



DECREE OF SUPPRESSION

FOR

OUR LADY OF MOUNT VIRGIN PERSONAL PARISH IN SEATTLE

To Our Brothers and Sisters of the Archdiocese of Seattle:

Whereas, Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish in Seattle was established as a personal parish without geographic boundaries in 1911 to provide for the needs of the Italian-speaking Catholic faithful in the city of Seattle; and

Whereas, the South Seattle 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 downward trend with regard to the reception of sacraments and little catechetical instruction points to the need to revitalize a sense of missionary discipleship
- Our Lady of Mount Virgin Personal Parish church is located in close proximity to other churches in the Seattle area
- the parish was established as a personal parish for the Italian-speaking community, but no longer serves its founding goal of offering Mass in Italian for the Italian-speaking community
- the parish primarily serves four distinct cultural communities – the Vietnamese, Chinese, Laotian, and Anglophone communities, the majority whom travel a distance to attend the parish church. Members of these cultural communities can be served by other parishes with dedicated ministry in their primary languages.
- parish income through collections at Sunday Mass is falling each year, with parish expenses supported primarily by the rental of parish property
- the parish property is aging, requiring significant investment to maintain at least the hall and classrooms

Therefore, having considered the necessary information and proofs; having heard, in accordance with canon 50, all those whose rights might be injured, in particular at regular meetings with the Parish Stakeholder Team beginning on April 26, 2021, and listening sessions with the parishioners on May 5, 2021, July 17, 2021, February 16, 2022, February 20, 2022, February 26, 2022, and May 11, 2022; 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. Our Lady of Mount Virgin Personal Parish in Seattle is suppressed, effective July 1, 2022.
2. The allocation of the goods, patrimonial rights, and obligations belonging to the extinct Our Lady of Mount Virgin Personal Parish goes to the juridic person immediately superior, in this case the Archdiocese of Seattle, in accordance with the norm of law. (c. 123)
3. All the sacramental registers of the extinct Our Lady of Mount Virgin Personal Parish are to be properly preserved and safeguarded by the Archives of the Archdiocese of Seattle in accordance with the norm of law.
4. This decree is to be communicated to the priest administrator of Our Lady of Mount Virgin Personal Parish in Seattle, 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.
5. This decree is to be posted to the website of the Archdiocese of Seattle.

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the chancery
of the Archdiocese of Seattle
this 20th day of May
in the year of our Lord 2022.



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

Benjamin Altenhofen
Chancellor