



6/25/2010
Diocese of Worcester
Office of the Bishop
49 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609

DECREE

In Nomine Domini. Amen.

Immaculate Conception Parish is a personal parish serving the needs of the Franco-American Catholic community in the city of Fitchburg, Massachusetts. Its parish church is located at 59 Walnut Street, Fitchburg.

The Diocesan Pastoral Planning Committee has recommended that in order to serve the needs of the Catholic population in the city of Fitchburg better and more effectively Immaculate Conception Parish be merged with Saint Joseph Parish, Fitchburg.

In view of this recommendation, and after hearing the parties mandated by law, most especially the Presbyteral Council, in accord with canon 515, §2, of the Code of Canon Law, I, the Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, Bishop of Worcester, holding before me my pastoral responsibilities to this particular church, hereby declare and decree the following:

- Immaculate Conception Parish, located in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, is hereby merged with Saint Joseph Parish, Fitchburg, in accord with canon 121;
- Saint Joseph Parish, now a territorial parish, will assume the goods, a portion of the assets, including property and patrimonial rights, as well as the burdens and liabilities of Immaculate Conception Parish, respecting the intentions of the founders and donors, concerning the allocation of goods and the fulfillment of obligations, in accord with canon 121. The Most Reverend Bishop retains the right afforded him in canon 122 to allocate some assets, which would be divided among the newly-reconfigured parishes in the city of Fitchburg, namely Saint Anthony of Padua, Saint Bernard and Saint Francis of Assisi, based on equity and justice given that some members of Immaculate Conception Parish have indicated they will join these parishes;
- Saint Joseph Parish is to accommodate to the extent possible the cultural and spiritual traditions of Immaculate Conception Parish;
- The sacramental records of Immaculate Conception Parish are hereby placed under the guardianship of Saint Joseph Parish.

The effective date of this decree is July 1, 2010, at 12:01 a.m.

I order that this decree be published.

Given at Worcester, Massachusetts, in the halls of the Chancery, this the twenty-third day of June, in the year of our Lord, two thousand ten.

+ Robert J. McManus

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, D.D., S.T.D.
Bishop of Worcester

Thomas J. Sullivan

Reverend Monsignor Thomas J. Sullivan
Chancellor