



DECREE

IN THE NAME OF GOD.

AMEN.

*To our Brothers and Sisters in Christ
of Saints Peter and Paul Parish, Allentown.*

I, the Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert, D.D., by the grace of God and the favor of the Apostolic See, Fifth Bishop of Allentown,

Mindful of the responsibility of my Office to ensure that the faithful entrusted to my care remain firmly united in mind and prayer by the preaching of the Gospel and reception of the Sacraments, in particular Penance and the Holy Eucharist, so that they may grow in Grace and be continually united in the Charity of Christ; and,

To make certain that this sacred obligation is carried out in a manner that responds to the needs of the present time; and,

Because the number of souls has notably decreased throughout the last half-century, and even more acutely declined in recent years; and,

Since this has caused a remarkable abatement for sacramental needs; and,

In consideration of the many years under which this parish has labored in financial decline and, as is well documented, will presently succumb to insolvency; and,

Having heard from the proper Administrator of Saint Peter and Paul Parish, Allentown, as well as the Diocesan Pastoral Planning Commission and Diocesan Pastoral Council; and,

After lawfully convoking the Presbyteral Council and providing members with all relevant and necessary information; and, after my consultation with each member according to canons 127, 166, and especially canon 515 §2; and,

Being morally certain that no member of the faithful shall suffer a lack of spiritual care due to the close proximity of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Parish; and, that the Polish-speaking members of the faithful may attend Mass in the Polish language at Incarnation of Our Lord Parish, Bethlehem; and

Because this action brings about the facts of the present circumstances to be in harmony with the Sacred Canons; and,

With respect for the history of this parish and the devout faithful who founded and in the past sustained Her; and, with due appreciation for the obedience of the clergy who served those faithful; and,

After imploring the guidance of the Holy Spirit,
and the intercession our Diocesan Patroness,
Mary, Mother of the Church:

I hereby Decree the Extinctive Union of
SAINTS PETER AND PAUL PARISH,
Allentown, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania with
SAINT ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY PARISH,
Whitehall, Lehigh County. Pennsylvania; and,

further Decree that:

the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass must be celebrated within the Sacred Edifice of Saints Peter and Paul, each year, on the patronal feast of the *Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul*, the twenty-ninth day of June; as well as on the Feast of the Anniversary of the Dedication of the Church; and,

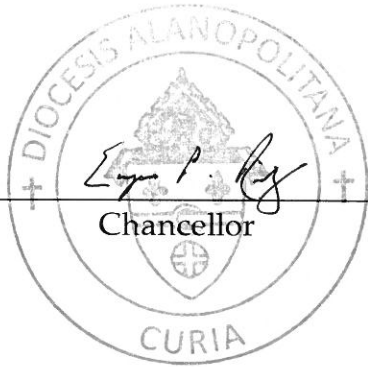
That Christian Burial may be offered within the Sacred Edifice of Saints Peter and Paul for any former parishioners of the Parish; and,

According to the norm of canon 121 and the clearly established jurisprudence of the Church; determine that Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Parish receive all the temporal goods, other patrimony, and the obligations of Saint Peter and Paul Parish, as well as the care of all Parish Registers and Books.

This Decree shall take effect on the twenty-fifth day of April, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-one, the *Solemnity of the Fourth Sunday of Easter*.

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Given at the Chancery of Allentown, on the eighteenth day of March, in the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and twenty-one, in the fourth year of my Episcopate; and, therefore, in light of the provision of the Law, I will consider written requests by those the law considers legitimately affected until the sixteenth day of April, two thousand and twenty-one.



+ Alfred G. Schellert
Bishop of Allentown