

Amalgamation

Definition: one or more former parishes are subsumed into another parish; the subsumed parish becomes extinct; the parish which absorbed the other(s) becomes larger

Effects: sacramental registers of parish(es) which became extinct are closed; registers of parish which absorbed the other(s) remain in use
not a new civil entity
parish name remains that of the absorbing parish
modification does not affect church buildings in any way
one church is designated as the parochial church; other church(es) become(s) subsidiary churches

Merger

Definition: two or more former parishes unite to become a single new parish; all previous parishes become extinct

Effects: old sacramental registers are closed; one new set is used going forward
new civil entity (tax ID, legal name, OCD and USCCB Group Ruling)
new parish name
modification does not affect church buildings in any way
one church is designated as the parochial church; other church(es) become(s) subsidiary churches

Parochial Church

Must be open for public worship (canon 1214)

Blessed Sacrament must be reserved (canon 934)

- Mass is to be celebrated, as far as possible, at least twice a month (does not need to be public)

Must have a baptismal font (canon 858)

Right of precedence for celebration of sacraments (baptisms, weddings, funerals...)

Subsidiary Church

Must be open for public worship (determined by the pastor)

Blessed Sacrament may be reserved

- if so, Mass is to be celebrated, as far as possible, at least twice a month (does not need to be public)

May have a baptismal font

Other sacraments may be celebrated therein