

# ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Archbishop



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## DECREE

IN THE NAME OF GOD. AMEN.

Early in 2015, and under the leadership of the Most Reverend Alberto Rojas, auxiliary bishop of Chicago and episcopal vicar for Vicariate III of the Archdiocese of Chicago, a planning group was formed of the pastors and several parishioners from each of the six parishes that constitute the Church's presence in the Pilsen neighborhood of the near southwest side of the City of Chicago. St. Adalbert Parish, located at 1650 West 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Chicago, was established in 1874 as a personal parish for Polish speaking Catholics. St. Paul Parish, located at 2127 West 22<sup>nd</sup> Place, Chicago, was established as a personal parish for German speaking Catholics in 1876.

While there is still a monthly Sunday Mass in Polish at St. Adalbert Church and support for the parish by a small number of Catholics of Polish descent, the original mission of St. Adalbert Parish, as well as that of St. Paul Parish, namely, to Catholics of particular ethnic or linguistic communities has ceased. The Pilsen neighborhood became home to a predominantly Spanish speaking community in the years and decades following the Second World War. Today, all six parishes of the Pilsen area are serving a common community of Hispanic Catholics. More recently, the ethnic makeup of the Pilsen area has become more diversified. Non-Hispanic Whites and African Americans, people of Asian ancestry, and others of mixed race have settled in the neighborhood. However, the overall population of Pilsen has declined by more than 8,000 people since 2000, nearly 20% of the total. Reflecting this decline, the Catholic population has dropped substantially, as reflected by a more than 29% reduction in Sunday Mass attendance over the last ten years.

Changes in demographics, reduction in the number of priests, significant decline in the number of practicing Catholics, unpaid parish debts, and a need to reduce the costs of staffing and programming all argue for some measures to be taken now. Bishop Rojas's Pilsen planning group recommended (1) that the parochial profile in Pilsen be changed from six parishes to three parishes, (2) that two former parish churches remain open as secondary worship sites, and (3) that a third former parish church be reduced to profane but not sordid use. Specifically, the group recommended that St. Adalbert Parish be suppressed and, like St. Ann Parish, also be united with St. Paul Parish.

**THEREFORE**, know that I, the Most Reverend Blase J. Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago, according to the norm of canon 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, convened the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Chicago on May 10, 2016, and presented to the said Council a plan to reorganize the status of St. Adalbert Parish vis a vis St. Paul Parish, both located in the Pilsen neighborhood on the southwest side of the City of Chicago. At the meeting of May 10, 2016, I also heard the Presbyteral Council on the plan, and I now

### *decree the following:*

1. St. Adalbert Parish, 1650 West 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Chicago, Illinois, is *suppressed*, that is, extinguished as a separate juridic person, and united to St. Paul Parish, 2127 West 22<sup>nd</sup> Place, Chicago, Illinois;

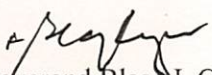
Decree

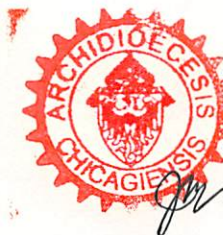
Suppression of St. Adalbert Parish and its Union with St. Paul Parish

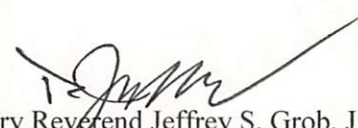
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2. The mission of the suppressed St. Adalbert Parish is subsumed completely into that of St. Paul Parish;
3. The parishioners of the suppressed St. Adalbert Parish are now each and all, fully and equally, parishioners of St. Paul Parish;
4. The church of St. Paul continues to be the parish church of St. Paul Parish, retaining its title;
5. Until execution of a decree to the contrary or conditions of the church make it impossible or dangerous to use the church for divine worship, the church of the former St. Adalbert Parish, also retaining its own title, will remain a sacred building designated for divine worship according to the norm of canon 1214 of the Code of Canon Law. Likewise, and subject to the same conditions, the church will remain open and available for the celebration of the sacraments, including Baptism and Matrimony;
6. Subject to the intention of founders and donors, and with due regard for any acquired rights, the goods and patrimonial rights of the now suppressed St. Adalbert Parish, together with any obligations with which they are burdened, are now those of St. Paul Parish (see canon 121);
7. The report given to the Presbyteral Council on this matter, together with the minutes of the aforementioned Council meeting of May 10, 2016, are to be attached to this decree; and
8. The sacramental records and other materials relevant to historical research concerning the suppressed St. Adalbert Parish, are commended to the Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Archives and Records Center of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Given this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May, *A.D.* 2016,  
and effective the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, *A.D.* 2016.  
From the Archbishop Quigley Center,  
Chicago, Illinois

  
Most Reverend Blase J. Cupich,  
Archbishop of Chicago



  
Very Reverend Jeffrey S. Grob, J.C.D.,  
Chancellor

Attachments

# ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

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Office for Canonical Services



Post Office Box 1979  
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

## CERTIFICATE AUTHENTICATING RECORDS AND MINUTES OF THE PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Report to the Presbyteral Council on the Suppression of St. Adalbert Parish, Chicago,  
and its Union with St. Paul Parish, Chicago,  
and Minutes of the Council Meeting of May 10, 2016

By means of my signature, I certify that the report and minutes as entitled above are authentic acts of the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Given at Chicago, Illinois  
May 23, *A.D.* 2016

*Msgr. Richard T. Saudis*

Rev. Msgr. Richard T. Saudis  
Ecclesiastical Notary



**ONCE AVAILABLE THE RECORDS AND MINUTES PERTAINING TO  
THE PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL MEETINGS  
OF MARCH 8, 2016, AND MAY 10, 2016,  
WILL BE APPENDED TO THE ORIGINAL COPY OF THIS DECREE  
AND MAY BE REQUESTED FROM  
THE OFFICE FOR CANONICAL SERVICES OR  
THE CHANCELLOR**