



Bishop Olson Erects New Parish

January 30, 2015

Bishop Michael F. Olson has erected a new parish for Southeast Denton County effective February 2, 2015.

The new parish will be the St. Martin de Porres Parish. The first pastor will be Rev. Richard Kirkham.

Mass for the new parish will be celebrated at Purefoy Elementary School, 11880 Teel Parkway in Frisco. English Mass is at 9:30 and 11 a.m. The Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth has purchased property along Highway 380 in Prosper for a permanent facility.

In his decree, Bishop Olson asked pastors of contiguous parishes to announce the erection of the new parish at Masses during the weekend of January 31 and February 1, 2015. The general boundaries of the new parish are on the north by Black Jack Road, on the east by the Collin/Denton Counties line, and on the south by Lebanon Road and Lewisville Lake on the west.

In a biography posted on Catholic Online, St. Martin is describes as follows:

“St. Martin de Porres was born in Lima, Peru, in 1579. His father was a Spanish gentleman and his mother a colored freed-woman from Panama. At fifteen, he became a lay brother at the Dominican Friary at Lima and spent his whole life there-as a barber, farm laborer, almoner, and infirmarian among other things.

“Martin had a great desire to go off to some foreign mission and thus earn the palm of martyrdom. However, since this was not possible, he made a martyr out of his body, devoting himself to ceaseless and severe penances. In turn, God endowed him with many graces and wondrous gifts, such as, aerial flights and bilocation.

“St. Martin’s love was all-embracing, shown equally to humans and to animals, including vermin, and he maintained a cats and dogs hospital at his sister’s house. He also possessed spiritual wisdom, demonstrated in his solving his sister’s marriage problems, raising a dowry for his niece inside of three day’s time, and resolving theological problems for the learned of his Order and for bishops. A close friend of St. Rose of Lima, this saintly man died on November 3, 1639 and was canonized on May 6, 1962.”

St. Martin’s feast day is November 3.

The Greater Fort Worth and Denton County areas are among the fastest growing areas of North Texas. Recent studies have indicated that the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth will be required to erect new parishes in these areas to serve the needs of the Catholics who are part of the growth.

St. Martin de Porres is the first new parish erected since St. John Paul II was erected in 2012 to serve Central Denton and the university communities in Denton.

Bishop Olson’s Decree Erecting St. Martin de Porres Parish

<http://www.fwdioc.org/decreed-erecting-st-martin-de-porres-parish.pdf>