



*Prot. No. 19-004*

**Decree of Extinctive Union of  
St. John Vianney, St. Elizabeth Seton, and St. Francis of Assisi**

**Decree of Establishment of Holy Trinity Parish**

**Preamble**

St. John Vianney Parish, in Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia was established in 1959. St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, in Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia was established in 1984 to accommodate the growing population of the area. St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Mount Uniacke, Nova Scotia was established in 1979. Since 2005 these parishes have been working together as the Holy Trinity Pastoral Unit under the care of one pastor.

**Consultation**

Beginning in 2017, all clergy and parishioners were encouraged to read, discuss, share, and reflect on the diocesan pastoral plan *Equip the Saints* and offer comments, concerns, and questions that were responded to at the 2017 Assembly of the People of God in October. In February 2018, members of the parishes were invited to participate in a diocesan wide Lenten Video Series which outlined the vision and important dates about restructuring. At that time parishioners were asked to send in questions, concerns, and comments about this vision by the Feast of Pentecost (May 2018). In addition to these dates for feedback, clergy from each region of the diocese were consulted and requested to make proposals, developed in consultation with their lay leaders, for new parishes from each region of the diocese by June 30, 2018.

Using the proposals and feedback from clergy and laity a draft of the action plan, *New Parishes: Stronger Together*, was created. This draft was shared with the clergy of the entire diocese during two days of consultations in October 2018. Following these meetings, a revised draft of the plan was presented to all the faithful at the October 2018 Assembly of the People of God, seeking and welcoming further input from the faithful of the diocese to be submitted by mid-November 2018.

On December 6, 2018 a final draft of the plan was presented to all the clergy for final discussion. Having heard the clergy, the Presbyteral Council was consulted on December 6, 2018 and they accepted the proposed parish configurations and the action plan was launched January 1, 2019.

### **Decree**

As a result of this diocesan pastoral planning process, the current pastor of St. John Vianney Parish, St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, and St. Francis of Assisi Parish in consultation with his leadership team and pastoral council has requested that these parishes be amalgamated into a new parish with two churches in Lower Sackville and one in Mount Uniacke.

In accordance with the provisions of Canon Law, the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth was duly consulted. The present pastor of all three parishes has been consulted and has requested the merger of St. John Vianney, St. Elizabeth Seton, and St. Francis of Assisi.

### **Canonical Support**

Whereas Canon 515,§2 of the *Code of Canon Law* gives the diocesan bishop the authority to erect, suppress or alter parishes, after he has consulted the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese;

Whereas the *Directory for the Pastoral Ministry of Bishops, Apostolorum Successores*, of February 22, 2004 reminds the Bishop that he has the responsibility of proceeding, after consulting the diocesan presbyteral council, to alter territorial boundaries, to merge small parishes, to establish new parishes for the pastoral service in the community, or even to reorganize completely the arrangement of parishes within a particular area;

Whereas the *Directory for the Pastoral Ministry of Bishops, Apostolorum Successores*, of February 22, 2004 reminds the Bishop that he can create “pastoral units” which are intended to promote forms of integral collaboration between adjoining parishes, as an expression of comprehensive pastoral care. In creating a pastoral unit, the Bishop shall observe the following criteria: that the territories be demarcated in a cohesive manner, from a sociological perspective as well; that the parishes involved should achieve a thoroughly coordinated pastoral activity; that pastoral services be effectively guaranteed for each of the communities in the territory.

Whereas Fr. Bryan Sabourin, CC, pastor of the three parishes, has been encouraging greater collaboration among the three parishes and on March 5, 2019 has called for the merger of the three parishes and the creation of one new parish with three worship sites;

Whereas the Council of Priests was apprised of the situation of these three parishes on December 6, 2018 and the Council agreed with the proposal for these three parishes, effective January 1, 2020;

Whereas the spiritual needs of the parishioners of the three parishes are able to be met through the creation of this new parish;

Therefore, invoking the authority given to me as the Archbishop of Halifax-Yarmouth, and from canon 515, §2 and the *Directory for the Pastoral Ministry of Bishops*, and judging that all the conditions have been met, I hereby decree that, effective January 1, 2020, the parishes of St. John Vianney Parish, St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, and St. Francis of Assisi Parish will be merged to create one new parish, called Holy Trinity Parish.

I furthermore decree as follows:

- The territory which comprised the former St. John Vianney Parish, St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, and St. Francis of Assisi Parish will henceforth comprise the territory of the new parish;
- St. John Vianney Church, St. Elizabeth Seton Church, and St. Francis of Assisi Church, will be places of worship for the new parish.
- The parish records and sacramental registers of the former St. John Vianney Parish, St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, and St. Francis of Assisi Parish shall become the responsibility of the new parish;
- The real property – lands and buildings – of the former St. John Vianney Parish, St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, and St. Francis of Assisi Parish, shall, upon their merger into the new parish, become the property of the new parish, to be maintained, administered, alienated, or otherwise disposed of in accordance with civil and canon law;
- Any monetary funds of the former St. John Vianney Parish, or St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, or St. Francis of Assisi Parish, previously designated as "restricted," shall continue to be maintained separately as part of the patrimony of the new parish, and used solely for those purposes for which they were restricted;
- After payment of any outstanding debts, any remaining monetary funds of the former St. John Vianney Parish, St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, and St. Francis of Assisi Parish, shall automatically become the patrimony of the new parish; likewise any outstanding liabilities of the former St. John Vianney Parish, St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, and St. Francis of Assisi Parish, shall automatically become the responsibility of the new parish (see Canon 121);

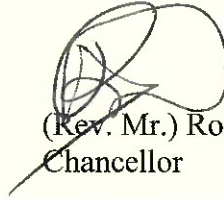
In accordance with the requirements of Canon Law, those who are directly and principally affected by this decree, have a right of recourse against it and may lodge an

appeal against the decree following the appropriate procedures outlined in Canon 1734 of the Code of Canon Law.

Given at Halifax, NS, under our signature, the seal of the Diocese, and the signature of the Chancellor on this 30<sup>th</sup> day of September in the year of Our Lord, two thousand and nineteen.



† Anthony Mancini.  
Archbishop of Halifax- Yarmouth



(Rev. Mr.) Robert Doyle  
Chancellor