



Decree

Merging Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Parish with Saint Emeric Parish

Prot. N. 539/2023

1. Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Parish has ministered to and has served the Christian faithful of Hungarian heritage in the Diocese of Cleveland since the year of Our Lord 1892. Saint Emeric Parish, erected in the year of Our Lord 1904, has also been the source of spiritual nourishment for the faithful of Hungarian heritage. Over the course of these many years, the Christian faithful have been nourished not only by the Word of God, but they have received grace upon grace from the well spring of the sacraments through the various acts of public worship from these two parishes. Today, as our diocesan journey of faith and grace continues, and in our deepened effort to plan for the future by better strengthening both the ministry of the Word and to secure the financial stability of the local church in the mission and obligation to ensure that the Christian faithful continue to receive the assistance of which is their right in law and in justice, it is necessary that the Diocese of Cleveland make plans and new arrangements for the spiritual care of the parishioners of both venerable parishes.
2. Having considered the following just causes supporting the establishment of the merged parish of Saint Emeric in the Diocese of Cleveland:
 - a. to provide more effectively for the pastoral care of the Christian faithful in the communities of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Parish and Saint Emeric Parish;
 - b. to strengthen the preaching of the Gospel and assure the vitality of parish life;
 - c. to provide for a more effective stewardship of parish resources, both human and temporal;
 - d. to provide for the best use of clergy.
3. Having heard from the Reverend Richard Bona, pastor of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Parish and also pastor of Saint Emeric Parish, who has consulted with the parish pastoral and finance councils of each parish; and after consulting the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Cleveland and the Diocesan Finance Council, both of which have given their unanimous encouragements to the measures below enacted, all in accord with canons 123, 515 § 2, and 518, *CIC*, as diocesan bishop, I hereby:

Merge Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Parish with Saint Emeric Parish in an extinctive union, such that Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Parish is subsumed into Saint Emeric Parish and only Saint Emeric Parish remains (cf. Congregation for the Clergy, *Procedural Guidelines for the Modification of Parishes and the Closure, Relegation and Alienation of Churches*, 30 April 2013, n. 1.c.ii). The merger shall take effect at midnight at the beginning of Monday August 14th, 2023, the Vigil of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. From that time Saint Emeric Parish shall include the faithful of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Parish, with Saint Emeric Church being the principal parochial church of the parish.

4. The Reverend Richard Bona continues as pastor of Saint Emeric Parish according to the terms of his appointment.
5. The territorial boundaries of Saint Emeric Parish remain unaltered. Saint Emeric Parish also remains a personal parish for Hungarians in the Diocese of Cleveland.
6. All parish registers that contain the current sacramental records of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Parish are to be transferred to the archives of Saint Emeric Parish (can. 535 §§1-5, *CIC*). All rights and obligations of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Parish become rights and obligations of Saint Emeric Parish upon the effective date of this merger.
7. Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Church remains a church according to the norms of canon 1214, *CIC*.
8. All artistic and liturgical items within the structure of the church building of Saint Elizabeth shall remain in Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Church unless further provision is made.
9. The merger of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Parish into that of Saint Emeric Parish suppresses and terminates the juridic personality of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Parish.
10. I direct that this Decree be given to the pastor of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Parish and of Saint Emeric Parish, and that the information contained herein be communicated at all of the Masses the weekend of July 29-30, 2023. This Decree is also to be placed on the Diocese of Cleveland website, and notification of the decree is to be made in the *Diocesan Memorandum* published on August 1, 2023. Recourse against this decree may be made according to the provisions of canons 1732-1739, *CIC*.

Given at Cleveland, Ohio this 28th day of July, 2023.



The Most Reverend Edward C. Malesic, JCL
Bishop of Cleveland

{ L + S }



Chancellor