

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

DECREE

In Nomine Domini. Amen.

Saint John the Evangelist Parish is a territorial parish located in the town of Clinton, Massachusetts. It serves the pastoral needs of the Catholic community of that town. Its parish church is situated at 80 Union Street, Clinton.

Our Lady of Jasna Gora Parish is a personal parish located in Clinton and serves the pastoral needs of the Polish-American community in that town. Its parish church is located at 128 Franklin Street, Clinton.

Our Lady of the Rosary is a territorial parish located in the town of Clinton serving the pastoral needs of the Catholic community in that town. Its parish church is located at the intersection of routes 70 and 62.

The Diocesan Pastoral Planning Committee has recommended to me that in order to serve the needs of the Catholic community in the town of Clinton better and more effectively, Our Lady of the Rosary Parish and Our Lady of Jasna Gora Parish be merged with Saint John the Evangelist Parish, and that the name of the newly erected parish be changed to Saint John, Guardian of Our Lady Parish. The parish community constituted from the merger of these three parishes will worship at Saint John the Evangelist Church, Clinton.

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:

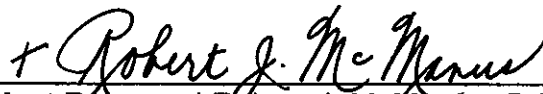
- A new parish entity, with the name of Saint John, Guardian of Our Lady Parish, located in Clinton, Massachusetts, is hereby created, in accord with canons 121 and 515, §§ 1-2, from these now merged parishes;
- This newly created parish will be a territorial parish and its boundaries will be co-terminus with the boundaries of the town of Clinton;
- The community of this newly-created parish will worship at Saint John the Evangelist Church, Clinton, which retains its title, in accord with canon 1218;

- Saint John, Guardian of Our Lady Parish, Clinton will assume the goods, the assets, including property and patrimonial rights, as well as the burdens and liabilities of the now merged parishes of Our Lady of the Rosary and Our Lady of Jasna Gora, respecting the intentions of founders and donors, concerning the allocation of goods and the fulfillment of obligations, in accord with canons 121 and 123;
- Saint John, Guardian of Our Lady Parish will accommodate, to the extent possible, the cultural and spiritual traditions of Our Lady of Jasna Gora and Our Lady of the Rosary Parishes, Clinton;
- Saint John, Guardian of Our Lady Parish will enjoy public juridic personality by the law itself, in accord with canon 515, §3;
- The sacramental records of the former Our Lady of the Rosary and Our Lady of Jasna Gora Parishes will be placed under the guardianship of Saint John, Guardian of Our Lady Parish.

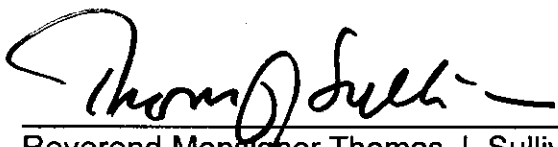
The effective date of this decree is July 1, 2010 at 12:01 a.m.

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