

THE HILARION

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Office of the Archbishop
835 North Rush Street
Chicago, Illinois 60511
312.534.8230
archchicago.org

Prot. N. 2020 RMC-6

DECREE IN THE NAME OF GOD. AMEN.

'Likewise, parishes which are too small should be united insofar as the situation demands it and circumstances permit.' St. Paul VI, Apostolic Letter *motu proprio*, *Ecclesiae Sanctae*, n. 21, (1), August 6, 1966

Changing demographics have affected the size and wealth of the Archdiocese of Chicago and the vitality of her parishes. This is particularly true in the City of Chicago itself, where the total population has decreased by nearly 20% since 1970, from 3,366,957 to an estimated 2,705,994 in 2018. The archdiocese has many vacant, old, and underused parochial buildings and fewer priests to pastor our faith communities.

According to the US Census Bureau, the Archdiocese of Chicago had an estimated total population of 5,881,250 in 2018. The 2018 *Annuario Pontificio* indicates our archdiocese had 345 parishes serving a Catholic population of 2,512,000: an average of 7,281 Catholics per parish. According to the same source, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles had a total population of 11,519,517, with 287 parishes for a Catholic population of 4,362,000: an average of 15,199 Catholics per parish. For the Archdiocese of New York, the figures are 2,656,987 Catholics in 294 parishes: an average 9,037 Catholics per parish. A good number of our parishes were founded in the first half of the last century or earlier. Many were established for national, linguistic, or ethnic groups that no longer live in the archdiocese or in the neighborhoods where they once flourished.

Too many of our parishes have been unable to support themselves and have been receiving financial subsidies from the archdiocese. From fiscal year 2012 through fiscal year 2019 the Archdiocese of Chicago provided \$160,014,332.00 in support to parishes and Catholic schools: \$40,039,909.00 to 115 parishes and \$119,974,423.00 to 93 Catholic schools. This was entirely due to the generosity of the people of the archdiocese and other donors. The archdiocese cannot and should not continue this level of financial support for parishes and Catholic schools that are struggling and supported by populations that have been decreasing. Instead, our mission is to reconfigure our parishes to become more vital, that is, active centers of Christian discipleship, evangelical mission, scholarship, and charitable outreach. To achieve this hope, the parishes must have a growing or stable membership and the capacity to support themselves when possible.

Five years ago, inspired by the experience of St. Francis of Assisi before the cross of the ruined church of San Damiano, and by the Holy Father's dream of "a missionary option ... capable of transforming everything" (Pope Francis, *Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium*, n. 27, (Continued on Page 2)

Divine Mercy Sunday - April 19, 2020

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November 24, 2013), I announced the inauguration Renew My Church (RMC), a multi-year process aimed at obtaining and preserving the vitality of our parishes. It has been my intention that every parish of the Archdiocese of Chicago join with some of its neighbors and plan together for the future. Careful planning will create a menu of possible options for the future. We are identifying parishes likely to be reconfigured through pastoral coordination with neighboring parishes, divisions, unions, and other significant alterations.

This decree concerns two of the four parishes of the less than three square miles of the Lincoln Square Grouping on the Northside of the City of Chicago. The four parishes of the grouping are St. Matthias Parish (founded in 1887 for German-speaking faithful), 2310 West Ainslie Street, Chicago, Illinois 60625-1906; Queen of Angels Parish (founded in 1909), 4412 North Western Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60625-2138; Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish (founded in 1911 for Polish-speaking faithful), 2609 West Carmen Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60625-2701; and St. Hilary Parish (founded in 1926), 5600 North Fairfield Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60659-4817.

Throughout 2019, the pastoral leadership and lay representatives from the four parishes met to consider the future vitality of their area of the archdiocese. The Grouping Team presented a Community Engagement and Planning Feedback Summary to the Archdiocesan Standards and Recommendations Commission, a group formed by lay and ordained representatives from across the archdiocese. With respect to Transfiguration of the Lord Parish and St. Hilary Parish the Commission proposed that they be extinguished as separate juridic persons and, with the territory of St. Hilary Parish and some territory taken from Queen of Angels Parish, united to form a single new territorial parish. The proposal is supported by the data and arguments mentioned herein or attached to this decree. Significant is the 54% decline in Sunday Mass attendance over the past 20 years at St. Hilary Parish combined with only 6% increase in attendance at Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish. The total recent Sunday Mass attendance has been 888 at St. Hilary Parish and 767 at Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish. Next to English, the predominant language used for ministry in the two parishes is Spanish. Mass is also offered in Tagalog at Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish, where there is no longer a needed ministry to Polish-speaking Catholics. The operating income of the two parishes in fiscal year 2018 was \$673,077.00 at St. Hilary Parish and \$287,434.00 at Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish, neither reaching the minimum of \$750,000.00 believed necessary for long term parochial vitality. Extinctive union of the two parishes will result in a parish of approximately one and one-half square miles and considerable savings, providing an economic benefit for use in parish operations and evangelical activity.

THEREFORE, know that I, Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago, according to the norms of canon 50, canon 127 §§1 & 3, canon 166, and canon 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, have before me the **proposal that St. Hilary Parish and Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish, both on the Northside of the City of Chicago, be extinguished as separate juridic persons and united to form a single new juridic person, a territorial parish within the territory of St. Hilary Parish and some territory taken from Queen of Angels Parish to the South.** Further, know that I convened the (Continued on Page 3)

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Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Chicago on November 5, 2019, at St. Monica Parish, Chicago, Illinois. There, after hearing the Presbyteral Council, receiving Its vote of 35 for the proposal and none opposed, I accepted the Presbyteral Council's advice and now, invoking the Holy Spirit, decree the following:

1. Effective July 1, 2020, the above-mentioned St. Hilary Parish and Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish will be extinguished as separate juridic persons and united to form a single new juridic person, a territorial parish to be known as **Saint Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) Parish**;

2. The missions of the two extinguished parishes will be subsumed completely into that of the new Saint Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) Parish;

3. Each and all the parishioners of the two extinguished parishes and the faithful residing within the territorial boundaries of the new parish will be parishioners of the new Saint Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) Parish;

4. The territory of the new Saint Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) Parish will be the territory of the extinguished St. Hilary Parish combined with some territory taken from Queen of Angels Parish, namely the territory within these boundaries:

Start at Peterson Avenue and North Shore Channel Waterway,
East on south side of Peterson Avenue to Western Avenue,
South on west side of Western Avenue to Foster Avenue,
West on north side of Foster Avenue to Lincoln Avenue,
South on west side of Lincoln Avenue to Lawrence Avenue,
West on north side of Lawrence Avenue to North Shore Channel Waterway,
North on east side of North Shore Channel Waterway to Peterson Avenue.

5. Subject to the Intention of founders and donors, and with due regard for any acquired rights, the goods and patrimonial rights of the two former parishes, together with any obligations with which they may be burdened, will become those of the new Saint Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) Parish (see canon 121);

6. The churches of the former St. Hilary Parish and Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish will be churches of the new Saint Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) Parish, retaining their own titles, and St. Hilary Church will be the parish church of the new parish;

7. The documents given to the Presbyteral Council on this matter, together with the minutes of the Council meeting of November 5, 2019, are to be attached to this decree and will be available upon request;

8. The sacramental records and other materials relevant to historical research pertaining to the two former parishes will be collected and maintained at the St. Hilary Church campus, unless otherwise determined by the expert staff of the Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Archives and Records Center of the Archdiocese of Chicago;

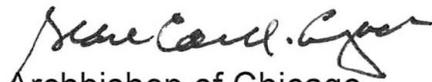
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9. Notification of this decree will be given immediately to the pastoral leadership of St. Hilary Parish, Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish, and Queen of Angels Parish, in the Northside of the City of Chicago, and to the parishioners of the each of these three parishes. Publication will be made through the parish bulletins, and generally on the archdiocesan website.

Before hierarchical recourse (appeal) may be taken against this decree, a written, signed, and dated petition to reconsider or amend the decree must be delivered to me within ten (10) useful days from notification of the decree (CIC cc. 1734, 1735, 1737).

Given this 3rd day of April, AD 2020
from Holy Name Cathedral,
Chicago, Illinois


Archbishop of Chicago




Chancellor

If you are able to donate your regular contributions, it would be greatly appreciated. Although there are no scheduled Masses as a precaution during this coronavirus shut-down, we still need to meet payroll, pay for utilities, and take care of some bills that are due. Remember that you may use the online portals (ACH & Give Central) or use your envelopes with cash/check which can be mailed to St. Hilary Church, 5600 N. Fairfield, 60659 or dropped in the mail slot at the rectory front door.

Don't forget to help your fellow parishioners in whatever way you can. For those who are not aware of or don't know how to access our bulletins online, perhaps you can let them know what is happening or can help them learn how to access the website or Facebook themselves.

We are praying for you. Please pray for us also as we try to keep the parish informed and running as smoothly as possible.



Monday 4/20 - Sunday 4/26

**WE ASK ALL OUR PARISHIONERS
TO PRAY THE FOLLOWING PRAYER EVERY DAY
WHEREVER YOU MAY BE AT 8:30am
SO WE WILL BE ONE IN SPIRIT WITH GOD
AND EACH OTHER.**

Jesus, I present to You my soul and my body. I trust You, Lord and Creator of the universe. You are Life; You are Hope; You are the Resurrection from death. You, Lord, are the Health of the sick.

Lord, I turn to You, imploring Your divine help. Intervene with Your saving power and protect us from the Coronavirus epidemic. Strengthen my immune system, and protect my body and those of my loved ones from the virus and other infectious diseases.

We are the sheep of Your flock and You are our Good Shepherd. I trust in Your great love and in Your benevolence. Already now, I say to You with deep faith: thank You, Jesus, for all that You will do for me, my loved ones, and for each of us.

Deign to heal those who are already suffering from Coronavirus, and give them the strength to fight this virus and the tenacity to overcome it. Lord Jesus, You who took upon Yourself our pains and for Your holy wounds through which we were healed, grant us life, life in abundance. I ask You, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, Your mother and our mother, the one who was at Your feet at the cross, for help at this difficult time.

I thank You, Lord, with all my heart, for the Coronavirus patients You are healing with Your great compassion and mercy. Give comfort to those who have been called to the house of the heavenly Father and to their family and friends.

Padre Pio, I turn to you with this prayer to ask for your protection from the Coronavirus. Let those who have fallen ill all over the world hope for recovery, regain their health, and grow in faith. Padre Pio, illuminate the minds of researchers and scientists. Guide their minds and hands so they can find an effective Coronavirus preventative vaccine and cure. Extend your blessing on them. Padre Pio, give strength to doctors and nurses who work in hospitals so they may treat the coronavirus patients with compassion and wisdom. Make them recognize Jesus in every patient. Amen.

Each day at 8:30 AM,
when the prayer on the left is prayed,
Fr. Tom will light a candle in the church
for all your intentions.



Rest in Peace 

*All powerful God,
Whose mercy is never withheld
from those who call upon You in hope,
look kindly on Your servants*

**JOHN ANICHINI
LARRY MOSER
RICHARD G. KLEIN**



*who departed this life
confessing Your name,
and number them among Your saints
forevermore.*

Mass from Mercy Home for Boys & Girls
Sunday Mornings 9:30 AM WGN-TV Channel 9

Masses from St. Hilary Church
on our Website: <https://church.sthilarychicago.org/>
on YouTube: St. Hilary Church
on Facebook: St. Hilary Parish



Shut-ins

Please remember in your prayers those in the hospital or recovering at home, those suffering with a terminal illness, our shut-ins and those in nursing homes, our relatives and friends who are ill, especially: **Katherine & Maria Kim,**

Linda Newton, Joan Cowen, Rick Omandam, Patricia Jalove, Fred (Jay) Austin, Dina Nicolini, Belinda Lacson dela Fuente, Claudia Alvarez, Mary Anne Luby, Mark Dobrzynski, Paul Littlepage, Dcn. Don Wehling, Donna Kunicki, Ted Primbas, Flora Barros, William Reynolds, Brian Slowinski, Mary Lou & Andy Lee, Nina Bustos

**Also, Please Remember
Our Troops
In Your Prayers.**





Monday, April 20

Weekday

8:30 AM For All Who Have Died from the Coronavirus

Tuesday, April 21

St. Anselm, bishop & Doctor of the Church

8:30 AM For All Those Who Are Ill from the Coronavirus

Wednesday, April 22

Weekday

8:30 AM † Michael Farrelly (Death Anniv) by the Mary Lou Miller Family

Thursday, April 23

St. George, martyr

St. Adalbert, bishop & martyr

8:30 AM † Josephine Martinez (Death Anniv) by Donna Makowski

Friday, April 24

St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, priest & martyr

8:30 AM For All Whose Lives Are Affected by the Coronavirus

Saturday, April 25

St. Mark, evangelist

8:30 AM For Those Who Are Out of Work Due to the Coronavirus

Vigil: 3rd Sunday of Easter

5:00 PM † Mary Mikkelsen & Peter Mikkelsen by Bob

† Purita, Antonio & Peping Espectacion by Sally Espectacion

Sunday, April 26

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

8:00 AM † Dominga O. Degillo (BR) by Vilma Gieske

10:00 AM For the Good Health, Patience & Steadfast Hope of All Our Parishioners

12:00 PM † Zoilo & Vicenta Gutierrez by Family † Dionisio & Maria Encarnado by Family

ALL MASS INTENTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED FOR THIS WEEK WILL BE REMEMBERED BY FR. ALOY AND FR. TOM IN THEIR PRIVATE MASSES. If you have an intention that you would like included in the priests' Masses until regular Masses are once again available, email Fr. Aloy at fraloy@sthilarychicago.org



When you are unable to receive Holy Communion sacramentally, say the Act of Spiritual Communion:

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this time receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.



Amen.



Fr. Tom, Fr. Fernando & Fr. Aloy celebrating the Holy Thursday Mass videotaped at St. Hilary Church

REFLECTION

Holy Humor Sunday

Officially this Sunday after Easter is Divine Mercy Sunday. In recent times it has also been called Holy Humor Sunday. It is a continuation of the Eastertime custom of telling jokes that laugh at the devil who had death stolen from him by the Resurrection of Jesus.

Certainly our daily life under the cloud of the coronavirus pandemic can generate anxiety and fear. Now that we are officially St. Padre Pio Parish, let's turn to our new saint companion for some encouragement for living through these difficult times.

Even with his poor health and frequent pain, Padre Pio was reported to be a person of joy, good humor, and jokes. I suspect that Padre Pio could laugh even in adversity because he lived out his prayer: "My past, O Lord, to Your mercy; my present to Your love; my future to Your providence."

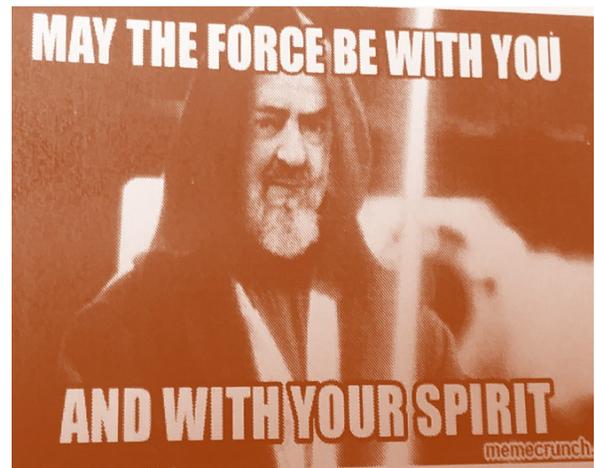
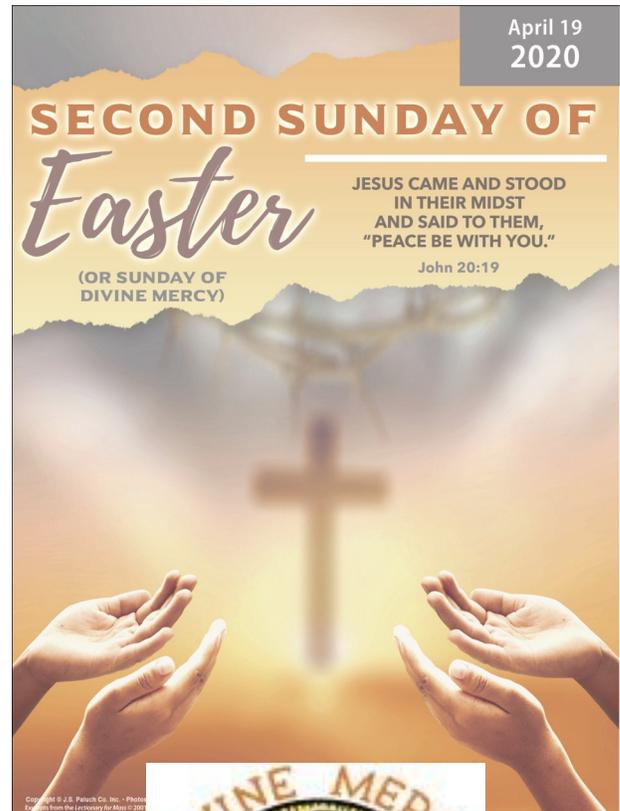
On one occasion, Fr. Eusebio Notte, who lived with Padre Pio was observing a surgery at a nearby hospital. Complication arose. The doctor looked worried. Fr. Eusebio began to pray with great fervor to Padre Pio, begging him to intercede. The patient's condition did not improve. Fr. Eusebio continued to pray to Padre Pio with even greater intensity. Finally, the crisis passed and the patient was out of danger. Returning to the monastery Fr. Eusebio said, "Thank you so much, Padre Pio, for interceding and for answering my prayers." "I did not have much of a choice," Padre Pio answered. "You deafened me!"

This was one of Padre Pio's favorite jokes: A poor peasant was traveling on a train to Naples. A bishop ended up sitting next to him. Before long a storm erupted outside and the peasant stared out the window, watching and listening, seemingly unafraid, as the wind, rain, thunder, and lightning ripped across the Italian countryside and sky. It seemed as if the devil himself had taken charge and was punishing the earth. As the rain beat against the train windows and the lightning flashed outside and the thunder rumbled above the train roof, the bishop, obviously alarmed and terribly afraid, said to the peasant, "It looks as if we are going to Hell!" The poor peasant, unafraid of the weather or death or even of the powerful bishop, said, "I feel sorry for you. You must only have a one-way ticket. I have a return ticket."

Fr. Tom Libera

TODAY'S READINGS

1st Reading: Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47
2nd Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9
Gospel: John 20:19-31



ST. HILARY PARISH

California and Bryn Mawr Avenues – Chicago, Illinois 60659

FOR GOD AND HIS PEOPLE

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

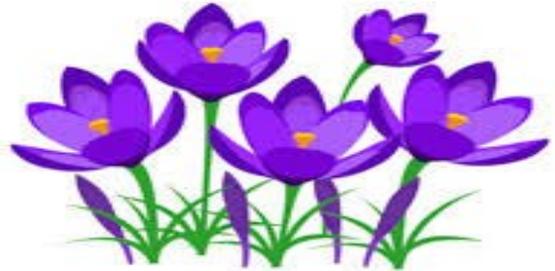
THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF SAINT HILARY IS A ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO. OUR MISSION IS TO KNOW CHRIST THROUGH PRAYER AND EXPERIENCE AND TO MAKE CHRIST KNOWN TO ALL. Approved 6/22/11 by the Parish Pastoral Council Steering Committee

**THE ADORATION CHAPEL
IS NO LONGER OPEN AT ANYTIME.
THE CHURCH IS COMPLETELY LOCKED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

**BULLETINS MAY BE ACCESSED ONLINE AT
www.sthilarychicago.org
PRINTED COPIES OF BACK BULLETINS
WILL BE HELD & WILL BE
AVAILABLE WHEN OUR CHURCH
& RECTORY REOPEN.**

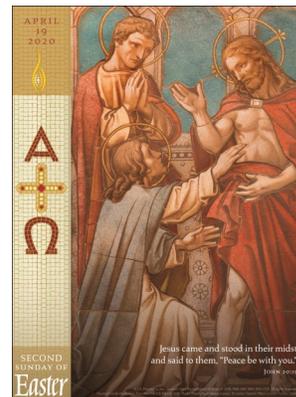
**BLESSED PALM WILL ALSO
BE AVAILABLE WHEN THE CHURCH
& RECTORY REOPEN.**

**THE PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**



RECONCILIATION & HOLY COMMUNION

During the Coronavirus restrictions, arrangements must be made with one of the priests by calling the Parish Office at (773) 561-3474.



BAPTISMS are usually celebrated in **English** during the Sunday 12:00 noon Mass and in **Spanish** during the 1:30 PM Sunday Mass. Instructions for parents and godparents are required. Arrangements must be made in advance. Please call the Parish Office, 9 am - 5 pm, Monday - Friday. To schedule a time for the Baptism and the Preparation Class, you will be referred to Deacon Ramirez. .

Arrangements for **MARRIAGES** must be made at least four months in advance. Please call the Parish Office, 9 AM – 5 PM, Monday – Friday for more information.

NO MATTER WHAT YOUR PRESENT STATUS IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH - NO MATTER WHAT YOUR CURRENT FAMILY OR MARITAL SITUATION - NO MATTER WHAT YOUR PAST OR PRESENT RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION - NO MATTER WHAT YOUR PERSONAL HISTORY, AGE, BACKGROUND, RACE OR COLOR - NO MATTER WHAT YOUR OWN SELF-IMAGE OR ESTEEM - YOU ARE INVITED, WELCOMED, ACCEPTED, LOVED AND RESPECTED HERE AT ST. HILARY PARISH!

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**THEY HELP DEFRAY
THE COSTS
OF PRINTING
THIS BULLETIN.**

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parish, then bulletin, then click on the issue you
are seeking.

