



*Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D.
By the Grace of God and the Favor of the Apostolic See
Bishop of Fall River*

DECREE

In considering the pastoral care of the faithful throughout the Diocese and after a thorough study of the situation in New Bedford, and after having consulted the Pastors of Saint Mary Parish in New Bedford, who are also the Pastors of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in New Bedford and who are also the Pastors of Saint Joseph-Saint Therese Parish in New Bedford, and after having heard the advice of the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Fall River at their meeting on August 24, 2021, I, Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D., Bishop of Fall River, hereby decree the following:

That Saint Mary Parish, located at 343 Tarkiln Hill Road in New Bedford, be suppressed;
That Our Lady of Fatima Parish, located at 4256 Acushnet Avenue in New Bedford, be suppressed;
That Saint Joseph-Saint Therese Parish, located at 51 Duncan Street in New Bedford, be suppressed;

That the new Saint Gabriel the Archangel Parish be erected with the one worship site of Saint Mary's Church, located at 343 Tarkiln Hill Road in New Bedford, and that the boundaries of the new parish will encompass the entire territory of the three suppressed parishes;

That Our Lady of Fatima Church, located at 4256 Acushnet Avenue in New Bedford, and Saint Joseph-Saint Therese Church, located at 51 Duncan Street in New Bedford, will no longer be used as worship sites;

That the canonical registers of Saint Mary Parish in New Bedford, Our Lady of Fatima Parish in New Bedford, and Saint Joseph-Saint Therese Parish in New Bedford be transferred to and maintained by Saint Gabriel the Archangel Parish in New Bedford;

That the temporal goods and financial obligations of Saint Mary Parish in New Bedford, Our Lady of Fatima Parish in New Bedford, and Saint Joseph-Saint Therese Parish in New Bedford belong to Saint Gabriel the Archangel Parish in New Bedford;

That Saint Mary's Church in New Bedford, Our Lady of Fatima Church in New Bedford, and Saint Joseph-Saint Therese Church in New Bedford become the canonical property of Saint Gabriel the Archangel Parish in New Bedford;

That the pastoral and spiritual care of the people of the three suppressed parishes will be provided by the Priests assigned to Saint Gabriel the Archangel Parish in New Bedford;

This Decree shall be effective at 12:01 a.m. on Eleventh day of October, in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-One.

In the event that anyone with canonical standing feels injured by the provisions of this Decree, he or she may initiate a hierarchical recourse against this Decree, according to the provisions of Canon 1732-1739, within ten useful days.

Given in Fall River this Twenty-sixth day of August in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-One.

Attest:

Kevin R. Kiley

Chancellor

Edgar M. da Cunha
Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D.
Bishop of Fall River