



DECREE

In January 2011, I initiated the second phase of the “Renewing the Church in Perth Amboy Prayer and Discernment Process” (hereafter “Renewing the Church”) in order to address the increasingly difficult financial, demographic, and personnel challenges facing the city’s parishes. (The initial phase of “Renewing the Church,” completed in 2010, culminated in a pastoral partnership plan that addressed evangelization and social ministry within the Perth Amboy Deanery.) The goal of the most recent “Renewing the Church” process was to recommend the creation of four strong parishes from among the existing nine parishes.

Participants in “Renewing the Church” included the pastors of Holy Spirit, Holy Trinity, La Asunción, Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Hungary, Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, St. Mary, and St. Stephen Parishes, Perth Amboy, Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, Hopelawn, and the Perth Amboy Deanery Council.

The task force met regularly for nine months and in October presented me with its recommendations. On November 7, 2011, in accordance with the prescriptions of canon 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, I received the advice of the presbyteral council concerning these recommendations. After prayerful consideration, I accept the committee’s recommendations and accordingly hereby decree:

- Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish and Holy Spirit Parish shall be suppressed effective July 1, 2012, the faithful and patrimony of each to combine to form a new parish on that same date. The name of the new parish shall be announced at a later date in a separate decree. The territory of the new parish shall comprise the territory formerly assigned to Holy Spirit Parish. The new parish shall also be responsible for ministering to the particular needs of the city’s Catholics of Italian heritage.
- Holy Trinity Parish, La Asunción Parish, and Our Lady of Hungary Parish shall be suppressed effective July 1, 2012, the faithful and patrimony of each to combine to form a new parish on that same date. The name of the new parish shall be announced at a later date in a separate decree. The new parish shall also be responsible for ministering to the particular needs of the city’s Catholics of Hispanic, Hungarian, and Slovak heritage.
- Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima Parish, St. Mary Parish, and St. Stephen Parish shall be suppressed effective July 1, 2012, the faithful and patrimony of each to combine to form a new parish on that same date. The name of the new parish shall be announced at a later date in a separate decree. The new parish shall also be responsible for ministering to the particular needs of the city’s Catholics of Polish and Portuguese heritage.
- Also effective on July 1, 2012, the patrimony of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima Parish, Perth Amboy, shall be equitably divided between the new parish mentioned in the preceding paragraph and Corpus Christi Parish, South River, which will assume responsibility for the pastoral needs of Portuguese Catholics in south central Middlesex County.
- Finally, the status of Our Lady of Fatima Parish shall not change.

Given at the Curia of the Diocese of Metuchen, on this 30th day of December, in the Year of Our Lord 2011, the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.



Most Reverend Paul G. Bootkoski
Bishop of Metuchen

Notary