

DAVID ALLEN ZUBIK



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

DECREE

THE EXTINGUISHIVE UNION OF  
NATIVITY PARISH, SAINT GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL  
VIRGIN PARISH, SAINT GERMAINE PARISH,  
AND SAINT VALENTINE PARISH  
INTO  
OUR LADY OF HOPE PARISH

Whereas, Nativity Parish began as a mission of Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, Finleyville to serve surrounding mining communities. Mass was offered in a local school. In 1910, the parish became independent with the appointment of a resident pastor.

Whereas, Saint Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin Parish was established in 1944 as the end result of the growth of population in the suburban community of Whitehall, then called either Baldwin Manor or Baldwin Township.

Whereas, Saint Germaine Parish was established on June 13, 1957 to meet the needs of the growing suburban community of Bethel Park.

Whereas, Saint Valentine was established as a mission church of Saint Anne Parish, Castle Shannon in 1923. Before Saint Valentine was founded, local Catholics had to travel to Castle Shannon to attend Mass. On September 10, 1931, Saint Valentine was formally established as an independent parish.

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, because in-person assemblies could not be held due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a virtual parish assembly was posted on the parish website on September 3, 2020, to provide information to the people of the parishes and to receive parishioner input regarding the possible merger of the parishes.

Whereas on October 9, 2020, four (4) petitions were presented to the diocesan bishop, each signed by the one priest who serves as Administrator of Nativity Parish, Saint Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin Parish, Saint Germaine Parish, and Saint Valentine Parish, along with the signatures of the respective Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils requesting that Nativity Parish, Saint Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin Parish, Saint Germaine Parish, and Saint Valentine Parish be merged into Our Lady of Hope 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 four (4) parishes and having heard the Presbyteral Council on October 19, 2020 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 Nativity Parish, Saint Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin Parish, Saint Germaine Parish, and Saint Valentine Parish are merged and subsumed into the newly formed Our Lady of Hope 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 Nativity Parish, Saint Gabriel of the

Sorrowful Virgin Parish, Saint Germaine Parish, and Saint Valentine Parish are transferred into the newly erected Our Lady of Hope 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 Our Lady of Hope Parish constitute its revenue.
4. All sacramental records from Nativity Parish, Saint Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin Parish, Saint Germaine Parish, and Saint Valentine 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 Nativity Parish, Saint Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin Parish, Saint Germaine Parish, and Saint Valentine Parish are entitled to be parishioners of Our Lady of Hope Parish according to the universal law and legitimate custom within the Diocese of Pittsburgh.
7. The boundaries of Our Lady of Hope Parish shall be as follows:

Beginning at the point of beginning at the intersection of McRoberts Road and Weyman Road, proceed southeast via airline route to the intersection of Provost Road and Frank Street; proceed south along the centerline of Provost Road to the intersection with Brownsville Road; proceed southeast along the centerline of Brownsville Road to the intersection with Knoedler Road; proceed east along the centerline of Knoedler Road to the intersection with Keepport Drive; proceed south along the centerline of Keepport Drive to the intersection with Curry Hollow Road; proceed south via airline route to the intersection of Cochran Mill Road and Bruceton Road; proceed south along the centerline of Cochran Mill Road to the intersection with Wallace Road; proceed west along the centerline of Wallace Road to the intersection with the South Park Township border; proceed southeast along the South Park Township border to the intersection with Snowden Road; proceed northwest along the centerline of Snowden Road to the intersection with Piney Fork Road; proceed northwest along the centerline of Piney Fork Road to the intersection with Ridge Road; proceed north along the centerline of Ridge Road to the intersection with

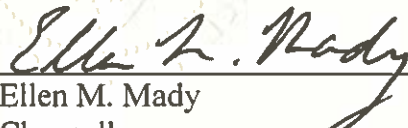
McCorkle Road; proceed southwest along the centerline of McCorkle Road to the intersection with Brownsville Road; proceed north along the centerline of Brownsville Road to the intersection with Corrigan Drive; proceed northwest along the centerline of Corrigan Drive to the intersection with McConkey Road; proceed west and south along the centerline of McConkey Road to the intersection with Stoltz Road; proceed northwest along the centerline of Stoltz Road to the intersection with Kings School Road; proceed west and south along the centerline of Kings School Road to the intersection with Clifton Road; proceed west along the centerline of Clifton Road to the intersection with Irishtown Road; proceed north along the centerline of Irishtown Road to the intersection with Logan Road; proceed west along the centerline of Logan Road to the intersection with Patterson Road; proceed northwest along the centerline of Patterson Road to the intersection with South Park Road; proceed northeast along the centerline of South Park Road to the intersection with Logan Road; proceed north along the centerline of Logan Road to the intersection with Eastview Road; proceed east along the centerline of Eastview Road to the intersection with Church Road; proceed north along the centerline of Church Road to the intersection with Bethel Church Road; proceed northeast along the centerline of Bethel Church Road to the intersection with Library Road (PA Route 88); proceed north along the centerline of Library Road (PA Route 88) to the Castle Shannon Borough border; proceed east and northeast along the Castle Shannon Borough border to the intersection of Grove Road and McRoberts Road; proceed northeast along the centerline of McRoberts Road to the intersection with Weyman Road, the point of beginning.


This decree becomes effective at 12:01 AM on January 4, 2021, 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 19<sup>th</sup> day of November, in the Year of Our Lord 2020.



  
Ellen M. Mady  
Chancellor

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Most Reverend David A. Zubik  
Bishop of Pittsburgh