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TIMOTHY MICHAEL DOLAN

Cardinal Priest of the Holy Roman Church

of the Title of Nostra Signora di Guadalupe a Monte Mario

By the Grace of God and the Apostolic See

ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK

DECREE

ERECTING THE PERSONAL PARISH OF SAINT JOHN HENRY NEWMAN FOR THE PASTORAL CARE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN NEW YORK, WITH APPROVAL OF THE FIRST STATUTES OF SAID PERSONAL PARISH

Whereas bishops “feed their sheep in the name of the Lord by fulfilling their office of teaching, sanctifying and governing them” and “pursue their apostolic work as witnesses of Christ to all people” (cf. Vatican II, Decree on the pastoral office of Bishops in the Church *Christus Dominus*, October 28, 1965, n. 11);

Whereas the parish is “pre-eminent among all the other communities present in his Diocese, for which the Bishop has primary responsibility: it is with the parishes above all that he must be concerned” (Pope Saint John Paul II, post-synodal apostolic exhortation *Pastores gregis*, October 16, 2003, n. 45) and whereas the parish “remains the fundamental unit in the daily life of the Diocese” (ibid.);

Whereas “the parish is not an outdated institution” and “continues to be the Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters”, provided it “does not become a useless structure out of touch with people or a self-absorbed group made up of a chosen few”, but on the contrary is “a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach” (cf. Pope Francis, apostolic exhortation *Evangelii gaudium*, November 24, 2013, n. 28);

Whereas the Bishop should proceed, after consulting the diocesan presbyteral council, to alter territorial boundaries, to divide parishes that are too large, to merge small parishes, to establish new parishes or non-territorial centers for pastoral service in the community, or even to reorganize completely the arrangement of parishes within a particular city if the good of the faithful so requires, and whereas the Bishop may wish to set up a diocesan office or commission that can operate in collaboration with other relevant diocesan commissions in order to study all the issues pertaining to the establishment of parishes and the construction of churches (see Congregation for Bishops, Directory for the Pastoral Ministry of Bishops *Apostolorum Successores*, February 22, 2004, n. 214);

Whereas the existing parish structure of the archdiocese was largely established between the mid-19th to mid-20th centuries;

Whereas, from 2004 through 2009, our beloved predecessor, His Eminence, Edward Cardinal Egan, initiated a study about the future of the parishes in the Archdiocese of New York and made several decisions as a result thereof, and whereas, after my appointment as Archbishop in 2009, a multi-year pastoral planning process, *Making All Things New*, was undertaken to continue strengthening and enhancing parish life in the Archdiocese of New York and to assist the archdiocese in serving its Catholic faithful most effectively, and whereas this pastoral planning process, which had its beginnings in 2010, sought the input and suggestions of parishioners, the leadership of religious orders of women and men, and the clergy, leading to a restructuring and reinforcing of the above mentioned parish structure;

Whereas the pastoral care at Columbia University in the City of New York requires our special attention, and whereas several proposals have been made, and whereas the option of the erection of a personal parish has been suggested;

Whereas on September 28, 2023, I consulted the presbyteral council about the possible erection of a personal parish for the pastoral care at Columbia University in New York City;

Therefore, I, the undersigned Archbishop of New York, have decided as follows:

DECREE

1. The personal parish of Saint John Henry Newman for the pastoral care at Columbia University in New York City is herewith erected.
2. The canonical statutes of the newly erected personal parish, attached to this decree, are herewith approved, recognized and promulgated.

3. The church of Notre Dame, in the parish of Corpus Christi and Notre Dame, is herewith designated as the parish church of the newly erected personal parish. Since the church is owned by the parish of Corpus Christi and Notre Dame, an agreement will be made between the newly erected personal parish and the parish of Corpus Christi and Notre Dame about the use of the church.


This decree is effective immediately. At the same time, I order this decree to be made public to all the faithful through its publication on this day on the website of the Archdiocese. This publication on the website will be the legitimate notification. A notarized copy of the decree will be sent to the pastor, and an announcement will be made in the Archdiocesan digital newsroom.

All those who claim to have been aggrieved by this decree are herewith notified that, if they desire to file recourse against our decree, they are required, *ad validitatem*, to submit a petition in the sense of canon 1734 §1 to us within ten useful days from the legitimate notification of this decree.

Given at the Chancery, New York, NY, this 28th day of September 2023, Optional Memorial of Saint Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, Martyrs.



Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York



John P. Cahill
Chancellor