



DECREE

In the name of the Lord. Amen.

I, Jeffrey Joseph Walsh, by the grace of God and the favor of the Apostolic See, Bishop of Gaylord, exercising my pastoral office in accord with can. 381 §1 and having prayerfully considered the pastoral needs of the faithful entrusted to my care; having consulted the Presbyteral Council in accord with canon 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law; having examined the demographic, geographic, sacramental, and pastoral realities presently existing throughout the Diocese; and desiring to provide more effectively for the cura animarum, the orderly administration of the sacraments, the fostering of missionary discipleship, and the stable governance of parish life;

hereby decree the promulgation of revised territorial boundaries for all parishes of the Diocese of Gaylord.

These revised boundaries are established in accord with cann. 374, 515, 518, and related norms of the Code of Canon Law, and are intended to clarify the pastoral jurisdiction of each parish while strengthening the evangelical mission of the Church in Northern Michigan.

I. General Norms

1. All parishes presently erected within the Diocese of Gaylord shall continue to exist as juridic persons unless otherwise expressly modified by separate decree.
2. Effective on the date indicated below, the territorial boundaries of each parish are revised according to the official diocesan parish boundary descriptions and maps maintained in the offices of the Diocese of Gaylord.
3. The diocesan Chancellor shall maintain in the diocesan archives:
 - the official written descriptions of parish boundaries;
 - all civil township, municipal, and county references used in determining such boundaries;
 - official diocesan maps depicting the revised territories;
 - any subsequent amendments approved according to law.
4. Pastors are to ensure that parish sacramental registers, census records, catechetical records, and other canonical documents reflect the revised parish territories.
5. Nothing in this decree alters the rights or obligations of pastors established by universal law, particular law, or prior diocesan legislation unless explicitly stated herein.

II. Purpose of the Revision

These revised parish boundaries are promulgated in order:

- to reflect current population patterns and pastoral realities;
- to promote greater clarity regarding territorial jurisdiction;
- to foster collaboration among neighboring parishes and clergy;
- to strengthen sacramental accessibility for the faithful;
- to support the long-term vitality and sustainability of parish communities;
- and to advance the evangelical mission of the Church throughout Northern Michigan.

III. Canonical Status of the Faithful

1. The Christian faithful residing within the territorial boundaries assigned to a parish are members of that parish by domicile or quasi-domicile according to canon law.
2. The faithful remain free, according to law and legitimate pastoral practice, to participate in the sacramental and devotional life of other Catholic parishes.
3. Nothing in this decree affects the canonical status of personal parishes, missions, chapels, or institutions established by separate decree.

IV. Particular Directives

1. The diocesan Chancellor and the Tribunal of the diocese shall oversee the implementation of this decree.
2. Pastors are to provide appropriate catechesis and pastoral communication to the faithful regarding these revisions.
3. Parish boundary maps shall be made publicly available through diocesan and parish offices.
4. Questions regarding interpretation of this decree are reserved to the Diocesan Bishop.

V. Abrogation Clause

Any prior diocesan decrees, policies, customs, or administrative acts contrary to the present decree are hereby abrogated or modified to the extent necessary.


VI. Effective Date

This decree shall take effect on the 1st day of June 2026, notwithstanding any provision to the contrary.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Gaylord, on this 1st day of June 2026.



Christina Ihlenfeldt
Chancellor


Most Reverend Jeffrey J. Walsh
Bishop of Gaylord