

Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Archbishop
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

June 17, 2013

Mr. Joseph A. DiMarco, et al.
2246 Naamans Creek Rd.
Boothwyn, PA 19061

Dear Mr. DiMarco, Mr. McGinn, Mr. Remaley, and Mr. Slamon,

I write in response to your letter of June 10, 2013 and the enclosed petition concerning the merger of Holy Saviour Parish, Linwood into Saint John Fisher Parish.

I can understand your great attachment to Holy Saviour Parish and the sadness the merger of your parish into Saint John Fisher Parish causes you. No one wants to make these kinds of changes, but they are sometimes necessary for the long term good of all the faithful in the area.

In making this determination we have consulted with the pastors of the parishes involved, with people from the parishes, and with the Council of Priests. We have also taken into consideration the pastoral activity of the parishes, the various resources of the parishes and how they can best be used, the population trends of the area, limitations we face with the declining number of priests, and how best to serve the future needs of the entire area.

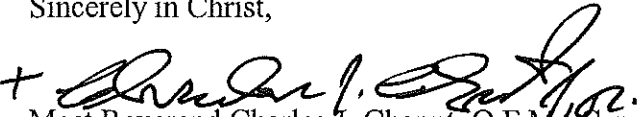
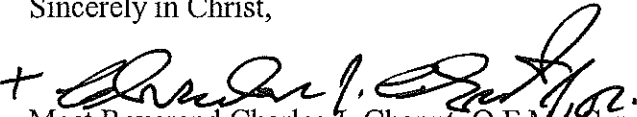
Of course, Holy Saviour Church itself will remain open as a worship site of Saint John Fisher Parish. The pastoral care being provided by Holy Saviour Parish will be continued by Saint John Fisher Parish.

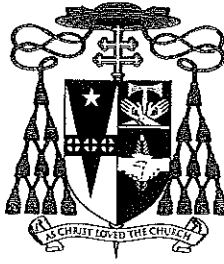
The decree effecting this merger was published on the Archdiocesan web page and an authenticated copy was provided to the Holy Saviour Parish. A copy is also enclosed.

While you may not agree with my decision, I have determined that the best way to care for the pastoral needs of the people of this area both now and into the future is to proceed with the merger of the parishes as presented in my decree of May 29, 2013.

You and all of the people of Holy Saviour Parish are in my prayers.

Sincerely in Christ,


+ 
Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M., Cap.
Archbishop of Philadelphia



DECREE

OF THE MERGER OF

HOLY SAVIOUR PARISH, LINWOOD, PENNSYLVANIA,

AND

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, MARCUS HOOK, PENNSYLVANIA,

WITH

SAINT JOHN FISHER PARISH, BOOTHWYN, PENNSYLVANIA

Holy Saviour Parish, Linwood, Pennsylvania, a territorial parish, was founded in 1914. Immaculate Conception Parish, Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania, a personal parish for those of Italian nationality, was founded in 1917. Saint John Fisher Parish, Boothwyn, Pennsylvania, a territorial parish, was founded in 1971. As the result of an Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning initiative, a proposal to merge both Holy Saviour Parish and Immaculate Conception Parish into the neighboring Saint John Fisher Parish was studied and discussed with committees from all of the parishes and with the appropriate archdiocesan offices. Throughout this process, sufficient information regarding the proposal was gathered, and consultation was conducted with members of Holy Saviour Parish, Immaculate Conception Parish, and Saint John Fisher Parish .

The following just causes suggest that Holy Saviour Parish and Immaculate Conception Parish be merged into Saint John Fisher Parish:

- 1) to provide more effectively for the pastoral needs of the faithful of the area ,which has declined in population in recent years;
- 2) to address circumstances in which there is no longer a need for an Italian personal parish in the area;
- 3) to enhance evangelization efforts and to improve the vitality of parish life for the people of Holy Saviour, Immaculate Conception, and Saint John Fisher Parishes;

- 4) to address serious financial difficulties in the parishes and to provide for a better stewardship of resources; and,
- 5) to provide for the optimum use of clergy and lay personnel.

Accordingly, having judged that sufficient just causes are present and that the good of souls will not thereby be impaired, and having consulted the Council of Priests in accord with canon 515, §2, I hereby **DECREE** an extinctive union by which Holy Saviour Parish, Linwood, Pennsylvania and Immaculate Conception Parish, Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania will be merged into Saint John Fisher Parish, Boothwyn, Pennsylvania.

The boundaries of Saint John Fisher Parish are hereby altered to the following:

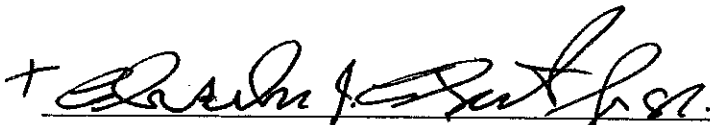
Cherry Tree Rd.; to Weir Rd.; to Aston Twp. Line; to Pennsylvania Route 452 (Market St.); to the B&O R.R.; to Keystone Rd; to Laughead Ave.; to and following City of Chester/Borough of Trainer line to Delaware River; to the Delaware River; to the Delaware-Pennsylvania state line; to PA Route 261(Faulk Rd.); to Concord Rd.; to Cherry Tree Rd.

The intention or will of donors, as well as any acquired rights, have been examined and taken into consideration, especially regarding the allocation of goods and the obligation of debts. The goods of Holy Saviour Parish and Immaculate Conception Parish, including their property and treasury, as well as any debts, are assigned to Saint John Fisher Parish.

The rich legacy and history of Holy Saviour and Immaculate Conception Parishes are to be promoted and honored. Holy Saviour Church and Immaculate Conception Church will remain open as a worship sites for Saint John Fisher Parish. The sacramental registers of Holy Saviour Parish and Immaculate Conception Parish shall be preserved at Saint John Fisher Rectory. Saint John Fisher Parish will provide pastoral care for Italian speaking people in the area, as needed and insofar as is possible.


This decree becomes effective as of July 1, 2013, prior to which it is to be communicated to the parishioners and to the Faithful of the Archdiocese in an appropriate manner. All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Curia of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, on the 29th day of May in the Year of Our Lord 2013.

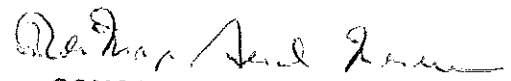


Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.
Archbishop of Philadelphia

SEAL



Reverend Monsignor Gerard C. Mesure
Chancellor



CONCORDAT CUM ORIGINALI
CHANCELLOR
ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA