

DAVID ALLEN ZUBIK



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

DECREE

**EXTINCTIVE UNION OF SAINT ANN PARISH, OUR LADY OF
CONSOLATION PARISH, SAINT THOMAS PARISH, SAINT HUGH
PARISH, AND SAINT IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH PARISH
INTO
SAINT MATTHIAS PARISH**

Whereas, Saint Ann Parish was established in 1839 to serve as a center of Catholic life and practice for the community of faithful in Waynesburg, PA, which was growing significantly at that time.

Whereas, Our Lady of Consolation Parish was founded in 1923 to accommodate the growing Catholic community in the Nemacolin area of Greene County.

Whereas, Saint Thomas Parish was established in 1947 to meet the needs of the Catholic community in Clarksville.

Whereas, Saint Hugh Parish was established in 1952 to help relieve congestion in the still growing Our Lady of Consolation Parish. Saint Hugh Parish serves the Catholic faithful in the nearby Carmichaels area.

Whereas, Saint Ignatius of Antioch Parish was established in 1952. Prior to that, Saint Ignatius of Antioch church had been a part of the nearby Saint Hubert Parish. In 1952, Saint Hubert Parish became part of the newly formed Greensburg Diocese, and Saint Ignatius of Antioch was established as an independent parish in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Saint Ignatius of Antioch is a center of Catholic life and worship for the Bobtown area.

Whereas, on March 27, 2019, five (5) petitions were presented to the diocesan bishop, each signed by the one priest who serves Administrator of Saint Ann Parish, Our Lady of Consolation Parish, Saint Thomas Parish, Saint Hugh Parish, and Saint Ignatius of Antioch Parish, along with the signatures of the five (5) respective Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils requesting that the five (5) aforesaid parishes be merged into Saint Matthias Parish, forming an extinctive union.

Whereas, merging these parishes will better help provide for the pastoral needs of the faithful, address serious financial difficulties faced in the area and provide for better stewardship of resources and a better use of the clergy, and allow the parish to focus on proclaiming the Gospel, facilitating a stronger community of the faithful for liturgical worship, ministry and outreach.

Therefore, having received the petition of the five (5) parishes and having heard the Priest Council on May 14, 2019 and the Vicars General on the same day, 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 Ann Parish, Our Lady of Consolation Parish, Saint Thomas Parish, Saint Hugh Parish, and Saint Ignatius of Antioch Parish are merged and subsumed into the newly formed Saint Matthias 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 Ann Parish, Our Lady of Consolation Parish, Saint Thomas Parish, Saint Hugh Parish, and Saint Ignatius of Antioch Parish are transferred into the newly formed Saint Matthias 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 Saint Matthias Parish constitute its revenue.
4. All sacramental records from Saint Ann Parish, Our Lady of Consolation Parish, Saint Thomas Parish, Saint Hugh Parish, and Saint Ignatius of Antioch Parish will be housed at the new parish office of Saint Matthias Parish.

5. Until otherwise decreed, the former parish 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 to be celebrated in these churches at least every year on the solemnity of the anniversary of each respective 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 Ann Parish, Our Lady of Consolation Parish, Saint Thomas Parish, Saint Hugh Parish, and Saint Ignatius of Antioch Parish are entitled to be parishioners of Saint Matthias Parish according to the universal law and legitimate custom within the Diocese of Pittsburgh.
7. The boundaries of Saint Matthias Parish shall be as follows:

BEGINNING at the point of the beginning at the southwest corner of Greene County at the Pennsylvania/West Virginia State border; proceed east along the southern border of Greene County to the southeast corner of Greene County; proceed north along the eastern border of Greene County to the point at which it meets the Washington County border; proceed west along the Greene County border to point of intersection with Pitt Gas Road; proceed northeast along the centerline of Pitt Gas Road to the point of intersection with Main Street; proceed west and south along the centerline of Main Street to the point where Main Street becomes Center Street at the Green County line; proceed west and north along the northern border of Greene County to the northwest corner of Greene County; proceed south along the western border of Greene County and the Pennsylvania/West Virginia State line to the point of the beginning.

This decree becomes effective on July 1, 2019, 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, Pennsylvania, this 17th day of May 2019.

+ David A. Zubik

Most Reverend David A. Zubik
Bishop of Pittsburgh

Ellen Mady

Ellen Mady
Chancellor