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DAVID MICHAEL O'CONNELL, C.M., D.D., J.C.D.

By the Grace of God and Favor of the Apostolic See

Bishop of Trenton

DECREE

for the Merging via
Extinctive Union of

Church of St Jerome, West Long Branch and St. Mary Church, Deal
into a new parish named
**Parish of Our Lady of Hope,
West Long Branch, New Jersey**

Following the completion of a Diocesan-wide planning process known as *Faith In Our Future* involving representatives from each parish, recommendations were made to a Diocesan Planning Commission consisting of Clergy and Lay representatives. The final recommendations of the Commission were evaluated through the episcopal consultation with the Diocesan Presbyteral Council, Consultors, Episcopal Council, Curia and the priests of the Diocese. Through this process, a proposal was initiated and accepted to merge by extinctive union the parish of St. Jerome and the parish of St. Mary.

The following just causes support this proposal:

1. To canonically establish the already existing natural union and sacramental practices among the faithful of the parishes;
2. To better provide for the pastoral needs of the faithful who reside within the adjoining territories of the Church of St. Jerome in West Long Branch and St. Mary Church in Deal;
3. To provide for a better stewardship of resources;
4. To provide for the optimum use of clergy, religious, and lay personnel;
5. To promote the vitality of parish life in the area.

Accordingly, in virtue of the prescriptions of canon 121 and canon 515 of the *Code of Canon Law*, in order to provide more effectively for the spiritual welfare of the faithful and the salvation of souls, having judged that sufficient and just causes are present, and having consulted the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Trenton in accord with Canon 515, §2, I hereby

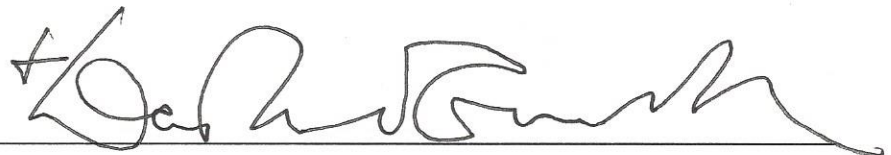
DECREE

1. That the parishes of the Church of St. Jerome, West Long Branch and St. Mary Church, Deal, New Jersey be altered and merged by an extinctive union into a new parish;
2. That the name of the parish will be known as the Parish of Our Lady of Hope, West Long Branch, New Jersey;
3. That this territorial parish will serve the needs of those who reside in the parish territory;
4. The territorial boundaries are as follows:
 - North: From the intersection of Route 35 and Route 36, along Route 36, northeast to the Long Branch municipal line;**
 - East: South along the Long Branch municipal line to Wall Street, then east along Wall Street to Norwood Avenue, south along Norwood Avenue to Lincoln Avenue; Lincoln Avenue east to the Atlantic Ocean; south along the ocean to Deal Lake;**
 - South: Deal Lake, following the northern boundary of Interlaken to Corlies Avenue (West Allenhurst), to Wickapecko Drive, then north to Roseld Avenue; southwest along Roseld to Lawrence Avenue, to Highway 35:**
 - West: Highway 35 from Lawrence Avenue to Route 36.**

5. That in addition to the residents of the parish territory, all the faithful who are currently registered members of the existing parishes will comprise the parish;
6. That the intention or will of the donors, as well as any acquired rights of each of the merging parishes have been examined and taken into consideration, especially with regard to the allocation of goods and the obligation of debts;
7. That St. Jerome Church and St. Mary Church will both continue to be utilized for the spiritual needs of the faithful as long as they are needed and the parish can allocate resources for their operation and maintenance;
8. That the goods belonging or assigned or given to the Church of St. Jerome and St. Mary Church, including patrimony, property, funds, gifts, grants and pious legacies, pious foundations, and any debts and obligations, shall be assigned to the new Our Lady of Hope Parish;
9. That the sacramental registers, death registers and matrimonial files of each of the parishes will be kept at the office of the Parish of Our Lady of Hope at 254 Wall Street, West Long Branch, New Jersey;
10. Finally, that the voluntary offerings of the faithful, as well as other gifts, grants, pious wills and pious foundations which have been or will be made to Church of St. Jerome and St. Mary Church constitute the revenue of the Parish of Our Lady of Hope.

This decree becomes effective on the 1st day of July 2018, prior to which it is to be communicated to the faithful in an appropriate manner. All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Trenton on the 15th day of May 2018.



✠ Most Reverend David Michael O'Connell, C.M., D.D., J.C.D.

Bishop of Trenton



Terry A. Ginther

Chancellor

(seal)