



DECREE

FOR THE GREATER HONOR AND GLORY OF GOD. AMEN.

Whereas before his Ascension Jesus instructed his followers to “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” (Mt 28:19) and from apostolic times this missionary work has led to the formation of communities of Christ’s faithful people;

and

Whereas I have recognized that the substantial growth on the far west side of San Antonio brings with it many pressing pastoral needs,

and

Whereas additional parishes capable of gathering missionary disciples in a culture of encounter need to be established in order to better meet the pastoral objectives of the Mutually Shared Vision for our local Church which, led by the Holy Spirit, I first proclaimed on the Feast of Pentecost in 2013 and renewed on the same feast in 2018,

and

Whereas the people of the Archdiocese of San Antonio have generously provided for the purchase of property at the intersection of Rousseau Street and Potranco Road to assist this new community in the development of a parish,

and

Whereas Mary is “our mother in the order of grace” (LG, 61) and I am confident to call upon her in this effort as Mary Mother of the Church, entrusting this new community to her maternal care,

and

Having heard the Presbyteral Council on this matter and having consulted with the pastors of the surrounding parishes,

Therefore, IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD’S HOLY PEOPLE, I, Gustavo García-Siller, a Missionary of the Holy Spirit, the sixth Archbishop of this local Church, in accord with the prescripts of Canon 518, *do hereby* DECREE the erection of a new territorial parish in San Antonio, Texas, effective this day. For this parish I prescribe the title **Mary Mother of the Church** and instruct the parish to keep the Monday after Pentecost each year as a Solemnity in her honor.

The new territorial parish shall be circumscribed by the following territorial boundaries:

Beginning at the intersection of U.S. Interstate Highway 90 and Loop 1604; Proceed west on Hwy. 90 to State Highway 211; North on S.H. 211 to Potranco Road; East on Potranco Rd. to Talley Road; North then north-northwest on Talley Road to Wiseman Road; Eastward on Wiseman Road to Loop 1604; North on Loop 1604 to State Highway 151; Southeast on S.H. 151 to Military Drive West; Westward on Military Dr. W. to N. Ellison Drive; South on N. Ellison Drive to Potranco Road; West on Potranco Road to Clover Creek, from that point follow a straight line due south to Marbach Road; West then southwest on Marbach Road to Loop 1604; South on Loop 1604 to Hwy. 90, the point of beginning. The dividing line, in all cases, is the center of roads, streets, creeks, railroads, etc.

All the Christian faithful who have domicile or quasi-domicile in the territory defined above are constituted as the stable community, Mary Mother of the Church Parish, erected by this decree.

A parish pastoral council (CIC, c. 536) and a parish finance council (CIC, c. 537) shall be established in Mary Mother of the Church Parish, according to the norms of universal and diocesan law.

Until such time as the parish church is built and dedicated, the sacraments may be celebrated in another fitting place as necessity requires (CIC, c. 932).

The parish shall have its own parochial registers (CIC, c. 535 §1-2) with entries beginning June 1, 2020, its own parish seal (CIC, c. 535 §3), and its own parish archives (CIC, c. 535§4).

The parish possesses juridic personality by the law itself (CIC, c. 515 §3) with all the rights, privileges, and obligations attached thereto. The administration of its temporal goods, under the governance of the Archbishop of San Antonio, is subject to the existing universal and diocesan laws, as well as any applicable civil laws.

I entrust Mary Mother of the Church Parish to the pastoral care of the Reverend Martin Jerome Francis Leopold, and assign him as their first pastor, conferring on him the obligations and rights afforded a parish pastor as prescribed in the Code of Canon Law. By this decree he is considered to have assumed canonical possession of the parish.

SIGNED AND SEALED in San Antonio, Texas on the 1st day of June, 2020, on the Monday after the Solemnity of Pentecost, the Feast of Mary Mother of the Church. *¡Ven Holy Spirit Ven!*



Most Reverend Gustavo García-Siller, M.Sp.S
Archbishop of San Antonio



Sister Jane Ann Slater, C.D.P.
Chancellor