



DIocese OF YOUNGSTOWN

David J. Bonnar

By the Grace of God and the Apostolic See

BISHOP OF YOUNGSTOWN

DECREE

For one hundred and two years the Catholic Faithful of Saint Mary Parish in the Diocese of Youngstown have been served at 103 N. Maple Street, Orwell, Ohio. During that time countless people have heard the Word of God, have worshipped and received the sacraments of the Church in the parish community. Likewise, for sixty-eight years, the Catholic Faithful of Sacred Heart Parish, in the Diocese of Youngstown have been served at 3049 St. Rt. 45, Rock Creek, Ohio. In an effort to reorganize the People of God in this portion of God's Kingdom, it is now necessary to make new provisions for the spiritual care of the parishioners of Saint Mary Parish and Sacred Heart Parish.

Accordingly, having carefully reviewed the pastoral statistics and studied facts compiled by the Diocese of Youngstown, after consultation with representatives of the two parish communities, having heard the Presbyteral Council on November 4, 2024, and acting in accord with canon 515, paragraph 2, of the Code of Canon Law; I hereby alter and merge Saint Mary Parish and Sacred Heart Parish. This merger shall be effective on January 1, 2025. Now for the good of the People of God, I hereby name the newly merged parish Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque Parish, effective January 1, 2025.

All parishioners of the two parishes are now members of the newly merged parish, whose name is Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque Parish. The already established territories of Saint Mary Parish and Sacred Heart Parish shall be merged and fully included in the newly established parish. However, the two church buildings will retain the names of Saint Mary Church and Sacred Heart Church given at the time of dedication, in accord with canon 1218.


All of the original registers containing records of Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage and Christian Burial hitherto preserved by the two parishes are now to be faithfully preserved in the newly merged parish office at 103 N. Maple Street, Orwell, Ohio

All properties and assets of the parishes are now part of the amalgamation into the new merged juridic person of the new parish called Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque Parish. All


assets and debts shall be now shared by the newly merged parish. By way of a particular document approved by the Chief Financial Officer of the Diocese of Youngstown, the management of all assets and debts that now concern the newly merged parish will be properly detailed, attentive to the principle of equity and for the common good of all concerned.

All those who claim to have been aggrieved by this decree are herewith notified that, if they desire to file recourse against this decree, they are required, *ad validitatem*, to submit a petition in the sense of canon 1734 paragraph 1 to us within ten useful days from the legitimate notification of this decree.


Given at Youngstown, Ohio, this 22nd day of November 2024.



Most Reverend David J. Bonnar
Bishop of Youngstown



Joan Lawson
Chancellor



Carolyn Wooten
Notary

