



Prot. N. 2021 RMC-26

DECREE
IN THE NAME OF GOD. AMEN.

Changing demographics have affected the size and wealth of the Archdiocese of Chicago and the vitality of her parishes. This is particularly true in the City of Chicago itself, where the total population fell by nearly 21% since 1970, from 3,366,957 to an estimated 2,693,976 in 2020. During the last decade, the total population of the Archdiocese of Chicago (Cook and Lake Counties in Illinois) declined by less than 2%, from 5,903,190 in 2010 to an estimated 5,821,933 in 2020. Over the same ten-year period the Catholic population of the Archdiocese of Chicago declined by nearly 7% (159,000), from 2,338,000 to 2,179,000.

A good number of our parishes were founded in the first half of the 20th Century or earlier. Many were established for national, linguistic, or ethnic groups that no longer reside in the archdiocese or in the neighborhoods where they once flourished. Today, many of our parishes are unable to support themselves. Consequently, from Fiscal Year 2012 through Fiscal Year 2020, the Archdiocese of Chicago provided \$177,109,682.00 in support to parishes and Catholic schools: \$46,332,584.00 to 106 parishes and \$130,777,098.00 to 83 Catholic schools. This includes \$14,777,155.00 during Fiscal Year 2020 alone: \$3,711,999.00 to parishes and \$11,064,156.00 to Catholic schools, mostly parochial schools. This support was due to the generosity of the faithful people of the archdiocese and other gracious donors. Nonetheless, financial support cannot continue at this high level. Our mission is to convert our parishes, helping them to become more vital, that is, active centers of Christian discipleship, evangelical mission, scholarship, and charitable outreach. For this mission, the parishes need a growing and stable membership and the financial means to support themselves.

Almost seven years ago, inspired by the experience of St. Francis of Assisi before the cross of the ruined church of San Damiano and the Holy Father's dream of "a missionary option ... capable of transforming everything" (Pope Francis, Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, n. 27, November 24, 2013), and with wide and continuing consultation among the clergy and lay faithful of the Archdiocese of Chicago, particularly in the Presbyteral Council, we embarked on the inauguration of *Renew My Church (RMC)*. This is our multi-year process aimed at converting our parishes for mission. It is my intention that every parish join with some of its neighbors (groupings) to plan the future. Careful planning will create a menu of possibilities. We are identifying parishes to be reconfigured through pastoral coordination with neighboring parishes, divisions, unions, and other structural and governance changes.

This decree concerns two neighboring parishes located within the six-parish O'Hare Neighborhood Grouping: Mary, Seat of Wisdom Parish (established 1955), 920 West Granville

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Avenue, Park Ridge, Illinois 60068-5258; and the adjacent Our Lady of Hope Parish (established 1957), 9711 West Devon Avenue, Rosemont, Illinois 60018-4825.

In October 2019 the pre-COVID-19 average Sunday Mass attendance in the 763-seat church of Mary, Seat of Wisdom Parish was 1,396, a 31% decline in Sunday attendance over the 20 years between 1999 and 2019 (from 2,022 to 1,396). In the same year, the average Sunday Mass attendance at the 350-seat church of Our Lady of Hope Parish was 550, also a 31% decline over the 20 years between 1999 and 2019 (from 801 to 550).

In Fiscal Year 2019, Mary, Seat of Wisdom Parish had an operating surplus of \$243,726.00 and no church debt. In Fiscal Year 2020 the parish had an operating surplus of \$167,070.00 and no church debt. On March 31, 2021, the parish had savings of \$4,289,557.00. In Fiscal Year 2019 Our Lady of Hope Parish had an operating deficit of \$200,648.00 and no church debt. In Fiscal year 2020 the parish operating deficit was \$153,996.00 while there was no church debt. On March 31, 2021 Our Lady of Hope Parish had savings of \$3,998,624.00.

Non-Sunday Mass liturgical life at Mary, Seat of Wisdom Parish included 62 funerals, eight marriages, and 71 Baptisms in Fiscal Year 2019. That same year the figures for Our Lady of Hope Parish were 18 funerals, five marriages, and 27 Baptisms. This constitutes a combined total of 80 funerals, 13 marriages, and 98 Baptisms, average for a single large parish in West Suburban Cook County.

Following consultations last year with lay and clergy members of the parishes of the Grouping, including input from parishioners at large, a report was submitted to the Archdiocesan Standards and Recommendations Commission, a group of lay and clergy representatives from across the Archdiocese of Chicago. From this Commission, a recommendation was submitted to the pastoral leadership of the archdiocese. Due to the relatively small size of the population now served by Our Lady of Hope Parish and resident in the Village of Rosemont, recurring operating deficits at the parish, and a continuing decline in the number of priests able to serve as pastors, the recommendation was that Our Lady of Hope Parish be altered to become a *quasi-parish*, namely, a territorial mission of Mary, Seat of Wisdom Parish. A focus of the mission would be to travelers associated with O'Hare International Airport and the hospitality and convention industry located in Rosemont.

THEREFORE, know that I, Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago, according to the norms of canon 50, canon 121, canon 127 §§1 & 3, canon 166, canon 515 §2, and canon 516 §1 of the Code of Canon Law, have before me a proposal that the above-mentioned Our Lady of Hope Parish, be extinguished as a parish and re-established as a quasi-parish, a territorial mission dependent upon and associated with the above mentioned Mary, Seat of Wisdom Parish, with a priest assigned as director of the mission and rector of Our Lady of Hope Church. Know also, I convened the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Chicago *via* video conference over the internet on May 4, 2021. Then, after hearing the Presbyteral Council and receiving its vote of 30 for and one against the proposal, I accepted the Presbyteral Council's advice and now, invoking the Holy Spirit,

I decree the following:

1. Effective July 1, 2021, the above-mentioned Our Lady of Hope Parish, Rosemont, shall be extinguished as a parish and re-established as a *quasi-parish*, a territorial mission dependent upon and associated with Mary, Seat of Wisdom Parish, Park Ridge;
2. The ministries of the new Our Lady of Hope Mission will encompass, among other things, a renewed commitment to the travelers associated with O'Hare International Airport and the hospitality and convention industry located in Rosemont;
3. Each and all the parishioners of the extinguished Our Lady of Hope Parish, along with the faithful domiciled within the new mission territorial boundaries, will be members of the new Our Lady of Hope Mission;
4. The territory of the new Our Lady of Hope Mission will be the territory of the extinguished Our Lady of Hope Parish;
5. Subject to the intention of founders and donors, and with due regard for any acquired rights, the goods and patrimonial rights of the extinguished parish, together with any obligations with which they may be burdened, will be those of the new Our Lady of Hope Mission (canon 121);
6. The church of the extinguished Our Lady of Hope Parish will be the church of the new Our Lady of Hope Mission, retaining its own title;
7. The data submitted to the Presbyteral Council on this matter, together with the minutes of the Council meeting of May 4, 2021, are to be attached to this decree and, upon request, will become available to those eligible to receive them;
8. The sacramental records and other materials relevant to historical research pertaining to the extinguished Our Lady of Hope Parish will remain and be maintained at the Our Lady of Hope Mission campus, unless otherwise determined by the expert staff of the Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Archives and Records Center of the Archdiocese of Chicago; and
9. Notification of this decree shall be given immediately through the official website of the Archdiocese of Chicago. The decree shall be conveyed to the pastors of Mary, Seat of Wisdom Parish and Our Lady of Hope Parish. As soon as possible, the pastors shall inform their parishioners of the decree through the parish bulletin or other suitable means.


Before hierarchical recourse (appeal) may be taken against this decree, a written, dated, signed, and well-argued petition, asking to revoke or amend the decree, must be sent or delivered to me within ten (10) useful days from notification of the decree (CIC cc. 1734, 1735,

1737). The address is Office of the Archbishop of Chicago, Archbishop Quigley Center, 835 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

Given this 3rd day of June, A.D. 2021.
From Holy Name Cathedral,
Chicago, Illinois


Archbishop of Chicago




Ecclesiastical Notary

Attachments

THE DATA SUBMITTED TO THE PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF
CHICAGO AND THE MINUTES OF THE PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL MEETING
OF MAY 4, 2021, WILL BE ATTACHED TO THE FOREGOING DECREE AND WILL BE
AVAILABLE FROM THE OFFICE FOR CANONICAL AFFAIRS
UPON REQUEST FROM THOSE LEGITIMATELY SEEKING THEM