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Prot. N. 2018 RMC-4

## DECREE

### IN THE NAME OF GOD. AMEN.

“Every effort is to be made that parishes, in which apostolic activity can be performed only with difficulty or less effectively because of the excessive number of the faithful or too vast a territory or for any other reason, be suitably divided or dismembered according to the various circumstances. Likewise, parishes which are too small should be united insofar as the situation demands it and circumstances permit.” Blessed Paul VI, Apostolic Letter *motu proprio, Ecclesiae Sanctae*, n. 21, (1), August 6, 1966

Over the past several decades, many things have changed in this particular church. Changing demographics have affected the size and wealth of the Archdiocese of Chicago and the vitality of her parishes. This is particularly true in the City of Chicago itself, where the total population has decreased by more than 20% since 1970, from 3,366,957 to an estimated 2,736,000 today. We also have many vacant and underused parochial buildings, and, as elsewhere, fewer priests to pastor our faith communities. For the number of parishes we have, our human and financial resources are spread very thin.

According to the 2017 edition of *Annuario Pontificio*, the Archdiocese of Chicago had a total population of 6,390,000, with 351 parishes for a Catholic population of 2,497,000. In the same year, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles had a total population of 11,599,000 and 287 parishes for a Catholic population of 4,392,000, more than twice the number of Catholics per parish than Chicago. Also, many of our parishes were founded for national, linguistic, and ethnic groups that no longer live in the neighborhoods where their churches once flourished.

Too many of our parishes have been unable to support themselves and are receiving financial subsidies from the archdiocese. Between 2012 and 2016 these subsidies amounted to \$116,900,000.00, including \$27,600,000.00 in unpaid receivables at 106 parishes, \$36,800,000.00 in payroll advances and unpaid receivables at 90 Catholic schools, and another \$52,500,000.00 in grants to 92 Catholic schools. For the last fiscal year (2017) these subsidies increased by \$5,571,048.00 for parishes and \$12,606,861.00 for Catholic schools. Little, if any, of this money will be recovered by the archdiocese. The Archdiocese of Chicago cannot continue this level of financial support for parishes and Catholic schools. Parishes will become more vital, able to support themselves when possible. Above all, they must be active centers of Christian discipleship, evangelical mission, and charitable outreach.

Inspired by the experience of St. Francis of Assisi before the cross of San Damiano, and by Pope Francis's dream of “a missionary option ... capable of transforming everything”

(Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, n. 27, November 24, 2013), I consulted widely and announced in early 2016 the inauguration of *Renew My Church (RMC)*, a multi-year process aimed at obtaining and preserving the vitality of our parishes. It is my intention that every parish of the Archdiocese of Chicago join with some of its neighbors and plan for the future. Careful planning will create a menu of possible options for greater vitality. It will also identify parishes likely to be reorganized through pastoral coordination, mergers, and other significant alterations, including closing churches no longer useful for divine worship.

In 2017 four parishes and two parochial schools, located within approximately 55 square miles of the suburban Lake County, Illinois, were designated to form a grouping for the ramp up of *RMC*. The parish priests and delegates from St. Peter Parish, 557 West Lake Street, Antioch, Illinois 60002-1489; St. Bede Parish and School, 36455 North Wilson Road, Ingleside, Illinois 60041-9609; Prince of Peace Parish and School, 135 South Milwaukee Avenue, Lake Villa, Illinois 60046-8550; and St. Raphael the Archangel Parish, 40000 US Highway 45, Old Mill Creek, Illinois 60046-7464, met regularly as the Lakes Region Grouping Feedback and Discernment Team. On December 11, 2017, they presented a Community Engagement and Planning Feedback Summary to the Archdiocesan Standards and Recommendations Commission, a group formed by lay and ordained representatives from across the archdiocese (see Submission of December 11, 2017, attached to this Decree).

After considering three proposed scenarios, the Grouping Team formulated an alternative scenario which was then selected for recommendation by the Archdiocesan Standards and Recommendations Commission. Under the alternative scenario St. Peter Parish would join with St. Bede Parish to form a single new parish, retaining both churches and keeping St. Bede School within the new parish structure. Furthermore, Prince of Peace Parish and Prince of Peace School would maintain their existing status, as would St. Raphael the Archangel Parish.

Among the data informing the recommendation for the union of St. Peter Parish, Antioch, and St. Bede Parish, Ingleside, are the following facts:

- St. Peter Parish was first organized in the 1890s as a mission St. Patrick Parish, Wadsworth, Illinois. In 1905 the pastor of St. Patrick Parish moved his residence to Antioch, and in 1909 another priest was placed in charge of St. Peter Church as a separate parish. Over the years both St. Bede Parish, Ingleside, and Prince of Peace Parish, Lake Villa, were formed from the original territory of St. Peter Parish. At its heights, the parish had 1,270 families and the parish school, which closed in 2016 after many years of declining enrollment and operating deficits, had nearly 400 pupils. Today about 800 people worship at Sunday Mass and the parish appears to have no operating deficit.
- St. Bede Parish was formed from the then territory of St. Peter Parish, Antioch, in 1928. In its heyday, the parish was home to 1,000 families and there were about 250 students in the parochial school. Today, Sunday Mass attendance is 678, down from 708 in 2017. There are now only 189 pupils in the school, down from 219 last year. The parish church had gross operating income of \$649,000.00 in the last year; however, there has been an accumulated debt of \$1,341,256.00 over the last 10 years.

Each of the two parishes has had its own clergy and lay staff, its own programming, and its own separate administration. Combining these elements will provide significant savings and other efficiencies as the parishes are joined together under a single pastor and a dynamic staff, all working together for the common good.

Having considered the work and representations of the Grouping Team, and after further discussion, the Archdiocesan Standards and Recommendations Commission decided to advance the aforementioned alternative scenario.

THEREFORE, know that I, Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago, according to the norms of canon 127 §§1 & 3, canon 166, and canon 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, convened the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Chicago on January 16, 2018, at the O'Hare Campus of DePaul University. There, according to the said alternative scenario, the proposal of the Archdiocesan Standards and Recommendations Commission to alter the status of St. Peter Parish, Antioch, and St. Bede Parish, Ingleside, was presented to the Council. Having heard the Presbyteral Council at the same meeting, I now, after invoking the Holy Spirit,

***decree the following:***

1. Effective July 1, 2018, St. Peter Parish, Antioch, and St. Bede Parish, Ingleside, both in Lake County, Illinois, will be extinguished as separate juridic persons in the Church and united to form a single new juridic person to be known as Our Lady of the Lakes Parish;
2. The missions of the extinguished St. Peter Parish and the extinguished St. Bede Parish will be subsumed completely into the newly established Our Lady of the Lakes Parish;
3. Each and all the parishioners of the two parishes to be extinguished will be fully and equally parishioners of the new Our Lady of the Lakes Parish;
4. The territory of the new Our Lady of the Lakes Parish will be the sum of the territories of the two parishes to be extinguished, namely the territory located within these boundaries:

Start at Lake-McHenry County line and Illinois-Wisconsin State line,  
East on south side of Illinois-Wisconsin State line to Deep Lake Road.,  
South on west side of Deep Lake Road to Grass Lake Road,  
West on north side of Grass Lake Road to IL Route 59,  
South on west side of IL Route 59 to Lake Villa-Antioch Township Line,  
West on north side of Township line, then South on west side of Township Line to extension of Petite Lake Road (Township Line),  
West on north side of extension of Petite Lake Road (Township Line) to Channel connecting Petite Lake with Fox Lake,  
Southwest along centerline of channel connecting Petite Lake with Fox Lake to the extension of Grand Avenue,  
East on north side of extension of Grand Avenue, then north side of Grand Avenue to Fairfield Road,  
South on west side of Fairfield Road to State Route 134,

West on north side of Route 134 (Round Lake Road) to Lake-McHenry County Line,  
North on east side of Lake-McHenry County Line to Illinois-Wisconsin State Line.

5. The churches of the two extinguished parishes will be parochial churches of the new Our Lady of the Lakes Parish, retaining their own titles;

6. Subject to the intention of founders and donors, with due regard for acquired rights, the goods and patrimonial rights of the two extinguished parishes and any obligations with which they may be burdened, will be those of the newly established Our Lady of the Lakes Parish (see canon 121);

7. The documents given to the Presbyteral Council on this matter, together with the minutes of the Council meeting of January 16, 2018, will be attached to this decree;

8. The sacramental records and other materials relevant to historical research concerning the two extinguished parishes will be commended to the Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Archives and Records Center of the Archdiocese of Chicago for safe keeping and suitable access; and

9. Notification of this decree will be given to the pastoral leadership of the two extinguished parishes and to their parishioners. Notification will be given through the parish bulletins, and generally on the archdiocesan website.

*Before hierarchical recourse may be taken against this decree, a petition to reconsider or amend the decree must be delivered to me within ten (10) useful days from notification of the decree (CIC cc. 1734, 1735, 1737).*

Given this 11<sup>th</sup> day of May, A.D. 2018.  
From the Archbishop Quigley Center,  
Chicago, Illinois

  
Archbishop of Chicago



  
Reverend Mr. Daniel G. Welter, J.D.  
Chancellor

Attachments

**THE DATA SUBMITTED TO THE PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL OF  
THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO AND THE MINUTES OF  
THE RELEVANT MEETING OR MEETINGS OF THE PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL  
ATTACHED TO THIS DECREE ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST TO THE OFFICE OF THE  
CHANCELLOR OR THE OFFICE FOR CANONICAL AFFAIRS**