



## DECREE

*Regarding the Partnering of Sacred Heart of Jesus and Saint Joseph Parishes, Erie*

In light of ongoing pastoral planning in the Diocese of Erie, as well as demographic and population changes, and in consultation with the Presbyteral Council, I hereby decree the following:

1. In accord with particular law of the Diocese of Erie, Saint Joseph Parish, Erie, is to be partnered with Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Erie, such that both parishes are served by one pastor.
2. According to diocesan particular law, partnered parishes are to have only one Mass between them on the evening before Sundays or Holy Days. They are also to share one office.
3. Circumstances including travel distance, availability of suitable office space, availability of staff and volunteers etc. may necessitate dispensation from certain aspects of particular law governing partnered parishes in the Diocese of Erie. Such dispensations will be granted as needed by the diocesan bishop in consultation with the pastor.

This decree is effective July 9, 2024. Anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Erie on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024.

*+Lawrence T. Persico*

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL  
Bishop of Erie

*Christopher J. Singer*

The Reverend Christopher J. Singer, JCL  
Chancellor