST FROM THOSE LEGITIMATELY SEEKING THEM