



DECREE

establishing Saint Joseph Parish in Dale, Indiana
from the merger of
Saint Joseph Parish, Dale, Indiana, Mary, Help of Christians Parish in Mariah Hill,
Indiana, and Saint Nicholas Parish, Santa Claus, Indiana

Whereas Saint Joseph Parish was established in 1909 as a territorial parish in the town of Dale whose church is located at 8 East Maple Street; Mary, Help of Christians Parish was established in 1857 as a territorial parish whose church is located at 6827 East County Road 1930 North; and Saint Nicholas Parish was established in 1991 as a territorial parish in the town of Santa Claus whose church is located at 180 North Holiday Boulevard;

Whereas the merger of these three parishes will help to evangelize our Hispanic Catholics, bringing them into the faith community and life of the newly-formed parish so as to better provide a financial basis to serve their needs;

Whereas the junior and senior high school students from the three parishes have a strong bond as the majority attend the same school corporation;

Whereas these parishes already have an ongoing, collaborative relationship and have shared the same pastor;

Whereas the decline in the number of available priests is such that, for the foreseeable future, only one priest will be available for the pastoral care of all three parishes, so that they must necessarily share one and the same pastor;

Whereas the three churches are located within a few miles of each other and are in good condition with St. Joseph Church being the largest and best-suited to provide for the needs of the faithful;

Whereas, in light of the above, it is prudent to combine resources with a unified pastoral approach under the direction of a single pastor so as to provide for the most effective care of souls, for the works of charity and evangelization, and for the furtherance of faith formation, youth ministry and vocations;

And having heard the opinion of the Presbyteral Council on May 17, 2012, April 17, 2013, and April 29, 2013, according to the norm of canon 515 §2 regarding a proposed merger of the above-named parishes;

I hereby decree:

- that Saint Joseph Parish in the town of Dale, Mary, Help of Christians Parish in Mariah Hill, and Saint Nicholas Parish in the town of Santa Claus will be merged according to the norm of canon 121, and that from this extinctive union, Saint Joseph Parish will be established in place of the three parishes;
- that Saint Joseph Parish will be territorial, its territory encompassing all of that area situated within the boundaries of the former Saint Joseph Parish, the former Mary, Help of Christians Parish, and the former St. Nicholas Parish as they exist on July 1, 2015;
- that Saint Joseph Church will serve as the parish church, with Mary, Help of Christians Church, and Saint Nicholas Church remaining open as additional churches for the occasional use of the faithful under the direction of the pastor;
- that all goods, assets and liabilities of the former Saint Joseph, Mary, Help of Christians, and Saint Nicholas Parishes will become the goods, assets, and liabilities of Saint Joseph Parish, in accord with canon 121;
- that the bishop will appoint a pastor of the newly-formed Saint Joseph Parish effective July 1, 2015;
- and that all sacramental and other records of Saint Joseph Parish, Mary, Help of Christians Parish, and Saint Nicholas Parish will be conserved at the office of Saint Joseph Parish.

The provisions of this decree are to take effect on July 1, 2015, all things to the contrary notwithstanding. These provisions may be appealed according to the norm of law (canon 1734 §1).

Given at the Catholic Center
September 27, 2013

+ Charles C. Thompson

Most Reverend Charles C. Thompson, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Evansville

Judith A. Neff
Judith Neff
Chancellor