



*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 Parochial Administrator of Saint Francis of Assisi Parish in New Bedford, and after having heard the advice of the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Fall River at their meeting on May 19, 2025, I, Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D., Bishop of Fall River, hereby decree the following:

That Saint Francis of Assisi Parish located at 247 North Street in New Bedford, currently part of a three-parish collaborative, be suppressed;

That the territory of Saint Francis of Assisi Parish in New Bedford becomes the territory of Holy Name of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish located at 121 Mount Pleasant Street in New Bedford;

That the canonical registers of Saint Francis of Assisi Parish in New Bedford be kept at Holy Name of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish located at 121 Mount Pleasant Street in New Bedford;

That the temporal goods, property, assets and financial obligations of Saint Francis of Assisi Parish in New Bedford, via eventual suitable distribution, henceforth belong to both Holy Name of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish located at 121 Mount Pleasant Street in New Bedford and Saint Lawrence Martyr Parish located at 110 Summer Street in New Bedford;

That the pastoral and spiritual care of the people of the suppressed parish will be provided by the Priests assigned to Holy Name of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in New Bedford and Saint Lawrence Martyr Parish in New Bedford;

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

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-fifth day of May, in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Five.

Attest:

*Kevin R. Kiley*

Kevin R. Kiley Chancellor

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