



*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 having consulted with the Parish Administrator of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Bedford, and after a thorough study of the situation involving the parishioners of the parish with staff of the Diocesan Strategic and Pastoral Planning Office, and after having heard the advice of the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Fall River at their meeting on November 29, 2021, I, Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D., hereby decree the following:

That Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, located at 235 North Front Street in New Bedford, Bristol County, Massachusetts, be suppressed;

That the sacramental registers of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Bedford be transferred to and maintained by Saint Anthony of Padua Parish located at 1359 Acushnet Avenue in New Bedford;

That the temporal goods, property, assets and financial obligations of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Bedford be transferred to the Diocese of Fall River;

That since Our Lady of Perpetual Help was always a National Parish and therefore had no territory, the pastoral and spiritual care of the people of the former Our Lady of Perpetual Parish becomes the responsibility of the pastor of the parish of their domicile or of the parish where they choose to belong;

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

In the event that anyone with canonical standing who 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 10 useful days.

Given in Fall River on this fifteenth day of December, 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