



# THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

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## DECREE

Whereas, as it was deemed beneficial to consider information concerning the current conditions of two parishes sharing one pastor, and the pastoral needs of the people of these parishes; and

Whereas, the information concerning the condition of the parishes and the pastoral needs of its people demonstrated that:

- Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish, San Francisco, CA and Saint Monica Parish, San Francisco, CA have both experienced a significant decline in the number of parishioners over the past years;
- the declining membership and the financial and material conditions of two independent parishes calls into question the viability of two parishes;
- the merger of Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish, San Francisco, CA and Saint Monica Parish, San Francisco, CA will foster a viable, and more vibrant Catholic presence in the area currently being served by both parishes.

Whereas, the unification of the parishes would allow for stronger evangelization, faith formation, and financial stability, as well as effective administration and stewardship of the resources of both parishes; and

Whereas, although such a merger is sufficiently justified for the reasons related above, it also allows for a pastorally necessary allocation of limited resources and personnel, particularly priests; and

Whereas, both parish and finance councils have encouraged and endorsed this merger to their pastor; and

Whereas, the pastor of both parishes supports and endorses the councils' conclusions and has offered his support for said merger to me for consideration; and

Whereas, the pastor of these parishes addressed the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese to explain the reasoning for the merger and to offer his full support of the proposal; and

Whereas, I, on 20 October 2016, sought advice and counsel from the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese concerning the manner in which the pastoral needs of the people of Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish and Saint Monica Parish might be best addressed regarding the proposal to merge these two parishes; and

Whereas, the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese, after fully considering the issue, recommended by majority vote that Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish and Saint Monica Parish be merged into Saint Monica-Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish;

I, Salvatore Cordileone, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, having considered the pastor's recommendation and support along with the recommendation of the Archdiocesan Presbyteral Council, and having in mind my responsibility to best meet the spiritual needs of the people of Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish and Saint Monica Parish now hereby decree that:

1. Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish is to be merged with Saint Monica Parish, effective 1 January 2017.
2. The public juridic persons, Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish and Saint Monica Parish are to be extinguished on the same date.
3. Upon extinction of the public juridic persons and the unification of both into Saint Monica-Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish, all assets and liabilities shall immediately transfer to the new public juridic person of Saint Monica-Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish.
4. This decree is to be published to the pastor of Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish and Saint Monica Parish.
5. The parishioners of Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish and Saint Monica Parish are to be given notice of this decree upon its receipt by the pastor of the parishes. Copies of this decree are to be made available for inspection at the offices of both parishes; and the parishioners shall be given notice as soon as possible after its receipt by the pastor.
6. This decree is to be published in the Archdiocesan newspaper, *Catholic San Francisco*.
7. This decree is to be published to the website of the Archdiocese.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Archdiocese of San Francisco, on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of December 2016, Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Our Blessed Mother.



Most Reverend Salvatore Cordileone  
Archbishop of San Francisco



Reverend Monsignor C. Michael Padazinski  
Chancellor

