



*Whereas* prior to the devastation wrought by Hurricane Laura in August, 2020, and out of concern for the good of souls, pastoral planning for the parishes of Our Lady Star of the Sea, Sacred Heart of Jesus in Creole, and St. Eugene had begun. The ever-decreasing number of parishioners regularly participating in the life of the parishes as well as the parishes' long-term ability to sustain themselves financially occasioned this pastoral planning; the damages suffered by each of the three parishes during and after Hurricane Laura have further exacerbated both areas of concern, as some parishioners have decided not to return to the area and the financial situation has become ever more intractable;

*Whereas* on September 18, 2020, the Parish Priests of the three aforementioned parishes and the Dean of the South Deanery were heard, and two listening sessions were conducted to hear parishioners of the three parishes, the one on September 29, 2020, and the other on October 1, 2020; further, surveys were distributed to parishioners at parish Masses, via post, and online, 171 of which were completed and returned;

*Whereas* in so far as possible, all those whose rights could be injured have been heard; and the presumed intentions of founders and benefactors have been respected, and no acquired rights will be transgressed;

*Whereas* all relevant information having been sought was distributed to the members of the Presbyteral Council and subsequently considered during a meeting of the same, lawfully convened on December 22, 2020, at which time the respective advantages and disadvantages of various proposals were open for free discussion and advice, and the opinions of the members of that Council were heard;

*Whereas* it is necessary to make provisions for the spiritual and pastoral care of the parishioners of these parishes, in accordance with the provisions hereinafter appearing

His Excellency

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost

Bishop of Lake Charles

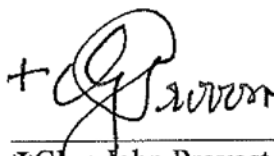
### **DECREES**


1. that the above-named existing parishes shall be modified by extinctive union (amalgamation) such that the parishes of St. Eugene and of Our Lady Star of the Sea shall be subsumed into the Parish of Sacred Heart of Jesus (c. 121), a proto-parish, the oldest of the coastal parishes, and the second oldest parish of the Diocese of Lake Charles;
2. that this amalgamation will take effect on February 2, 2021, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord;

3. that the Shrine of Our Lady Star of the Sea shall remain in its present location as a place of pilgrimage and prayer;
4. that the boundaries of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish shall henceforth include the territory of Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, St. Eugene Parish, and the territory around St. Patrick mission, currently a mission of St. Mary of the Lake Parish, from the intersection of Ward Line Road and HWY 14 south to the Intercoastal Canal and from that same intersection east and south to Fruge Road and down in a vertical line to the Intercoastal Canal.
5. that the parish church of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish is to be called Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church and is to be erected on the property of St. Patrick mission in Sweetlake, Louisiana.
6. that pastoral ministry, including but not limited to the celebration of Sunday Mass, shall continue on the coast and will make use of the parish hall of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, a use for which the building was constructed in view of the possibility of storm damage to the parish church;
7. that in accordance with the norm of can. 121, all the goods and patrimonial rights proper to the merging parishes (and any obligations with which they may be burdened) together with all of their existing assets and liabilities, whether movable or immovable, shall upon this merger *ipso iure* become the property, rights, obligations, assets and liabilities of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish. Furthermore, possession and ownership of all ecclesiastical goods and all objects of artistic or historical value belonging to the merging parishes and each of them shall be transferred to the newly amalgamated parish and shall be administered in accordance with the prescriptions of Church law with due regard for the intention of benefactors (cf. canon 1284 §2, 3°) and without prejudice to any acquired rights;
8. that sacramental registers of each parish shall be communicated to the Administrator of newly amalgamated Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish at the earliest possible opportunity, and henceforth recordation will take place in the books of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, where the records of Our Lady Star of the Sea and St. Eugene parish will be preserved;
9. that this decree be delivered to the Parish Priests of the parishes of Our Lady Star of the Sea, Sacred Heart of Jesus, St. Eugene, and St. Mary of the Lake and that notice of its contents be disseminated publicly during the weekend of January 9-10, 2021, and that said Parish Priest submit in writing and without delay a statement detailing the means by which the parishioners received notification of this decree.

All who claim to have been aggrieved by this decree may have recourse against it within ten canonical (useful) days from the notification of the decree.

Given in the Diocese of Lake Charles on day 8 of January in the year of our Lord 2021.

  
 ✠Glen John Provost  
 Bishop of Lake Charles

  
 (Vicar Rev.) Ruben Villarreal  
 Vice-Chancellor