



Concordat Cum Originali

M. Theun

Notarius

18 Nov. 2025

Datum Hoc Die Detroiten.

DECREE

In the name of the Lord, Amen.

CS25-0199

Having received a request from the Reverend Michael Nkachukwu, former Pastor (*parochus*) responsible for Our Lady Queen of Heaven-Good Shepherd Parish and St. Raymond-Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, both territorial parishes in Detroit, Michigan, that these juridic persons be merged according to canon 121 of the Code of Canon Law;

Whereas the Reverend Francis Asomkase, S.S.J., the current Administrator of these parishes, has supported the request and work of his predecessor and has continued to engage with his parishioners on this proposal;

Whereas parishioners of these parishes have been informed of this proposed change, with their observations and concerns being solicited by their former pastor, current administrator, and archdiocesan curia staff;

Whereas the Presbyteral Council, having been consulted on September 9, 2025, in accord with canon 515 §2, advises in favor of the request;

Whereas, having determined there to be just reasons for such action, namely: Mass attendance has declined by approximately 25% at St. Raymond-Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish since 2021, while Our Lady Queen of Heaven-Good Shepherd Parish has seen only a slight increase in Mass attendance during the same time frame; other sacramental activity has been consistently low or non-existent at both parishes over the past five years; despite the small increase in Mass attendance at Our Lady Queen of Heaven-Good Shepherd Parish, neither the offertory nor other financial resources at either parish have been sufficient to meet the financial demands of the parishes, both running significant deficits and depleting their savings over the past five years; the parish leadership has identified that combining the resources of both parishes may help build a strong and viable parish that will be both cost effective and able to engage in the ministry of evangelization and neighborhood outreach;

Whereas, after having not found there to be acquired rights or donor intentions that in any way restrict this canonical action;

I, the Most Reverend EDWARD J. WEISENBURGER, Archbishop of Detroit, hereby decree that, in accord with canon 121, the juridic persons that are Our Lady Queen of Heaven-Good Shepherd Parish and St. Raymond-Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish be merged effective December 5, 2025. The new public juridic person is to be titled **St. Raymond-Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish** and is to have care of the following territory:

Our Lady Queen of Heaven-Good Shepherd Parish
St. Raymond-Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish

- N: West 8 Mile Road at Woodward Avenue east to Hoover Road, Hoover Road north to Sherman Avenue as extended west, Sherman Avenue as extended west east to Gentner Street, Gentner Street south to Allyn Avenue, Allyn Avenue east to Gratiot Avenue, Gratiot Avenue south to Bringard Drive, Bringard Drive east to Kelly Road, Kelly Road south to Huntington Avenue, Huntington Avenue east to Harper Avenue / Interstate 94
- E: Harper Avenue / Interstate 94 south to Moross Road, Moross Road west to Nottingham Road
- S: Nottingham Road south to Berkshire Street, Berkshire Street west to Outer Drive, Outer Drive west to Chalmers Street, Chalmers Street north to Flanders Street, Flanders Street east to Le Roy Street, Le Roy Street north to Houston Whittier Street, Houston Whittier Street east to Maccrary Street, Maccrary Street north to East 7 Mile Road, East 7 Mile Road west to Monarch Street, Monarch Street north to East State Fair, East State Fair west to Gratiot Avenue, Gratiot Avenue south to Pinewood Street, Pinewood Street west to Waltham Street, Waltham Street south to Gratiot Avenue, Gratiot Avenue south to Findlay Street, Findlay Street southwest to Connor Street, Connor Street south to Lynch Road as extended east, Lynch Road west to Van Dyke Avenue, Van Dyke Avenue north to East 7 Mile Road, East 7 Mile Road west to Helen Street, Helen Street north to East Lantz Street, East Lantz Street west to Healy Street, Healy Street south to East Nevada Street.
- W: East Nevada Street west to Canadian National Railroad, Canadian National Railroad northwest to West 7 Mile Road, West 7 Mile Road west to Woodward Avenue, Woodward Avenue north to West 8 Mile Road

The newly defined territorial parish will acquire all assets and obligations that now belong to Our Lady Queen of Heaven-Good Shepherd and St. Raymond-Our Lady of Good Counsel Parishes on December 5, 2025.

St. Raymond Church will be the parish church. Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church and St. Jude Church will be ancillary churches used by the merged parish. Both ancillary churches will be available for access by the faithful as the circumstances provide, and in which, at the discretion of the priests with care for the parish, the Church's sacraments and sacramentals may take place according to the norm of law.

No change is necessary to the assignment of the Administrator or Parochial Vicar to this newly defined parish since they hold said office for both parishes and succeed as Administrator and Parochial Vicar of the parish created by this change.

In accord with canon 54 and being attentive to canons 1732-1739 relating to hierarchical recourse, I direct the chancellor to communicate this decree to the Administrator responsible for Our Lady Queen of Heaven-Good Shepherd Parish and St. Raymond-Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, seeking his cooperation in notifying the parishioners of both of this decision, to publish the dispositive part of this decree on the Archdiocesan website pursuant to canon 8 §2, and to record that these steps have been taken in the Chancery archive.

Decree – Prot. N. CS25-0199
Our Lady Queen of Heaven-Good Shepherd Parish
St. Raymond-Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish

Given at Detroit, Michigan, on this fourteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord, two thousand twenty-five.

+ Edward J. Weisenburger
The Most Reverend EDWARD J. WEISENBURGER
Archbishop of Detroit

[Signature]
Notary

