

## DECREE

### Corpus Christi 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 serving the faithful of Black Eagle and the west Great Falls areas of Cascade County, Montana:

1. to provide more effectively for the pastoral needs of the faithful of the parish of Most Blessed Sacrament of Black Eagle and the parishes of St. Luke the Evangelist and St. Joseph of Great Falls;
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 Jay H. Peterson, 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 parishes of Most Blessed Sacrament, Black Eagle; St. Luke the Evangelist of Great Falls; and St. Joseph of Great Falls, thus forming Corpus Christi Parish.**

The parochial church of Corpus Christi Parish, located at 410 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Northeast, Great Falls, Montana, will be maintained as a worship site to be used by the newly established parish.

The territorial boundaries of Corpus Christi Parish will be the same as the combined boundaries of the former parishes of Most Blessed Sacrament, St. Luke the Evangelist and St. Joseph. The establishment of these parish boundaries is duly recorded at the Chancery Office of the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings as:

1. Northern boundary of Cascade County
2. Southern boundary: the Missouri River
3. Eastern boundary: Missouri River
4. Western boundary: a north-south line two miles west of Vaughn going north to the Cascade County line and south to the Missouri River.

All the assets (including buildings and real estate) and all the liabilities of Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, St. Joseph Parish and St. Luke the Evangelist, shall be assigned to Corpus Christi 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 Corpus Christi 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. The church buildings of Most Blessed Sacrament Parish and St. Joseph Parish continue as oratories of occasional worship.

As of the effective date of this DECREE, the sacramental registers of Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, St. Joseph Parish and St. Luke the Evangelist Parish will be closed and moved to the seat of Corpus Christi Parish. All sacraments administered from that date forward will be recorded in new sacramental registers of Corpus Christi Church Parish.

As of April 1, 2012, the financial accounts of Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, St. Joseph Parish, St. Luke the Evangelist Parish will have been closed and transferred to the financial account of Corpus Christi Parish.

I instruct that this DECREE be communicated immediately to the parishioners of Most Blessed Sacrament, St. Joseph and St. Luke the Evangelist Parishes by Reverend Jay H. Peterson whom I have herein named their Pastor. This DECREE is likewise to be published immediately in *The Harvest* and on the diocesan website.

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

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

Sister Lynn Casey, SCL  
Chancellor