



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

# DECREE

## **In Nomine Domini. Amen.**

Saint Theresa Parish is a territorial parish serving the needs of the Catholic community in the town of Blackstone, Massachusetts. Its parish church is located at 630 Rathbun Street, Blackstone. It was established as a parish in 1929.

The Pastor of the parish, in conjunction with the Parish Council and a specially convened group of parishioners, studied ways in which the parish could more effectively minister to the sacramental and spiritual needs of the parishioners of that area amidst a greatly dwindling parish census, scarce resources, and fewer clergy to staff the parish adequately.

In view of this study, the Pastor and his Parish Council have recommended to me that Saint Theresa Parish, Blackstone, be merged with Saint Paul Parish, Blackstone, Massachusetts, and with Saint Augustine Parish, Millville, Massachusetts, its neighboring parish communities, to form a new parish community based at Saint Paul Parish and that all worship will be transferred to Saint Paul Church which can provide ample worship space for all three communities. Saint Theresa and Saint Augustine churches will close.

All the requirements of canons 50, 51, 127, 166 and 515 have been fulfilled.

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*, which met on March 21, 2022, and voted unanimously in favor of this recommendation 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:

- Saint Theresa Parish, located in Blackstone, Massachusetts, is hereby merged with Saint Paul Parish, Blackstone, Massachusetts, and Saint Augustine Parish, Millville, Massachusetts, to form one new parish, in accord with canon 121; The name of the new parish will be Divine Mercy Parish located at the former Saint Paul Parish, that will retain the title of its church, in accord with canon 1218;

- In accord with canon 121, the territory and care of souls of the territorial membership of Saint Paul Parish, Blackstone, Saint Theresa Parish, Blackstone, and Saint Augustine Parish, Millville, are hereby transferred and entrusted to the newly created Divine Mercy Parish, whose parish church is located at 48 Saint Paul Street, Blackstone;
- The newly created Divine Mercy Parish will assume the goods, assets, including property and patrimonial rights, as well as the burdens and liabilities of the former Saint Paul Parish, Saint Theresa Parish, and Saint Augustine Parish, respecting the intentions of the founders and donors, concerning the allocation of goods and the fulfillment of obligations, in accord with canons 121 and 123;
- The sacramental records of the former Saint Paul Parish, Saint Theresa Parish and Saint Augustine Parish are hereby placed under the guardianship of the newly created Divine Mercy Parish;
- The newly created Divine Mercy Parish will enjoy public juridic personality by the law itself, in accord with canon 515, §3.

The effective date of this decree is July 1, 2022, 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-sixth day of May, in the year of our Lord, two thousand twenty-two

  
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Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, D.D., S.T.D.

  
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Mr. Raymond L. Delisle  
Chancellor

