

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

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September 24, 2025

Reverend Jean Y. Pierre
Pastor
Our Lady of Refuge–Holy Innocents Parish
279 East 17th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11226

Dear Father Pierre:

Enclosed please find the Decree for the Merger of **Our Lady of Refuge–Holy Innocents Parish**.

If I may be of any further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven J. Aguggia".

Reverend Monsignor Steven J. Aguggia, J.C.L.
Chancellor and Vicar for Canonical Affairs

SA/jo
Enclosure



ROBERT J. BRENNAN
By the Grace of God and of the Apostolic See
BISHOP OF BROOKLYN



DECREE

Changes in the spiritual practices among the faithful, a decrease in available clergy and men and women in consecrated life, changes in the general population within our Diocese, as well as concerns regarding temporal matters have affected the means by which the Gospel of Jesus Christ has been proclaimed within the Diocese of Brooklyn. In an effort to respond in the best possible way to the gifts of the Holy Spirit generously given to us in our current situation, I have overseen a comprehensive pastoral plan, which included the whole of the Diocese of Brooklyn.


In an effort to evangelize more effectively the community in Brooklyn, as well to administrate the temporal goods of the faithful more efficiently, Reverend Jean Y. Pierre, Pastor of Our Lady of Refuge, located at 2020 Foster Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11210, and also Pastor of Holy Innocents, located at 279 East 17th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11226, petitioned that they be canonically merged.

In keeping with the requirements of the Universal Law of the Church, the Presbyteral Council was consulted on February 25, 2025 (Canon 515 § 2), and after having heard the reasons for the proposed merger its members expressed their support for this action. In addition, after having consulted the territorial Episcopal Vicars, clergy, pastoral ministers and other members of the faithful of the parishes involved, I, the undersigned Bishop of Brooklyn, hereby declare and decree that the Parishes of Our Lady of Refuge and Holy Innocents, both within the Diocese of Brooklyn, shall be merged to form one Parish.

- This one Parish shall be named **Our Lady of Refuge–Holy Innocents** parish, with the main Parish office to be located 279 East 17th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11226.
- Reverend Jean Y. Pierre shall be the Pastor of the Parish.

- The territorial boundaries of the new parish shall encompass all of the territory which, up until now, has constituted the territories of Our Lady of Refuge–Holy Innocents.
- All assets and obligations currently belonging to aforementioned parishes are by this canonical merger, transferred to the Our Lady of Refuge–Holy Innocents parish.
- The parochial registers and the seals of the aforementioned parishes shall be kept at 279 East 17th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11226.
- The Parish shall have two churches for worship: The Church of Our Lady of Refuge and Holy Innocents.

This merger shall take effect on January 1, 2026, at which time the public juridic persons of Our Lady of Refuge–Holy Innocents shall be merged. Recourse action may be sought according to the norms of Canons 1732 to 1739 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law.



Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan
Bishop of Brooklyn

Given in Brooklyn,
This 10th day of September 2025



Chancellor

