

## **By the Grace of God and the Apostolic See**

### *Decretum*

*This decree concerns the suppression by extinctive union type I of St. John the Baptist in Deloit, St. Peter de Alcantara in Ewing, St. Theresa in Clearwater, St. Francis of Assisi in Neligh, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Tilden by which Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish is erected. (c. 121).*

The principal motive for this decree is a concern for souls (*Christus Dominus* no. 32).

Whereas, St. John the Baptist in Deloit, was erected as a territorial parish in 1910 to serve area Catholics.

Whereas, St. Peter de Alcantara in Ewing, was erected as a territorial parish in 1886 to serve the Polish American and German American immigrant families.

Whereas, St. Theresa Parish in Clearwater, was erected as a territorial parish in 1902 to serve Catholics in the area.

Whereas, St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Neligh, was erected as a territorial parish in 1902 to serve Catholics in the area.

Whereas, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Tilden, was erected as a territorial parish in 1887 to serve Catholics in the area.

Whereas, the finances and pastoral and material resources of the five parishes are limited;

Whereas, there remains the trend of a declining rural population in northeast Nebraska;

Whereas, there is a decline in the number of active priests of the Archdiocese of Omaha;

Therefore, the following just causes suggest the suppression and consolidation of St. John the Baptist in Deloit, St. Peter de Alcantara in Ewing, St. Theresa in Clearwater, St. Francis of Assisi in Neligh, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Tilden:

1. The desire to avoid duplication of services and increases in expenses;
2. The size and spiritual welfare of the parish communities;

3. The spread of the Gospel, the promotion of unity among the People of God;
4. The union of parochial communities to strengthen the faith and life of weaker communities;
5. The enhancement of collaborative ministry, the better utilization of parish resources and available priest personnel.

Whereas, only the diocesan bishop can significantly alter a parish in his jurisdiction according to the prescriptions of c. 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law; and in accord with prescriptions of c. 121, having judged that sufficient just causes are present and that the good of souls will not thereby be impaired;

Whereas, Rev. John Norman, pastor of St. John the Baptist-St. Peter de Alcantara -St. Theresa parishes, and Rev. Patrick Nields, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, in consultation with their family pastoral planning team, and having asked parishioners to make known their needs and desires, and having consulted the Presbyteral Council on October 2, 2023 in accord with c. 515 §2, and upon careful examination and acceptance of the above reasons, I hereby **DECREE** that St. John the Baptist-St. Peter de Alcantara -St. Theresa-St. Francis of Assisi-Our Lady of Mount Carmel parishes be consolidated in an effort to strengthen the preaching of the Gospel and to ensure the vitality of parish life in the area, with concern for the best stewardship of resources and the right of the People of God to receive assistance from the Church, especially the Word of God, spiritual sustenance and the sacraments.

St. John the Baptist-St. Peter de Alcantara -St. Theresa-St. Francis of Assisi-Our Lady of Mount Carmel parishes upon consolidation are erected a single new parish and a juridic person named Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, which obtains the ecclesiastical good and corresponding rights and obligations proper to the prior parishes and juridic persons which by this very act are suppressed, mindful, however, to respect donor-intent with regard to temporal goods.

The territorial boundaries of Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish are set according to the attached map and coordinates.

All Catholics having domicile within the set boundaries of the attached map and coordinates are hereby considered members of Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, and, as such, are entrusted to the care of the pastor of that parish.

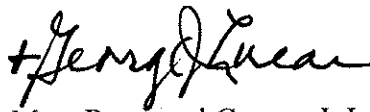
The rich legacy and history of St. John the Baptist-St. Peter de Alcantara -St. Theresa-St. Francis of Assisi-Our Lady of Mount Carmel parishes are to be promoted and honored. Together, all of the parishioners are encouraged to unite through union with Jesus Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

St. John the Baptist-St. Peter de Alcantara -St. Theresa-St. Francis of Assisi-Our Lady of Mount Carmel parishes' registers containing records of baptisms, confirmation, First Holy Communion, marriage, and deaths are to be conveyed to Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, where they are to be faithfully preserved according to cc. 535 §§1-5.

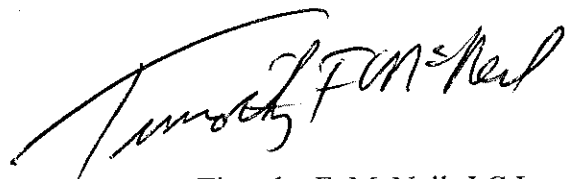
This decree becomes effective July 1, 2024, prior to which the substance of it is to be communicated to the parishioners by means of notice in the weekend bulletins of all five parishes, as well as by publication online through *The Catholic Voice*. Any proposed recourse against this decree is to be made in writing to my office not more than ten (10) useful days from certain notification of this decree.

Anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery of the Archdiocese of Omaha, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2024.



Most Reverend George J. Lucas  
Archbishop of Omaha



Deacon Timothy F. McNeil, J.C.L.  
Chancellor







## Boundary of Annunciation Parish (Northern Tier)

Start Point: Junction of 539<sup>th</sup> Ave and 839<sup>th</sup> Rd South of Meadow Grove.

Travel north on 539<sup>th</sup> Ave through Meadow Grove to 845<sup>th</sup> Rd. (Pierce-Neligh cut across road)

Travel west on 845<sup>th</sup> Rd to Hwy 14.

Travel north on Hwy 14 to the Antelope/Knox County Line

Travel west along Antelope/Knox County Line to the Antelope/Holt County Line (508<sup>th</sup> Ave)

Travel south on 508<sup>th</sup> Ave to 867<sup>th</sup> Rd

Travel west on 867<sup>th</sup> Rd to 497<sup>th</sup> Ave

Travel south on 497<sup>th</sup> Ave approx. One mile to 866<sup>th</sup> Rd

Travel west on 866<sup>th</sup> Rd to US Hwy 281. Travel south on US Hwy 281 to 852<sup>nd</sup> Rd

Travel east on 852<sup>nd</sup> Rd to 495<sup>th</sup> Ave

Travel south on 495<sup>th</sup> Ave to 847<sup>th</sup> Rd

Travel east on 847<sup>th</sup> Rd to 496<sup>th</sup> Ave

Travel south on 496<sup>th</sup> Ave to 846<sup>th</sup> Rd

Travel east on 846<sup>th</sup> Rd to 510 Ave

510 Ave is the County line between Wheeler and Antelope County.

Follow a line south along the county line to 843<sup>rd</sup> Rd.

Travel east on 843<sup>rd</sup> Rd to 527<sup>th</sup> Ave near Oakdale.

Travel south on 527<sup>th</sup> Ave that will turn into 527 1/2<sup>th</sup> Ave to 839<sup>th</sup> Rd

Travel east on 839<sup>th</sup> Rd to 539<sup>th</sup> Ave

Junction of 839<sup>th</sup> Rd and 539<sup>th</sup> Ave End.