

**Our parish
combination
is official!**

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



DECREE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP IN THE NAME OF GOD. AMEN.

Immaculate Conception Parish, located at 1431 N. North Park Avenue in the City of Chicago, was established in 1859 for English speaking Catholics in the territory north of Holy Name Parish. St. Joseph Parish, now located at 1107 North Orleans Street, was originally organized in 1846 for German speaking families living north of the Chicago River. Over the years St. Joseph Parish has served a number of different communities, ultimately it was established as the territorial parish immediately south of Immaculate Conception Parish.

In 2001, the Reverend Patrick J. Lee, already pastor of Immaculate Conception, agreed to become pastor of St. Joseph as well, with the understanding that the two parishes would cooperate as much as possible in providing parochial ministry in their combined territories. In 2013, the Reverend Lawrence M. Lisowski assumed the pastorate of both parishes, and cooperation grew to the point of an agreement between the two parishes to plan for a proposed union. Beginning in 2015, a 40 member committee, consisting of members of both parishes, began exploring and shaping a proposal for formal union.

Under the leadership of their common pastor, the two parishes have grown in activity and continue to serve a stable community of nearly 400 families as well as maintain a highly regarded Catholic elementary school of 436 pupils. A single priest serving both parishes, often with the weekend assistance of another priest, has been the norm for the past 15 years. Moreover, union of the two parishes will provide some savings in administrative and personnel costs that will go directly into apostolic works and the parochial mission.

The parish income, in the form of regular offerings of the faithful, has been sufficient over the past decade to meet the non-school maintenance and other costs of the parishes. Apart from school assistance from the Archdiocese of Chicago, the parishes have not had other significant sources of income, and payments toward indebtedness to the archdiocese are current.

The pastor presented the proposal for the union of Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph parishes to the two parishes in January and February 2016 and it was well received and accepted.

THEREFORE, know that I, the Most Reverend Blase J. Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago, according to the norm of canon 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, convened the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Chicago on March 8, 2016, and presented to the said Council a plan to reorganize the status of Immaculate Conception Parish and St. Joseph Parish on the near Northside of the City of Chicago. After hearing the said Council at the meeting convened on May 10, 2016, I now **decree the following:**

1. Immaculate Conception Parish, located at 1431 N. North Park Avenue, and St. Joseph Parish, located at 1107 North Orleans Street, both in the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, are suppressed, that is, they are extinguished as separate juridic persons in the Church and united to form a single newly established juridic person to be known as Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph Parish;
2. The missions of the suppressed Immaculate Conception Parish and St. Joseph Parish will be subsumed completely into the newly established Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph Parish;
3. Each and all of the parishioners of the suppressed parishes will be fully and equally parishioners of Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph Parish;
4. The territory of the new Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph Parish will be the sum of the territories of the now suppressed Immaculate Conception Parish and St. Joseph Parish, namely the territory located within these boundaries:

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



page 2

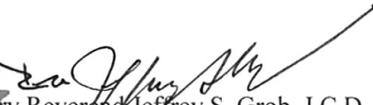
Start at Armitage Avenue and Halsted Street,
East on south side of Armitage Avenue to Lake Michigan,
South along Lake Michigan to Division Street,
West on north side of Division Street to Wells Street,
South on both sides of Wells Street to Chicago Avenue,
West on north side of Chicago Avenue to the Chicago River,
Northwest along the Chicago River (west of Goose Island) to North Avenue,
East on north side of North Avenue to Halsted Street,
North on east side of Halsted Street to Armitage Avenue.

5. The church of the former St. Joseph Parish will be the parish church of the new Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph Parish, retaining its own title;
6. The church of the former Immaculate Conception Parish, also retaining its own title, will continue to be designated for divine worship according to the norm of canon 1214 of the Code of Canon Law, and will remain open and available for the celebration of the sacraments, including Baptism and Matrimony;
7. Subject to the intention of founders and donors, and with due regard for any acquired rights, the goods and patrimonial rights of the now suppressed Immaculate Conception Parish and St. Joseph Parish, together with any obligations with which they are burdened, will be those of the newly established Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph Parish (see canon 121);
8. The report given to the Presbyteral Council on this matter, together with the minutes of the aforementioned Council meetings of March 8, 2016, and May 10, 2016, will be attached to this decree;
9. The sacramental records and other materials relevant to historical research concerning the suppressed Immaculate Conception Parish and St. Joseph Parish are commended to the new Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph Parish for safe keeping and suitable access; and
10. The Reverend Lawrence M. Lisowski, formerly pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish and of St. Joseph Parish, is appointed first pastor of the newly established Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph Parish for a term of six years, renewable at its conclusion for another term of six years. As pastor, Father Lisowski will enjoy all the faculties provided to a parochus (parish priest) by the Code of Canon Law and the faculties enjoyed by pastors and priests in good standing incardinated in the Archdiocese of Chicago as listed in the particular law of the archdiocese, namely, Book Four of the Policies and Procedures.

Given this 23rd day of May, A.D. 2016,
and effective the 1 st day of July, A.D.2016.
From the Archbishop Quigley Center,
Chicago, [Illinois]


Most Reverend Blase J. Cupich,
Archbishop of Chicago




Very Reverend Jeffrey S. Grob, J.C.D.,
Chancellor