

Diocese of Worcester
Office of the Bishop
49 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609

DECREE

In Nomine Domini. Amen.

Saint Bernard Parish is located in the city of Fitchburg, Massachusetts. Its parish church is situated at 228 Water Street, Fitchburg. This parish is a territorial one, serving the pastoral needs of the Catholic community in the east central section of Fitchburg.

Saint Camillus de Lellis Parish is a territorial parish located in the city of Fitchburg. Its parish church is located at 333 Mechanic Street, Fitchburg. The parish serves the spiritual needs of the Catholic community in the northeast section of Fitchburg.

The Diocesan Pastoral Planning Committee has recommended to me that the spiritual and sacramental needs of the Catholic community in east central and northeast sections of Fitchburg would be better served by merging Saint Bernard Parish with Saint Camillus de Lellis Parish and reconfiguring the parish boundaries of Saint Bernard Parish.

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:

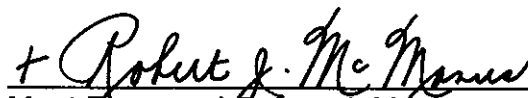
- A new parish entity, retaining the title Saint Bernard Parish, is hereby created, in accord with canons 121 and 515, §§ 1-2, from these two merged parishes;
- The current Saint Bernard Church will close; the Saint Bernard Parish community will worship at Saint Camillus de Lellis Church, located at 333 Mechanic Street. Saint Camillus de Lellis Church will retain its title, in accord with canon 1218;
- This newly created parish will be a territorial parish with the following boundaries in the city of Fitchburg: Starting at the Westminster town line at Ashburnham Hill Road, north along the Fitchburg-Westminster boundary, then Fitchburg-Ashburnham boundary, then east along the Fitchburg-Ashby boundary to the Fitchburg-Lunenburg boundary, then south along the Fitchburg-Lunenburg boundary to Lunenburg Street, then west along Lunenburg Street to Moran Square, then west to Main Street to River Street, southwest on River Street to Sheldon Street, north on Sheldon Street to West Street, east on West Street to Ashburnham Hill Road and out to the city line;

- Saint Bernard Parish, Fitchburg, will assume the goods, assets, including property and patrimonial rights, as well as the burdens and liabilities of Saint Camillus de Lellis Parish, respecting the intentions of the donors and founders of both Saint Bernard and Saint Camillus de Lellis Parishes, concerning the allocations of goods and the fulfillment of obligations, in accord with canon 121;
- Saint Bernard Parish is to accommodate, to the extent possible, the spiritual traditions of Saint Camillus de Lellis Parish;
- The newly created parish retains ownership of Saint Bernard Cemetery and Saint Bernard Elementary School;
- Saint Bernard Parish will enjoy public juridic personality by the law itself, in accord with canon 515, §3;
- Saint Bernard Parish will be the guardian and custodian of the sacramental records of Saint Camillus de Lellis and Sacred Heart of Jesus Parishes, Fitchburg.


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.



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



Reverend Monsignor Thomas J. Sullivan
Chancellor