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Two new parishes erected in south Lake Charles

LAKE CHARLES — It's official! Decrees signed by Bishop Edward K. Braxton, on September 30 became official on October 31 establishing the new canonical parishes of Christ the King and St. Martin de Porres, both former missions of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish.

The last time a new parish was erected in the diocese came in 1983 when St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Fenton was erected. The diocese now has 38 parishes and 18 mission chapels.

Bishop Braxton, who made the announcements at meetings held on consecutive nights in the two churches, also appointed the Rev. Wayne LeBleu as the founding pastor of Christ the King Parish and the Rev. Keith Pellerin as founding pastor at St. Martin de Porres Parish.

Bishop Braxton pointed out that the question of breaking up Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish was one of the first things he was informed of when he was named Bishop of Lake Charles.

"When I became the Bishop, I learned about many

things that needed to be addressed. Rather rapidly I have addressed many of them," Bishop Braxton said. "One of the areas of concern that I became aware of was the size of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish. I knew of the various opinions, studies and recommendations of what would or would not happen, what should or should not happen and when it would happen. I took my time to think and pray and reflect and become more familiar with the realities of Christ the King mission and St. Martin de Porres mission and the realities of Our Lady Queen of Heaven."

In his remarks at each church Bishop Braxton pointed out that the new parishes "will no longer be a part of Our Lady Queen of Heaven in any way."

The Bishop also noted that in the case of each new parish, "the land that Queen of Heaven purchased for its mission becomes your own, but you then need to begin to develop the resources to build up the community of the Body of Christ. Primarily spiritually; and not from the point of view of buildings, at least initially."

Bishop Braxton noted that the erection of a new parish "is not a simple matter; it is a long process." The job of choosing the men who would serve as the founding pastors was also not an easy task. "In erecting these new parishes it was necessary to think and pray in a particular way about who among the priests who make up my Presbyterate had the gifts, the talents and disposition to serve as the founding pastors," the Bishop said.

Msgr. Ronald Groth, pastor of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish, read the decrees and then made remarks about the break up of the parish. "It is certainly no secret that I have been in favor of this," Msgr. Groth said. "You will become your own community but you already have a community. But to be a community for yourselves and in building up of a stronger, bigger community of faith, because people will keep moving out here in south Lake Charles, this will be a task your pastor will have for years to come."

Father LeBleu told the crowd at Christ the King how excited he was to be chosen to head the new parish,

"First, you must know the excitement that I have being with you here tonight on this momentous occasion for us as a diocese. But more importantly, as I told the bishop when I was asked to take this role, it makes my heart more excited and tender being a native son of this area. I know of the love of this community. I feel humble and honored to be able to share this experience. I know many of you have waited many years and I know we have dreams. We know that we will have to make sacrifices and commitments to this new parish. I want to encourage you to be strengthened by community as we show ourselves as stewards - stewards of time and talent and treasure."

Following the announcement of his appointment at St. Martin de Porres, Father Pellerin thanked the people for their applause as "a sign of your continued support" and went on to say, "This is a historical moment, a historical evening not only in the life of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish but in the life of our diocese."

One of the major questions asked by those in atten-

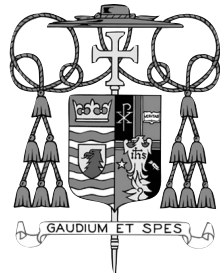
dance concerned the boundaries of the three parishes and where the people had been attending Mass.

"It is extremely important that all of you respect the new boundaries because there are many people who might say 'I always liked Queen of Heaven,' but they may find themselves in the boundaries of this new parish so they are not coming," the Bishop said. "If they stay at Queen of Heaven this new parish will not have the people it needs for its growth."

"If you find yourselves in Queen of Heaven then I recommend that you join that parish but at the same time that does not mean you should be a stranger here," he continued. "There will be occasions and events of family and friends when you will want to be here. It is extremely important that we not have a situation where people start selecting their parish beyond the boundaries because then what you are so happy about tonight you will become very unhappy with in the months and years to come without sufficient number of people to give their time talent and

treasure to the two distinct parishes. That is my thought, but you must each think about that and reflect on it in your own mind."

Bishop urged those in attendance to consider how important it is that parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles urge their sons, grandsons and nephews to consider the priesthood. Without such urging there could come a time in the future when the new parishes might be without a full time priest with Mass held only infrequently and celebrated by a priest from someplace else. "Vocations do not happen magically. People need to talk about the priesthood to young men who show promise that they might have the gifts of the priesthood and might be open to the call of the spirit. The joy of this new beginning will become a sadness if the day comes when you do not have a communion service only once a week but Sunday after Sunday you have a communion service and Mass is only once a month or once every two months. The Bishop can only send you the priests that he has."



DECREE Edward K. Braxton

By the Grace of God and the favour of the Apostolic See Bishop of Lake Charles

For the welfare of the People of God and the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we have deemed it necessary to establish and erect a new territorial parish. This new community of faith will retain the name that it had as a mission of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish, namely Christ the King.

Therefore, After consultation with the Presbyteral Council and the people of God and in accordance with the prescriptions of the Code of Canon Law (Canons 116, 515 §2), we hereby erect the Parish of Christ the King in the city of Lake Charles, LA.

Furthermore, we decree and direct that territory formerly belonging to the Parish of Our Lady Queen of Heaven is to be incorporated into the Parish of Christ the King in Lake Charles, LA.

These shall be the boundaries of this new parish. Beginning at the intersection of Country Club Road, Lake Street, and University Street;

Thence running north on University Street to the intersection of Ryan Street and McNeese Street;

Thence running east on McNeese Street to the intersection of Louisiana Highway 14;

Thence running south and then east on Louisiana Highway 14 to the intersection of the line dividing Range 7 West and Range 8 West, Louisiana meridian, which is the line dividing Ward 2 and Ward 3 of Calcasieu Parish;

Thence running south on the line dividing Range 7 West and Range 8 West, to the southeast corner of Section 36, Range 8 West, Township 11 South, which is at the line dividing Calcasieu Parish from Cameron Parish;

Thence running west on the southern boundary of Calcasieu Parish to the intersection of Simon LeBleu Road;

Thence running due north to the connection with Lake Street to the intersection of Country Club Road, Lake Street, and University Street, or the point of origin.

We direct that the Christian Faithful who until now have been entrusted to the pastoral care of Our Lady Queen of Heaven are now entrusted to the pastoral and spiritual care and jurisdiction of The Reverend Wayne Le Bleu, the founding Pastor of Christ the King Parish. Those who live within the boundaries of this parish are obliged to make this their community of faith and urged to contribute generously of their time, talent, and treasure to the support of this new parish.

The parish, which will be in the Central Deanery, has a juridical personality by law (c. 515, §3) with all the rights, privileges and obligations attached thereto. As of the date of its erection as a parish, the property and buildings purchased by Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish for the Mission of Christ the King become the property of the new parish. The administration of the temporal goods of the parish is subject to existing diocesan norms as well as to any applicable civil laws. A finance council and a parish pastoral council shall be constituted in accordance with diocesan regulations.

While it is my wish that the beginning of the activities of this new parish shall be one month from the date indicated below namely October 31, 2002, the formal date of the erection of the parish shall be that of its Patronal Feast, Christ the King, November 24, 2002. The publication of this decree in the official Diocesan newspaper, The Southwest Catholic, will be presumed as official notification of this action.

We pray that the Lord Jesus Christ, the suffering servant who ruled from the wood of the Cross, will be a true inspiration for everything that is done and said by the members of this new community of faith.

Given at Lake Charles under Our Seal and Signature this thirtieth day of September, in the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and two.

Anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

+ Edward K. Braxton

The Most Reverend Edward K. Braxton, Ph.D., S.T.D.
Bishop of Lake Charles

George A. Stearns

Chancellor
Diocese of Lake Charles

Dated at the Diocesan Pastoral Center
September 30, 2002



DECREE Edward K. Braxton

By the Grace of God and the favour of the Apostolic See Bishop of Lake Charles

For the welfare of the People of God and the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we have deemed it necessary to establish and erect a new territorial parish. This new community of faith will retain the name that it had as a mission of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish, namely, St. Martin de Porres.

Therefore, After consultation with the Presbyteral Council and the People of God and in accordance with the prescriptions of the Code of Canon Law (Canons 116, 515 §2), we hereby erect the Parish of St. Martin de Porres in the city of Lake Charles, LA.

Furthermore, we decree and direct that territory formerly belonging to the Parish of Our Lady Queen of Heaven is to be incorporated into the Parish of St. Martin de Porres in Lake Charles, LA.

These shall be the boundaries of this new parish. Beginning at the intersection of Country Club Road, Lake Street, and University Drive;

Thence running south on Lake Street and due south beyond Lake Street to the southern boundary of Calcasieu Parish;

Thence running west on the southern boundary of Calcasieu Parish to the intersection of the Intracoastal Waterway; including Section 1, Ward 4 of Cameron Parish, known as "Grangers Cove."

Thence running in a general northwesterly direction on the Intracoastal Waterway to the intersection of the Calcasieu River;

Thence in a winding route on the Calcasieu River in the upstream direction, or a general northerly direction to the intersection of Country Club Road;

Thence running east on Country Club Road to the intersection of Country Club Road, Lake Street, and University Street, or the point of origin.

We direct that the Christian Faithful who until now have been entrusted to the pastoral care of Our Lady Queen of Heaven are now entrusted to the pastoral and spiritual care and jurisdiction of The Reverend Keith A. Pellerin, the founding Pastor of St. Martin de Porres Parish. Those who live within the boundaries of this parish are obliged to make this their community of faith and urged to contribute generously of their time, talent, and treasure to the support of this new parish.

The parish, which will be in the Central Deanery, has a juridical personality by law (c. 515, §3) with all the rights, privileges and obligations attached thereto. As of the date of its erection as a parish, the property and buildings purchased by Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish for the Mission of St. Martin de Porres become the property of the new parish. The administration of the temporal goods of the parish is subject to existing diocesan norms as well as to any applicable civil laws. A finance council and a parish pastoral council shall be constituted in accordance with diocesan regulations.

While it is my wish that the beginning of the activities of this new parish shall be one month from the date indicated below, namely October 31, 2002 the formal date of the erection of the parish shall be that of its Patronal Feast, St. Martin de Porres, November 3, 2002. The publication of this decree in the official Diocesan newspaper, The Southwest Catholic, will be presumed as official notification of this action.

We pray that St. Martin de Porres, a faithful follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the selfless servant of the poor and oppressed, will be a true example of faith and service for everything that is done and said by the members of this new community of faith.

Given at Lake Charles under Our Seal and Signature this thirtieth day of September, in the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and two.

Anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

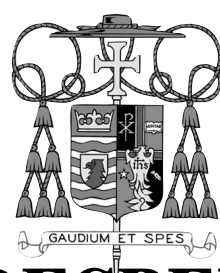
+ Edward K. Braxton

The Most Reverend Edward K. Braxton, Ph.D., S.T.D.
Bishop of Lake Charles

George A. Stearns

Chancellor
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Dated at the Diocesan Pastoral Center
September 30, 2002



DECREE Edward K. Braxton

(New Boundaries for Our Lady Queen of Heaven)
Upon the erection of the parishes of Christ the King and St. Martin de Porres on October 31, 2002,
These shall be the new boundaries of Our Lady Queen of

(This page paid for by the Diocese of Lake Charles.)

Heaven Parish.

Beginning at the intersection of Contraband Bayou with the Calcasieu River;

Thence running in a southeasterly direction on Contraband Bayou to the intersection of Prien Lake Road;

Thence running east on Prien Lake Road to the intersection of Ryan Street;

Thence running south on Ryan Street to the intersection of School Street;

Thence running east on School Street to the intersection of Louisiana Street;

Thence running south on Louisiana Street to the intersection of McNeese Street;

Thence running west on McNeese Street to the intersection of Ryan Street and University;

Thence running south on University to Country Club Road;

Thence running west to the end of Country Club Road;

Thence in a winding route on Calcasieu River in the upstream direction, or a general northerly direction, to the intersection of Contraband Bayou, or the point of origin.

Given at Lake Charles under Our Seal and Signature this thirty day of September, in the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and two.

Anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

+ Edward K. Braxton

The Most Reverend Edward K. Braxton, Ph.D., S.T.D.
Bishop of Lake Charles

George A. Stearns

Chancellor
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Dated at the Diocesan Pastoral Center
September 30, 2002