



DECREE

IN THE NAME OF GOD. AMEN.

St. Norbert Parish, 1809 Walters Avenue, Northbrook, Illinois 60062-4534, was originally established in 1894 as a mission of the Society of the Divine Word out of Techny, Illinois. The Divine Word Fathers led the Mission of the Holy Ghost until 1914. Under their care, the parish was dedicated to St. Norbert sometime before 1929. The parish eventually moved west into the municipality of Northbrook, and in 1953 groundbreaking began on the original school/chapel complex. At that time the pastoral care of the parish was given over to priests of the Archdiocese of Chicago and it expanded in size and scope until the new contemporary church was dedicated on May 2, 1965. Meanwhile, the parish school also grew, reaching its largest enrollment in the 1970s.

In 2003 there were 455 students in St. Norbert School, but the latest enrollment has dropped to 210. Average weekly Mass attendance at St. Norbert Church was 2030 in 2003, by 2015 it had fallen to 1353. Including the pastor, an associate pastor, and a religious education coordinator, the combined payroll of St. Norbert Parish and School was 82 employees in 2015.

From the territory of St. Norbert Parish, Our Lady of the Brook Parish, 3700 Dundee Road, Northbrook, Illinois 60062-2200, was established in 1968 to serve a growing Catholic population in the western part of Northbrook. From the beginning, it was planned that the parish would not have a parochial school of its own. Until recently the parish operated its own religious education program for children and young people. However, the parish religious education program was combined with that of St. Norbert Parish in 2012, one year after the parish youth ministry was merged with that of St. Norbert. The average weekly Mass attendance at Our Lady of the Brook Parish has fallen from 797 in 2003 to 335 in 2015. There were eight lay employees at Our Lady of the Brook in 2015. Our Lady of the Brook never built a separate church and has always held Mass and other liturgical celebrations in a multipurpose gathering space.

Beginning in 2014 the Reverend Robert P. Heinz has been pastor of both St. Norbert Parish and Our Lady of the Brook Parish. Under his leadership the administrative and fiscal combination of the two communities has continued. For two years there have been joint meetings of the two parish pastoral councils and the two finance councils. Early in 2017 the parish pastoral councils, with their pastor, petitioned that the two parishes be formerly merged under the title of St. Norbert and Our Lady of the Brook Parish: also to be known as The Catholic Community of Northbrook.

THEREFORE, know that I, Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago, according to the norm of canon 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, convened the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Chicago on March 21, 2017, at the O'Hare Campus of DePaul University, and through the Most Reverend Francis J. Kane, auxiliary bishop of Chicago and episcopal vicar for the concerned region, presented to the said Council a plan to reorganize the status of St. Norbert Parish and Our Lady of the Brook Parish, both in Northbrook, Illinois. After hearing the said Council at the meeting convened on May 11, 2017, also at the O'Hare Campus of DePaul University, I now



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decree the following:

1. St. Norbert Parish and Our Lady of the Brook Parish, both in Northbrook, Illinois, are *extinguished* as separate juridic persons in the Church and *united* to form a single newly established juridic person to be known as St. Norbert and Our Lady of the Brook Parish: also to be known as The Catholic Community of Northbrook;
2. The missions of the extinguished St. Norbert Parish and Our Lady of the Brook Parish are subsumed completely into the newly established St. Norbert and Our Lady of the Brook Parish;
3. Each and all of the parishioners of the two extinguished parishes will be fully and equally parishioners of St. Norbert and Our Lady of the Brook Parish;
4. The territory of the new St. Norbert and Our Lady of the Brook Parish is the sum of the territories of the now extinguished St. Norbert Parish and Our Lady of the Brook Parish, namely the territory located within these boundaries:

Start at Lake-Cook Road and Des Plaines River,
East on south side of Lake-Cook Road to North Shore RR tracks,
South on west side of North Shore RR tracks to Sunset Ridge Road,
South on west side of Sunset Ridge Road to Voltz Road.,
West on north side of Voltz Road to Waukegan Road,
Southeast on west side of Waukegan Road to Willow Road.,
West on north side of Willow Road to Des Plaines River,
North along Des Plaines River to Lake-Cook Road.
5. The church of the former St. Norbert Parish will be the parish church of the new St. Norbert and Our Lady of the Brook Parish, retaining its own title;
6. The gathering space for liturgy at the former Our Lady of the Brook Parish will continue in use for divine worship and will remain open and available for the celebration of the sacraments, including Baptism, Matrimony, and Funeral Rites, according to the determination of the pastor;
7. Subject to the intention of founders and donors, and with due regard for any acquired rights, the goods and patrimonial rights of the now extinguished St. Norbert Parish and Our Lady of the Brook Parish, together with any obligations with which they are burdened, will be those of the newly established St. Norbert and Our Lady of the Brook Parish (see canon 121);
8. The report given to the Presbyteral Council on this matter, together with the minutes of the aforementioned Council meetings of March 21, 2017, and May 11, 2017, will be attached to this decree;
9. The sacramental records and other materials relevant to historical research concerning the extinguished St. Norbert Parish and Our Lady of the Brook are commended to the new St. Norbert and Our Lady of the Brook Parish for safe keeping and suitable access; and



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10. The Reverend Robert P. Heinz, formerly pastor of St. Norbert Parish and of Our Lady of the Brook Parish, is appointed first pastor of the newly established St. Norbert and Our Lady of the Brook Parish: also to be known as The Catholic Community of Northbrook. As pastor, Father Heinz will enjoy all the faculties provided to a *parochus* (parish priest) by the Code of Canon Law and the faculties enjoyed by pastors and priests in good standing and incardinated in the Archdiocese of Chicago as listed in the particular law of the archdiocese, namely, Book Four of the Policies and Procedures.

11. Notification of this decree is to be made immediately to the pastor of St. Norbert Parish and of Our Lady of the Brook Parish, both in Northbrook, Illinois, to the parishioners of the newly established St. Norbert and Our Lady of the Brook Parish through publication in the parish bulletins, and generally on the archdiocesan website.

Before hierarchical recourse may be taken against this decree, a 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 and effective this 22nd day of May, A.D. 2017.

From the Archbishop Quigley Center,
Chicago, Illinois

Handwritten signature of Cardinal Blase J. Cupich in black ink.

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich,
Archbishop of Chicago

Handwritten signature of Very Reverend Jeffrey S. Grob, J.C.D. in black ink.

Very Reverend Jeffrey S. Grob, J.C.D.,
Chancellor

Attachments



ONCE AVAILABLE THE RECORDS AND MINUTES PERTAINING TO
THE PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL MEETINGS OF MARCH 21, 2017 AND MAY 11, 2017,
WILL BE APPENDED TO THE ORIGINAL COPY OF THIS DECREE
AND MAY BE REQUESTED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE
CHANCELLOR OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO