



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

DECREE

In Nomine Domini. Amen.

Madonna of the Holy Rosary is a personal parish serving the pastoral needs of the Italian-American Catholic community in the city of Fitchburg, Massachusetts. Its church is located at 118 Theresa Street, Fitchburg.

The Diocesan Pastoral Planning Committee has recommended that in order to serve the spiritual and sacramental needs of the Catholic population in the city of Fitchburg better and more effectively, Madonna of the Holy Rosary Parish be merged with Saint Joseph Parish, Fitchburg.

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:

- Madonna of the Holy Rosary Parish, located in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, is hereby merged with Saint Joseph Parish, Fitchburg, in accord with canon 121;
- Saint Joseph Parish, now a territorial parish, will assume the goods, a portion of the assets, including property and patrimonial rights, as well as the burdens and liabilities of Madonna of the Holy Rosary Parish, respecting the intentions of the founders and donors, concerning the allocation of goods and the fulfillment of obligations, in accord with canon 121. The Most Reverend Bishop retains the right, afforded him in canon 122, to allocate some assets, which would be divided among the newly-reconfigured parishes in the city of Fitchburg, namely Saint Anthony of Padua, Saint Bernard and Saint Francis of Assisi, based on equity and justice given that some members of Madonna of the Holy Rosary Parish have indicated they will join these parishes;
- Saint Joseph Parish is to accommodate, to the extent possible, the cultural and spiritual traditions of Madonna of the Holy Rosary Parish;
- The sacramental records of Madonna of the Holy Rosary Parish are hereby placed under the guardianship of Saint Joseph 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.



Reverend Monsignor Thomas J. Sullivan
Chancellor