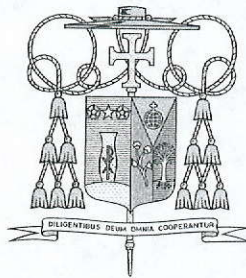


Diocese of Beaumont

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Beaumont, Texas 77704-3948
Location: 703 Archie Avenue at Forsythe
Beaumont, TX 77701-2899



Office of the Bishop

Telephone: (409) 838-0451 ext. 130
Fax: (409) 838-4511
Email: bishop@dioceseofbmt.org

DECREE

Given that the "good of souls" is my primary motive behind this decree;

Given the proximity to Sacred Heart Church of about 1 mile and the availability of other nearby Catholic churches within Port Arthur;

Given that the pastor of St. Mary Parish is also the pastor of Sacred Heart Parish and that the parish offices of both parishes had already been combined at Sacred Heart;

Given that the demographics of Port Arthur, Texas, have changed and the population of the city has diminished over the years, reducing the number of families of St. Mary Parish to about 180;

Given that the parish has struggled over the years simply to fund operations, which has necessitated emergency funding from the diocese in recent years; Given the progressive deterioration of the buildings on the parish plant, especially of the church building, which was exacerbated by Hurricane Rita, and the astronomical expense for repairs which would be an unmanageable burden for the parish,

Thus, the lack of viability of the parish has become evident.

After meeting with the Pastor and also with St. Mary parishioners on Tuesday, March 14, 2006, to discuss these factors, and after a combined meeting with the Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils for St. Mary's and Sacred Heart on Monday, March 20, 2006;

I have determined that merging St. Mary Parish into Sacred Heart Parish is the prudent decision to make.

Therefore, I DECREE that St. Mary Parish as a separate public juridic person will be merged into the public juridic person of Sacred Heart Parish, effective Sunday, April 23, 2006, with the public ritual of transition that will be held at St. Mary Church. The merged parish will be named SACRED HEART - ST. MARY PARISH.

In accord with Canon 121 of the universal law of the Latin Rite of the Catholic Church, all of the goods and property of St. Mary Parish, including existing debts and liabilities, are transferred to Sacred Heart-St. Mary Parish. St. Mary Parish, as a separate entity, will cease to exist.

Likewise, the territorial boundaries of Sacred Heart-St. Mary Parish are expanded to include the previously existing parish boundaries of St. Mary Parish. The revised boundaries of Sacred Heart-St. Mary Parish are specified on the attached map indicating the merged territory.

This decree is issued this date and will be promulgated by insertion in the weekend bulletins of both parishes, as well as by publication in the diocesan newspaper, the *East Texas Catholic*.

Given on the 4th day of April, 2006 in the Curia of the Diocese of Beaumont.

Most Rev. Curtis J. Guillory, S.V.D., D.D.
Bishop of Beaumont

Sister Esther Dunegan, IWBBS
Chancellor/Notary

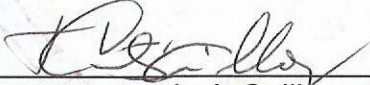
Merged Boundaries for Sacred Heart - St. Mary Parish
effective April 23, 2006

Beginning at the Sabine Neches Canal and Florida Avenue, following northwest on Florida Avenue to 27th Street;
then southwest (left) for one block on 27th Street;
then northwest along the line of Marshall Ave. to Highway 73;
then southwest along Highway 73 for approximately 1.2 miles to Savannah Ave. (Spur 215);
then southeast on Savannah Ave. (Spur 215) for approximately 1.5 miles to the T. & N.O. Railroad;
then southwest along the T. & N.O. Railroad (the Texaco Refinery property line) to Hwy. 87;
following Hwy. 87 southwest to Taylor Bayou;
then south along the West bank of Taylor Bayou to the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway;
then northeast to Texaco Island and along the Waterway to Florida Avenue.

In addition to all of the above--since M. L. King Blvd. and the M.L. King Bridge connecting Pleasure Island are located within these boundaries, thus, all of Pleasure Island is under the jurisdiction of Sacred Heart-St. Mary Parish.

Note: Pleasure Island is all land south and east of the Intracoastal Waterway.

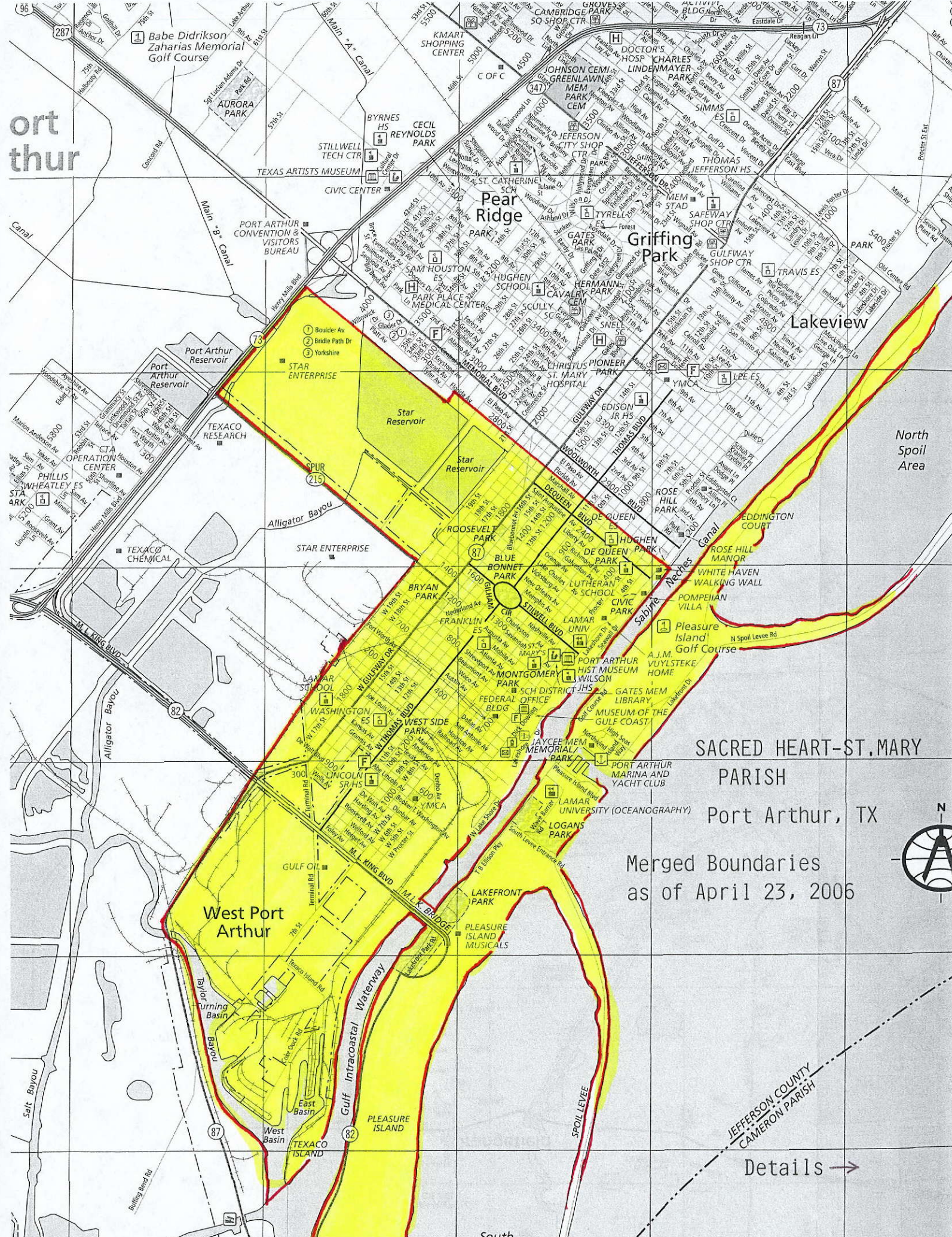
Approved: _____


Most Rev. Curtis J. Guillory, S.V.D., D.D.
Bishop of Beaumont

Date: _____

April 4, 2006

Port
Arthur



SACRED HEART-ST.MARY
PARISH

Port Arthur, TX

Merged Boundaries
as of April 23, 2006



JEFFERSON COUNTY
CAMERON PARISH

Details →

South