

MOST REVEREND DOUGLAS J. LUCIA
BISHOP OF SYRACUSE

DECREE
ON THE EXTINCTIVE UNION – AMALGAMATION OF
SACRED HEART MISSION, SCRIBA, NEW YORK
INTO CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH, OSWEGO, NEW YORK

Whereas Sacred Heart Mission was founded in 1972 as a quasi-territorial parish or “mission” under the pastoral care of the pastor of the parish of Saint Paul in Oswego, New York;

Whereas Sacred Heart Mission was eventually placed under the pastoral care of the pastor of the parish of Saint Peter in Oswego, New York and has continued to function as a quasi-territorial parish (cf. cans. 516 §1 and 526 §1);

Whereas the parishes of Saint Joseph, Saint Paul, Saint Peter and Saint Stephen, the King of Hungary in Oswego, New York are uniting via an extinctive union-merger to form the parish of Christ the Good Shepherd;

Whereas, I convoked the Presbyteral Council on 12 May 2020 and presided over it according to the norm of law (cans. 127 §1, 166 §1, and 500 §1), placing the proposed modification of Sacred Heart Mission on the agenda ahead of time, ensuring that a summary of its status was provided to the members of the Council (can. 50), proposing its amalgamation with Christ the Good Shepherd Parish, seeking the informed and free counsel of the members concerning the proposed modification (can. 515 §2), listening to arguments both for and against the proposed modification, and receiving unanimous support for the proposed modification;

Whereas “It is only for the diocesan bishop to erect, suppress, or alter parishes. He is neither to erect, suppress, nor alter notably parishes, unless he has heard the presbyteral council” (can. 515 §2);

Whereas Sacred Heart Mission has experienced a decline in Sunday Mass attendance and in the celebration of the sacraments, operates at a yearly financial deficit, is located in close proximity to the churches of Saint Peter and Saint Paul of the parish of Christ the Good Shepherd, and has already attempted being served by the same pastor as the parish of Saint Peter;

Whereas Scriba remains a small rural community that did not experience the surge in population anticipated around the time of the founding of Sacred Heart Mission;

Therefore, in order to promote the good of souls as well as the good of the diocese, I the undersigned Bishop of Syracuse, have decided as follows:

DECREE

1. Sacred Heart Mission in Scriba, New York is united via an extinctive union-amalgamation to the newly formed parish of Christ the Good Shepherd in Oswego, New York, such that the parish of Christ the Good Shepherd assumes the responsibility for the pastoral care of the faithful of Sacred Heart Mission.
2. The territory of Sacred Heart Mission will be encompassed in the territory of the parish of Christ the Good Shepherd.
3. The parish church will be the church of Saint Paul located at 50 East Mohawk Street, Oswego, New York. It is in this church that the Most Holy Eucharist will be reserved (can. 934 §1, 1°).
4. Sacred Heart Mission will remain open. The faithful will continue to have the right of entry to this church for public worship, namely, for the celebration of Mass on the anniversary of the dedication of the church and on its patronal feast (cf. can. 1214 *CIC* 1983 and cans. 1167-1168 *CIC* 1917). Other public Masses may be celebrated at the reasonable discretion of the pastor. Access for private worship including, but not limited to, baptisms, weddings, and funerals may take place at the reasonable discretion of the pastor. The Most Holy Eucharist may be reserved in this church with the permission of the Bishop (can. 934 §1, 2°).
5. The regular schedule of Masses and the celebration of the sacraments will be determined by the pastor.
6. All sacramental registers hitherto preserved at Sacred Heart Mission or the former parish of Saint Peter are to be conveyed to the office of the newly merged parish located at the church of Saint Paul, where they are to be faithfully preserved according to the norms of can. 535 §§ 1-5.

7. The temporal goods as well as any patrimonial rights and obligations of Sacred Heart Mission will be assumed by the parish of Christ the Good Shepherd. The intentions of the founders and donors as well as any acquired rights are to be respected (can. 121).

This merger will become effective on 31 May 2020, the Solemnity of Pentecost.

I further order this decree to be made public to all the faithful through its publication on this day, 21 May 2020. This publication on the diocesan website (www.syrдио.org) and in the local diocesan newspaper (The Catholic Sun) will be the legitimate notification. A letter in anticipation of this decree was sent to parishioners on 20 May 2020.


This decree may be challenged by anyone who feels aggrieved by it within the peremptory time limit of ten days from the legitimate notification of the decree, that is, on 21 May 2020, by seeking its revocation or emendation directly from me (can. 1734 §2).

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Syracuse on this twenty-first day of May in the year of our Lord, two-thousand twenty, the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord.



Most Reverend Douglas J. Lucia
Bishop of Syracuse



Mrs. Danielle E. Cummings
Chancellor

