

DAVID ALLEN ZUBIK



By the Grace of God and the Authority of the Apostolic See

BISHOP OF PITTSBURGH

DECREE

**THE EXTINCTIVE UNION OF
SAINT ALEXIS PARISH AND SAINT ALPHONSUS PARISH
INTO
SAINT AIDEN PARISH**

Whereas, on May 25, 1961, as a result of the growth of population in the northern suburbs of Pittsburgh in the latter half of the twentieth century, Saint Alexis Parish was created.

Whereas, in 1840, Saint Alphonsus was founded as a mission church by the Bishop of Philadelphia and, for the next twenty four years was a mission of various other parishes including, St. Philomena, St. Mary in Sharpsburg, Ss. Peter and Paul in Beaver, and St. Peter in Allegheny City before being established as a parish in its own right in 1864.

Whereas, information regarding the future of the parishes has been consistently communicated to the parishioners in the weekly, combined parish bulletin, on the parish website, and at announcements during weekend Masses.

Whereas, parish assemblies were held on March 1 and 2, 2020, to provide information to the people of the parishes and to receive parishioner input regarding the possible merger of the parishes.

Whereas on April 28, 2020, two (2) petitions were presented to the diocesan bishop, each signed by the one priest who serves as Administrator of Saint Alexis Parish and Saint Alphonsus Parish, along with the signatures of the respective Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils requesting that Saint Alexis Parish and Saint Alphonsus Parish be merged into Saint Aiden Parish forming an extinctive union.

Whereas merging these parishes will provide more vibrant and effective ministries to the faithful and, because of the fewer number of priests in the diocese and faithful in the territory, forming one parish will facilitate a stronger community of the faithful for liturgical worship, ministry, and outreach.

Therefore, having received the petition of the two (2) parishes and having heard the Presbyteral Council on May 7, 2020 and the Vicars General on the same day, and with no harm coming to the good of souls and indeed for the spiritual benefit of the faithful, and all of the requirements of canons 50, 51, 127, 166, and 515 having been fulfilled, we do hereby decree the following:

1. By means of an extinctive union Saint Alexis Parish and Saint Alphonsus Parish are merged and subsumed into the newly formed Saint Aiden Parish, which is erected by this decree according to the prescriptions of canon 515§ 2 of the *Code of Canon Law*.
2. In accordance with the norms of law (cf. canon 121), all assets, responsibilities and liabilities of Saint Alexis Parish and Saint Alphonsus Parish are transferred into the newly erected Saint Aiden Parish. The intention of donors is to be respected.
3. Furthermore, the voluntary offerings of the faithful and all other grants that have been made and will be made to the Parish of Saint Aiden constitute its revenue.
4. All sacramental records from Saint Alexis Parish and Saint Alphonsus Parish will be housed at the Archives and Records Center of the Diocese of Pittsburgh.
5. All churches are to remain open to the faithful for at least occasional sacred worship, whether public or private (cf. can. 1214). If a church is not used for regular public worship, the holy Mass is to be celebrated there at least every year on the solemnity of the anniversary of the church's dedication and on the solemnity of the church's title, in accord with current liturgical norms (cf. can. 1167 §2 and 1168 of the former Code of Canon Law, and can. 2 of the present Code). If such an observance is impeded by another date of higher rank according to the Roman calendar, the impeded solemnity is to be transferred to the first available date thereafter.
6. All present members of Saint Alexis Parish and Saint Alphonsus Parish are entitled to be parishioners Saint Aiden Parish according to the universal law and legitimate custom within the Diocese of Pittsburgh.
7. The boundaries of Saint Aiden Parish shall be as follows:

BEGINNING at the point of beginning at the intersection of Interstate 79 and the Allegheny County-Butler County border, proceed east along the Allegheny County-Butler County border to the northeast corner of Pine Township; proceed south along with Pine Township-Richland Township border to the southeast corner of Pine Township; proceed west

along the Pine Township-McCandless Township border to Babcock Boulevard; proceed south and west along the centerline of Babcock Boulevard; proceed south along the centerline of the eastern lane of Babcock Boulevard to the intersection with Perrymont Road; proceed west along the centerline of Perrymont Road to the intersection with Perry Highway (US Route 19); proceed north along the centerline of Perry Highway (US Route 19) to the intersection with Old Perry Highway; proceed northwest along the centerline of Old Perry Highway to the intersection with Highland Road; proceed northwest along the centerline of Highland Road to the intersection with West Ingomar Road; proceed northwest along the centerline of West Ingomar Road to the intersection with the McCandless Township-Franklin Park Borough border; proceed north along the western McCandless Township border to the intersection with the Pine Township border; proceed north along the western Pine Township border to the intersection with the Marshall Township-Franklin Park Borough border; proceed west along the Marshall Township-Franklin Park Borough border to the intersection with the northbound lanes of Interstate 79; proceed north along the centerline of the northbound lanes of Interstate 79 to the intersection with the Allegheny County-Butler County border, the point of beginning.

This decree becomes effective at 12:01 AM on July 1, 2020, anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Finally, those who have the right may appeal this decree in accordance with the prescriptions of the law.

Given at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, this 22nd day of May, in the Year of Our Lord 2020.



+ David A. Zubik
Most Reverend David A. Zubik
Bishop of Pittsburgh

Ellen Mady
Ellen Mady
Chancellor