



DECREE OF EXTINGUISHIVE UNION

FOR

VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH IN TACOMA

To Our Brothers and Sisters of the Archdiocese of Seattle:

Whereas, Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Tacoma (Visitation Parish) was established in 1892 to provide for the needs of the Catholic faithful in the area; and

Whereas, the Pierce Deanery initiated a planning process in 2015 to ensure that parish structures are oriented toward mission and “capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation.” (*Evangelii gaudium*, 27); and

Whereas, the results of a review concerning the condition of the parish, the vitality of its ministries, the efficacy of its outreach and evangelization efforts, and the pastoral needs of its people demonstrated that:

- a considerable and consistent decrease in Mass attendance can be observed over the past two decades, from a peak of 775 Sunday Mass attendees in 2001 to 278 in 2019; from 2015 to 2019, the parish saw Mass attendance drop from 395 to 278 attendees
- a general downward trend with regard to the reception of sacraments and a lack of catechetical formation at the parish points to the need to revitalize a sense of missionary discipleship to ensure a robust community into the future
- the parish is in close proximity to multiple other parishes in the Tacoma area, and primarily serves families living within the territorial boundaries of the surrounding parishes
- the parish has a history of partnering with its surrounding parishes, previously sharing parish staff resources with Holy Rosary Parish in Tacoma
- a merger with the nearby St. Ann Parish and St. Rita of Cascia Parish would create a stronger community of the faithful for worship, ministry, and outreach
- the parish school is a vital ministry of the parish and a merger with St. Ann Parish and St. Rita of Cascia Parish would provide for the further development of the school

- the community is facing a difficult financial situation with parish income in decline, while multiple building renovations are on hold due to lack of funding, including earthquake-preparedness updates

Therefore, having considered the necessary information and proofs; having heard, in accordance with canon 50, all those whose rights might be injured, in particular through listening sessions with parishioners on December 9, 2020 and February 16, 2021; having heard the Presbyteral Council, in accordance with canon 515 §2, on March 10, 2022; and with due consideration for the good of souls; I, the undersigned Archbishop of Seattle do hereby decree the following:

1. By means of an extinctive union, Visitation Parish in Tacoma shall be conjoined with St. Ann Parish in Tacoma and St. Rita of Cascia Parish so that a new juridic person is constituted, in accordance with canon 121. The name of this new public juridic person shall be Pope St. John XXIII Parish.
2. The intentions of the founders and donors regarding the temporal goods and patrimonial rights proper to the extinct Visitation Parish will be respected. In addition, the patrimonial goods, rights, and obligations of the extinct Visitation Parish are to be defined and allocated in accordance with the norm of law. (cc. 121, 1267 §3)
3. The primary worship site for Pope St. John XXIII Parish will be the church at 7025 S Park Avenue in Tacoma.
4. All sacramental registers of the extinct Visitation Parish are to be properly preserved and safeguarded by Pope St. John XXIII Parish in accordance with the norm of law.
5. Henceforth, the boundaries of Pope St. John XXIII Parish shall be as follows:
 - North: Beginning at the intersection of 67th Ave W and Cirque Dr W, proceed east on Cirque Dr W as it becomes 56th St W and S 56th St to S Tyler Street,
 - thence north on S Tyler Street to the intersection with State Route 16,
 - thence east along State Route 16 to S Union Ave,
 - thence north on S Union Ave to 19th St,
 - thence east on S 19th St to S Cedar St,
 - thence north on S Cedar St to S 12th St,
 - thence east on S 12th St to S Cushman Ave,
 - thence south on S Cushman Ave to S 25th St,
 - thence east on S 25th St to I-705,
 - thence north on I-705 to Puyallup Ave,
 - thence east on Puyallup Ave to the Puyallup River.
 - East: Southeast following the Puyallup River to the eastern Tacoma City limits,
 - thence south on the eastern Tacoma City limits to Pioneer Way E

- thence southeast on Pioneer Way E to its intersection with Canyon Road E,
- thence south on Canyon Road E to 72nd St E
- thence east on 72nd St E to Woodland Ave E,
- thence south on Woodland Ave E to 128th St E.
- South: West on 128th St E as it becomes 129th St E to Pacific Ave S/State Rte 7.
- thence north on Pacific Ave S to 108th St S,
- thence west on 108th St S as it becomes Sales Rd S,
- thence northwest on Sales Rd S to the intersection with Steele St S
- thence south on Steele St S to Perimeter Rd.
- thence west on Perimeter Rd to the boundary of JBLM/McChord Field,
- thence following the boundary of the airfield (McChord Field in JBLM), continue west on 112th St SW to Union Ave SW/S Tacoma Way.
- West: North on Union Ave SW/S Tacoma Way to S 80th St extended,
- thence west on S 80th St extended along the current Tacoma city boundaries to 51st Ave SW,
- thence north along city limits (51st Ave SW extended) to S 74th St,
- thence west and southwest on 74th St W/Custer Rd W to its intersection with 75th St W,
- thence west on 75th St W to Bridgeport Way W,
- thence northwest on Bridgeport Way W to 67th Ave W,
- thence north on 67th Ave W to Cirque Dr W, the point of beginning.
- All boundaries above are exclusive of the territory assigned to Sacred Heart Parish.

6. This decree becomes effective on July 1, 2022.

7. This decree is to be communicated to the pastor of Visitation Parish, who will notify his parishioners as soon as possible upon receipt. It may be challenged within the peremptory time limit of ten useful days from the legitimate notification of the decree and in accordance with the norm of law (c. 1734 §2). Any initial recourse is to be sent to the Archbishop of Seattle at 710 9th Avenue Seattle, Washington, 98104.

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the chancery
of the Archdiocese of Seattle
this 6th day of May
in the year of our Lord 2022.



Most Reverend Paul D. Etienne, DD, STL
Archbishop of Seattle

Benjamin Altenhofen
Chancellor