

MOST REVEREND DOUGLAS J. LUCIA
BISHOP OF SYRACUSE

DECREE
ON THE EXTINGUISHIVE UNION – MERGER OF THE
PARISH OF SAINT AGNES, BREWERTON, NEW YORK
WITH THE PARISH OF SAINT MICHAEL, CENTRAL SQUARE, NEW YORK
AND THE REDUCTION OF THE
CHURCH OF SAINT MICHAEL, CENTRAL SQUARE, NEW YORK
TO PROFANE BUT NOT SORDID USE

Whereas the parish of Saint Agnes was established in 1958, and its church was dedicated in 1959;

Whereas the parish of Saint Michael was established in 1927, and its church was dedicated in 1928;

Whereas various factors (i.e., changing demographics, financial concerns, limited resources, etc.) necessitated the linkage of the parishes of Saint Agnes and Saint Michael and the parishes merged civilly as Divine Mercy Parish in 2013, dedicating a new church in 2016;

Whereas the church of Saint Agnes was sold in 2016 and the church of Saint Michael was converted to a rectory in 2016;

Whereas the parish, now Divine Mercy and The Mission of Saint Bernadette (see decree of merger with Saint Mary, Cleveland - Saint Bernadette, Constantia 16 July 2023), has acquired a new rectory and plans to alienate the former church of Saint Michael;

Whereas the pastor to whom the parish is entrusted, Reverend Christopher Seibt, has reviewed the proposal with the parish trustees, finance council, pastoral council, parishioners, and members of the Diocesan Curia and has petitioned me to canonically merge the former parishes in order to relegate the church of Saint Michael to profane but not sordid use so that it can be alienated;

Whereas where grave causes suggest that a church no longer be used for divine worship, the diocesan bishop, after having heard the presbyteral council, can relegate it to profane but not sordid use, with the consent of those who legitimately claim rights for themselves in the church and provided that the good of souls suffers no detriment (canon 1222 §2);

Whereas the grave cause of relegation to profane but not sordid use is that the church of Saint Michael has not been used for worship since 2016 and can no longer be used for worship because it has been transformed into a living space;

Whereas after a careful examination, it was established that nobody could legitimately claim rights for themselves in the church, understood primarily as patrimonial rights or rights associated with patrimonial rights (see Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura, Final Decree of the College of Judges, 21 November 1988, *Communicationes* 20 [1988] 93);

Whereas, I convoked the Presbyteral Council on 9 June 2025 and presided over it according to the norm of law (cans. 127 §1, 166 §1, and 500 §1), placing the modification (extinctive union- merger) of the parish of Saint Agnes and the parish of Saint Michael as well the relegation of the church of Saint Michael on the agenda ahead of time, ensuring that a summary of its status was provided to the members of the Council (can. 50), proposing the modification and relegation separately, seeking the informed and free counsel of the members concerning each individual proposed action (can. 515 §2), listening to arguments both for and against the proposed modification and relegation, and receiving unanimous support for the proposed modification and relegation;

Therefore, I the undersigned Bishop of Syracuse, after prayerful consideration, having weighed all the reasons and causes, have decided as follows:

DECREE

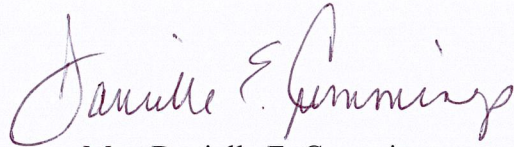
1. The parishes of Saint Agnes and Saint Michael are hereby canonically united as Divine Mercy Parish via an extinctive union - merger for the sake of proper pastoral care.
2. The church of Saint Michael, located at 589 South Main Street, Central Square, New York, of the parish of Divine Mercy and The Mission of Saint Bernadette is hereby reduced to profane but not sordid use according to the prescripts of canon 1222 §2 for the grave cause mentioned above.
3. The church of Divine Mercy located at 592 South Main Street, Central Square, New York, remains the sole church of the parish.
4. Negotiations that may lead to the sale of the property of Saint Michael can begin, following the proper procedures for alienation.

This merger and relegation will become effective on 7 May 2026.

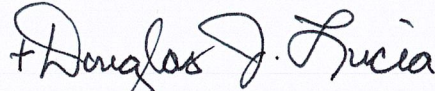
I further order this decree to be made public to all the faithful through its publication on this day, 7 May 2026. This publication on the diocesan website (www.syrдио.org) and on the parish website (sh-dm.org) will be the legitimate notification. A notarized copy of the decree will be sent to the pastor.

This decree may be challenged by anyone who feels aggrieved by it within the peremptory time limit of ten useful days from the legitimate notification of the decree, that is, on 7 May 2026, by seeking its revocation or emendation directly from me (can. 1734 §2).

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Syracuse on this seventh day of May in the year of our Lord, two-thousand twenty-six,



Mrs. Danielle E. Cummings
Chancellor



Most Reverend Douglas J. Lucia
Bishop of Syracuse