



DIOCESE OF BUFFALO
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Reverend James D. CIUPEK
Nativity of Our Lord Church
43 Argyle Place
Orchard Park, New York 14127

13 November 2024

Dear Rev. Ciupek,

On 12 November 2024 I signed the decree merging St. Bernadette Parish into SS. Peter and Paul Parish, effective 1 May 2025. The enclosed decree explains the details of this merger including the responsibility of SS. Peter and Paul Parish over the entire footprint of St. Bernadette church and other properties. Please make the parishioners at St. Bernadette Parish aware of this merger by public announcement at Mass this weekend and inclusion in the parish bulletin and on the parish/family website.

All funds from St. Bernadette Parish will first be utilized to pay off existing parish debt. Included in the parish debt is anything owed to the Diocese of Buffalo by way of parish assessments, Legacy Retirement Fund contributions, and a future assessment of a contribution to the Catholic Family's portion of our Chapter 11 Federal Bankruptcy settlement. For this reason, the enclosed decree speaks of SS. Peter and Paul Parish being the recipient of the "net assets and liabilities" of St. Bernadette Parish.

In order to determine the net assets and liabilities of St. Bernadette Parish, you are to continue to maintain, as is, the civil corporation of St. Bernadette Parish including its lay trustees and bank accounts. If you have further questions regarding this instruction, please contact Rev. Peter J. Karalus, Vicar General, at 716.847.5500.

Thank you for your dedication to this important work of Renewal in our diocese. The enclosed decree is for the parish archives at SS. Peter and Paul Parish.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael W. Fisher
Bishop of Buffalo

Encl: Decree merging St. Bernadette Parish into SS. Peter and Paul Parish

CC: Rev. Peter J. Karalus, Vicar General
Melissa Potzler, Chancellor
Rev. Peter Santandreu, Vice Chancellor