



DAVID MICHAEL O'CONNELL, C.M., D.D., J.C.D.

By the Grace of God and Favor of the Apostolic See

Bishop of Trenton

DECREE

for the Merging via
Extinctive Union of

St. Joseph Church, Keyport and Jesus the Lord Church, Keyport
into a new parish named the
Parish of Our Lady of Fatima,
Keyport, New Jersey

Following the completion of a Diocesan-wide planning process known as *Faith In Our Future* involving representatives from each parish, recommendations were made to a Diocesan Planning Commission consisting of Clergy and Lay representatives. The final recommendations of the Commission were evaluated through the episcopal consultation with the Diocesan Presbyteral Council, Consultors, Episcopal Council, Curia and the priests of the Diocese.

Through this process, a proposal was initiated and accepted to merge by extinctive union St. Joseph Church, established as a territorial parish, and Jesus the Lord Church, established as a personal parish to meet the need of Hispanic Catholics in the area.

The following just causes support this proposal:

1. To better provide for the pastoral needs of the faithful who reside within the territory of St. Joseph Church in Keyport and of Hispanic Catholics in Keyport and the surrounding area;
2. To provide for a better stewardship of resources;
3. To provide for the optimum use of clergy, religious, and lay personnel;
4. To promote the vitality of parish life in the area.

Accordingly, in virtue of the prescriptions of canon 121 and canon 515 of the *Code of Canon Law*, in order to provide more effectively for the spiritual welfare of the faithful and the salvation of souls, having judged that sufficient and just causes are present, and having consulted the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Trenton in accord with Canon 515, §2, I hereby

DECREE

1. That the parishes of St. Joseph Church, Keyport and Jesus the Lord Church, Keyport, New Jersey be altered and merged by an extinctive union into a new parish;
2. That the name of the parish will be known as the Parish of Our Lady of Fatima, Keyport, New Jersey;
3. That this territorial parish will serve the needs of those who reside in the parish territory, and have particular ministry among Hispanic Catholics in Keyport and the surrounding area;
4. The territorial boundaries are as follows:
 - North: Raritan Bay**
 - East: Union Beach Boro Line along the Chingarora Creek to Bedle Road, to Beers Street, to the railroad tracks;**
 - South: West along the railroad tracks to Lloyd Road, then south along Lloyd Road to Church Street, to the Middlesex/Monmouth County line;**
 - West: Middlesex/Monmouth County Line**
5. That in addition to the residents of the parish territory, all the faithful who are currently registered members of the existing parishes will comprise the parish;
6. That the intention or will of the donors, as well as any acquired rights of each of the merging parishes have been examined and taken into consideration, especially with regard to the allocation of goods and the obligation of debts;

7. That St. Joseph Church and Jesus the Lord Church will both continue to be utilized for the spiritual needs of the faithful as long as they are needed and the parish can allocate resources for their operation and maintenance;
8. That the goods belonging or assigned or given to St. Joseph Church and Jesus the Lord Church, including patrimony, property, funds, gifts, grants and pious legacies, pious foundations, and any debts and obligations, shall be assigned to the new Our Lady of Fatima Parish;
9. That the sacramental registers, death registers and matrimonial files of each of the parishes will be kept at the office of the Parish of Our Lady of Fatima at 376 Maple Place, Keyport, New Jersey;
10. Finally, that the voluntary offerings of the faithful, as well as other gifts, grants, pious wills and pious foundations which have been or will be made to St. Joseph Church and Jesus the Lord Church constitute the revenue of the Parish of Our Lady of Fatima.

This decree becomes effective on the 1st day of July 2018, prior to which it is to be communicated to the faithful in an appropriate manner. All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Trenton on the 15th day of May 2018.



✠ Most Reverend David Michael O'Connell, C.M., D.D., J.C.D.
Bishop of Trenton



Terry A. Ginther
Chancellor

(seal)