

DECREE

Mary Queen of Peace Parish

For Publication to Each and Everyone



Greetings In the Lord

Among the most important responsibilities of the Bishop's pastoral office is assurance that there is suitable provision of divine worship and Catholic community life for Christ's faithful people who are committed to his care. At the same time the pastor of each parish needs to be able to satisfy without undue difficulty the parochial responsibilities assigned to him by his Bishop.

The following just causes support the establishment of a consolidated parish in the east and south sections of Billings, Montana, Yellowstone County:

1. to provide more effectively for the pastoral needs of the faithful of the parishes of Holy Rosary, Little Flower, and Our Lady of Guadalupe;
2. to assure the vitality of parish life in this area;
3. to provide for a better stewardship of resources; and
4. to provide for the optimum use of clergy, religious and lay personnel.

For the reasons listed above and in response to the request of the priest moderator (c. 517 § 2), Reverend Stephen Zabrocki, to unite these parishes, I am merging these individual communities and uniting them as one new parish.

Accordingly, in virtue of the precepts of canon 121 and canon 515, § 1 of the Code of Canon Law, in order to provide more effectively for the spiritual welfare and the salvation of souls, having judged that sufficiently just causes are present, and having consulted the Presbyteral Council in accord with canon 515, §2, **I hereby DECREE, ANNOUNCE and PUBLISH:**

The merger of the territorial parishes of Holy Rosary, Little Flower, and of the personal parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe of Billings, Montana into one new territorial parish called Mary Queen of Peace Parish.

The territorial boundaries of Mary Queen of Peace will be the same as the combined boundaries of the former parishes of Holy Rosary and Little Flower. The establishment of these parish boundaries is duly recorded at the Chancery Office of the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings as:

1. On the north: Grand Avenue to Division Street (n-s) to Montana Avenue northeast
2. On the south: to Yellowstone River and Briarwood
3. On the east: Southeast Billings
4. On the west: 16th Street West and Regal Street

The newly erected territorial parish will continue to serve the needs of the Hispanic community, previously provided by Our Lady of Guadalupe personal parish.

All the assets (including buildings and real estate) and all the liabilities of Holy Rosary Parish, Little Flower Parish and Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, shall be assigned to Mary Queen of Peace Parish. Further, the voluntary offerings of the faithful, as well as other grants, pledges and gifts which have been or will be made to these predecessor parishes will constitute revenue to Mary Queen of Peace Parish for the benefit of the pastoral life of this community of the faithful as well as the rightful support of those who minister to them. Holy Rosary Church and Little Flower Church and Our Lady of Guadalupe Church continue to be used for worship. As of the effective date of this DECREE, the sacramental registers of Holy Rosary Parish, Little Flower Parish and Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish will be closed and moved to the seat of Mary Queen of Peace Parish. All sacraments administered from that date forward will be recorded in new sacramental registers of Mary Queen of Peace Parish.

As of the effective date of this DECREE, the financial accounts of Holy Rosary Parish, Little Flower Parish and Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish will have been closed and transferred to the financial account of Mary Queen of Peace Parish.

This DECREE becomes effective on July 1, 2012.

I instruct that this DECREE be communicated immediately to the parishioners of Holy Rosary, Little Flower, and Our Lady of Guadalupe Parishes by Mr. Michael Mayott whom I have named their Parish Life Coordinator (c. 517, §2) and Reverend Barton K Stevens whom I have herein named their Parochial Vicar. This DECREE is likewise to be published immediately in *The Harvest* and on the diocesan website.

Given in Great Falls, on this 1st day of January, 2012, at the Diocesan Center.

Most Reverend Michael W. Warfel
Bishop of Great Falls-Billings

Sister Lynn Casey, SCL
Chancellor