



Diocesan Relations
Office

Catholic Pastoral Center

Diocese of Brownsville

News Release

June 10, 2005

Bishop Establishes New Parish in Brownsville

Bishop Raymundo J. Peña announced today the establishment of a new parish in Brownsville, which will be named the Parish of the Lord of Divine Mercy. He also appointed Father Rodolfo Franco as the first pastor of the parish.

He attributed the need for a new parish to the growth and development taking place in the northern sector of the City of Brownsville. "As the City of Brownsville continues growing in the northern area, it is important that we keep up with this growth and address the pastoral needs of the Catholic people living in the area."

This brings the number of parishes in Brownsville to 12. According to the decree, which will be effective June 29, the territory and parishioners making up the new parish will come from the existing parishes of St. Mary, Mother of the Church, San Felipe de Jesus and Our Lady of Good Counsel. (*See attached decree.*)

The Parish of the Lord of Divine Mercy will be located on property purchased north of Brownsville on Alton Gloor Boulevard, located east of Windwood Way Circle. A sign has been placed on the property indicating the site for the new church.

Father Rudy Franco, who is currently pastor of Saint Theresa Parish in San Benito, was out of town during the announcement. Prior to the news conference, he said he looks forward to working with his new parishioners to build the parish.

Initial funding for the parish will come from a one-time grant of \$25,000 from the diocese; a one-time contribution from the parishes of San Felipe de Jesus and Our Lady of Good Counsel, based on the amount of their territory that is transferred to the new parish; and 25 percent of the savings of the Mother Parish of St. Mary, Mother of the Church, plus 25 percent of the church restricted building fund or the total pledges paid to the building fund by parishioners who now belong to the Parish of the Lord of Divine Mercy. Additionally, a collection will be taken for the new parish at all parishes in the diocese.

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