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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

ON THE BOUNDARIES OF THE TERRITORIAL PARISH OF SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST, NEW YORK, NY

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” (St 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 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 centres 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 (cf. Congregation for Bishops, Directory for the Pastoral Ministry of Bishops *Apostolorum Successores*, February 22, 2004, n. 214);

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;

Whereas, after our 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;

Whereas the initial work consisted in surveying the parishioners of every parish of the archdiocese; meeting with priests, deacons, and religious throughout the archdiocese; consulting with the archdiocesan pastoral council; and reviewing my own observations from my own extensive parish visits since my 2009 appointment as archbishop;

Whereas, albeit not mandatory in this matter, I also consulted with the Archdiocesan Finance Council;

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

Whereas an archdiocesan advisory council was established, comprised of 40 clergy, religious men and women, and the faithful from across the archdiocese to coordinate, receive, review and recommend any proposed changes to the parish structure;

Whereas a recommendation was given to change the boundaries of the territorial parish of Saint John the Evangelist, 348 East 55 Street, New York, New York, to better reflect the pastoral realities;

After having heard the presbyteral council on June 30 and July 1, 2014, and again on October 28, 2014;

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

DECREE

The boundaries of the territorial parish of Saint John the Evangelist are as follows:

- N. Second Avenue at 63rd Street, west on 63rd (south side) to Third Avenue
Second Avenue at 59th Street, east on 59th Street (south side) to the East River
- E. South on the East River to 49th Street
- S. West on 49th Street (north side) to Third Avenue.
- W. North on Third Avenue (east side) to 63rd Street

A copy of this decree will be given to the pastor of Saint John the Evangelist. Likewise, since territory has been taken from the parish of Saint Vincent Ferrer, a copy of the decree will also be given to the pastor of said parish.

This decree will be effective immediately.

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 April, 2016.



Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York



Rev. Msgr. Greg Mustaciuolo
Chancellor