



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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21 March 2021
Fifth Sunday of Lent

Dear Parishioners of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Parish, Whitehall,

Since assuming the additional responsibility of becoming Administrator of Saints Peter and Paul Parish, Allentown, your Pastor, Reverend John S. Pendzick, has carefully examined the pastoral life and vitality, financial status, and overall well-being of that Parish.

After a careful review of the status of Saints Peter and Paul and in consultation with its Parish Pastoral Council, Father Pendzick, working with the Office for Pastoral Planning, made a recommendation to me regarding the future of Saints Peter and Paul Parish. After seeking the guidance of the Diocesan Council of Priests, and desiring to continue to provide for pastoral care of Saints Peter and Paul parishioners, I write to you today to inform you that I have accepted the recommendation presented by Father Pendzick and have issued the necessary Decrees consolidating Saints Peter and Paul Parish, Allentown, into Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Parish, Whitehall. The Decrees will become effective on Sunday, 25 April, 2021. Father Pendzick will make those Decrees available for your review at the conclusion of this Mass.

The Saints Peter and Paul church building will remain open for funeral Masses for Parish members, for the celebration of Mass on the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, 29 June and for the Anniversary of the Dedication of the Church. The Polish-language Mass will continue to be celebrated at Incarnation Parish, Bethlehem, providing on an ongoing basis for the spiritual needs of the Polish-speaking people of the region.

I want to publicly commend Father Pendzick, the Pastoral Council of Saints Peter and Paul, and the Pastoral Council of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, with whom Father Pendzick also consulted, for their keen pastoral insights and also their courage in recognizing that because of steadily declining membership and financial distress at Saints Peter and Paul Parish, the time to recommend these steps had come. Father has come to know the needs of the local Church and so could courageously and

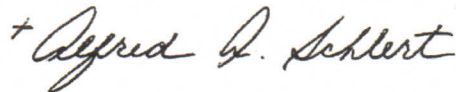
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lovingly recommend changes that I know will be difficult at first, but will bear fruit for the People of God.

This decision has not been made easily or without deliberation. I recognize that the decision may cause disappointment or even pain for some Saints Peter and Paul parishioners. Such feelings truly are understandable. I humbly ask you to welcome them into your Parish, and into your hearts, as they make this transition.

I ask that, during the time of preparation for the implementation of this closure and consolidation, you will join me in fervent prayer to God and to Mary, Mother of the Church, our Diocesan Patroness, that the good work that God has begun in you, will, through His grace and your faith, be brought to a successful completion.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alfred A. Schlert". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

✠ Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert
Bishop of Allentown