

DAVID ALLEN ZUBIK



By the Grace of God and the Authority of the Apostolic See

BISHOP OF PITTSBURGH

DECREE

THE EXTINCTIVE UNION OF
SAINT FERDINAND PARISH, SAINT GREGORY PARISH, AND
HOLY REDEEMER PARISH
INTO
DIVINE GRACE PARISH

Whereas, on January 20, 1960, a mission of Saint Alphonsus Parish in Wexford was established in Cranberry Township to minister to the growing community. On May 31, 1961, Saint Ferdinand Parish was formally established and a resident pastor was assigned.

Whereas, Saint Gregory Parish was founded in 1906 due to the growth in population of Zelienople in the prior ten years. Before the parish was founded, priests visited the area from either Butler or Herman and celebrated Mass in private homes. Saint Matthias Parish in Evans City had been a mission of Saint Gregory Parish and was established as a parish in 1946. On July 1, 2016, Saint Matthias Parish was merged into Saint Gregory Parish.

Whereas, Holy Redeemer Parish was established on February 5, 2000 by the merger of two previously existing parishes in Ellwood City: Saint Agatha Parish and Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish. Prior to the creation of Holy Redeemer Parish, Saint Joseph, Ellport, a Mission of Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, was suppressed in 1992. Additionally, following a fire which severely damaged its church building, on November 26, 2011, Queen of Heaven Parish, Koppel/Wampum was merged into Holy Redeemer Parish. Queen of Heaven Parish had been established by the merger of Saint Monica Parish in Wampum and Saint Teresa Parish in Koppel on July 24, 1992.

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

Whereas, parish assemblies were held on November 7, 2021, and February 26, 2022, to provide information to the people of the parishes and to receive parishioner input regarding the possible merger of the parishes. Videos of both of these sessions were also recorded and posted to the combined parish website for the benefit of the parishioners.

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 Saint Ferdinand Parish, Saint Gregory Parish, and Holy Redeemer Parish, along with the signatures of the respective Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils requesting that Saint Ferdinand Parish, Saint Gregory Parish, and Holy Redeemer Parish be merged into Divine Grace 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 Saint Ferdinand Parish, Saint Gregory Parish, and Holy Redeemer Parish are merged and subsumed into the newly formed Divine Grace 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 Saint Ferdinand Parish, Saint Gregory Parish, and Holy Redeemer Parish are transferred into the newly erected Divine Grace 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 Divine Grace Parish constitute its revenue.
4. All sacramental records from Saint Ferdinand Parish, Saint Gregory Parish, and Holy Redeemer 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 Saint Ferdinand Parish, Saint Gregory Parish, and Holy Redeemer Parish are entitled to be parishioners of Divine Grace Parish according to the universal law and legitimate custom within the Diocese of Pittsburgh.
7. The boundaries of Divine Grace Parish shall be as follows:

BEGINNING at the point of beginning at the Pennsylvania-Ohio border and the northwest corner of Little Beaver Township in Lawrence County; proceed east on the northern border of Little Beaver Township to the New Beaver Borough border; proceed east on the New Beaver Borough border to the middle of the Beaver River; proceed via airline route to the endpoint of Sandbank Road; proceed east via airline route to the intersection with Boyd School Road, Upper Boyd School Road and Lower Boyd School Road; proceed east via airline route to the intersection with Harmony Baptist Road; proceed east along the centerline of Harmony Baptist Road to the point where it becomes Frew Road; proceed east and north along the centerline of Frew Road to the intersection with Shaffer Road; proceed east and north along the centerline

of Shaffer Road to the intersection with Fairview School Road; proceed east and north along the centerline of Fairview School Road to the intersection with McConnells Mill Eckert Bridge Road; proceed east along the centerline of McConnells Mill Eckert Bridge Road to the intersection with Eckert Bridge Road; proceed southeast along the centerline of Eckert Bridge Road to the intersection with Cheeseman Road; proceed east along the centerline of Cheeseman Road to the Lawrence County border; proceed south on the Lawrence County border to the Lancaster Township border; proceed east on the Lancaster Township border to the Connoquenessing Township border; proceed south on the Lancaster Township border to the intersection with Woodlands Road; proceed east on the centerline of Woodlands Road to the intersection with Prospect Road (State Route 528); proceed north along the centerline of Prospect Road (State Route 528) to the Connoquenessing Township border; proceed east on the Connoquenessing Township border to the intersection with Eagle Mill Road; proceed south along the centerline of Eagle Mill Road to the intersection with Evans City Road (PA Route 68); proceed southwest along the centerline of Evans City Road (PA Route 68) to the intersection with Constitution Avenue; proceed east along the centerline of Constitution Avenue which becomes Reiber Road; proceed east along the centerline of Reiber Road to the intersection with Nursery Road; proceed southwest along the centerline of Nursery Road to the Forward Township border; proceed east on the Forward Township border to the Penn Township border; proceed south on the Forward Township border to the Adams Township border; proceed west on the Forward Township border to Marburger Road in Callery Borough; proceed west via airline route to Wagner Road; proceed west on the Forward Township border to the Jackson Township border; proceed west on the Jackson Township border to the intersection with Perry Highway (US Route 19); proceed south along the centerline of Perry Highway (US Route 19) to the Butler County border; proceed west on the Butler County border to the Beaver County border; proceed north on the Butler County border to the intersection with State Route 288; proceed northwest via airline route to the intersection with Bessor Road (T647) and Old Furnace Road; proceed west via airline route to the intersection with Gillen Road (T615) and River Road (Route 04005); proceed west via airline route to the middle of the Beaver River; proceed north in the middle of the Beaver River to the intersection with the Pennsylvania Turnpike (Interstate 76) and the Big Beaver Borough border; proceed northwest along the centerline of the Pennsylvania Turnpike (Interstate 76) to the intersection with Shenango Road; proceed north along the centerline of Shenango Road to the intersection with the Lawrence County border; proceed west on the Lawrence County border to the southeast corner of Enon Valley Borough; proceed north, west and south on the Enon Valley Borough border to the Lawrence County border; proceed west on the Lawrence County border to the Pennsylvania-Ohio border; proceed north on the Pennsylvania-Ohio border to the northwest corner of Little Beaver Township, 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.

+ David A. Zubik

Most Reverend David A. Zubik
Bishop of Pittsburgh

Ellen M. Mady

Ellen M. Mady
Chancellor

