

DECREE BESTOWING UPON A NEW PARISH THE PATRONAGE OF SAINT PETER CLAVER

In accordance with the norms of canons 121 and 515 of the Code of Canon Law, I, the Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski, Metropolitan Archbishop of Saint Louis, erected a new and unique territorial Parish on May 28, 2023, through a true and proper fusion of the former Our Lady of the Holy Cross Parish, Saint Matthew the Apostle Parish, Saint Elizabeth, Mother of John the Baptist Parish, and Saint Augustine Parish, all in Saint Louis, Missouri.

After having consulted the pastor who received the counsel of the members of the new Parish for its proper name, I hereby decree that this Parish is henceforth known as **Saint Peter Claver Parish** in Saint Louis, Missouri.

Peter Claver was born on June 26, 1580, in Verdú, Kingdom of Aragon. In 1601, he entered the Society of Jesus. In 1610, he was sent to Cartagena in the New Kingdom of Granada, *i.e.*, present day Colombia. In 1616, he was ordained to the Sacred Priesthood and thereafter daily ministered to African slaves. When he was solemnly professed in the Society of Jesus in 1622, he signed his final profession document as “Peter Claver, servant of the Africans forever.” By 1651, he had catechized and baptized more than 300,000 enslaved people. He died on September 8, 1654, in Cartagena, and was beatified on July 20, 1850, by Blessed Pius IX. At the canonization of Peter Claver on January 15, 1888, Pope Leo XIII proclaimed him Patron of all Roman Catholic missions to African peoples. His feast day is celebrated as a titular solemnity in Saint Peter Claver Parish on September 9.

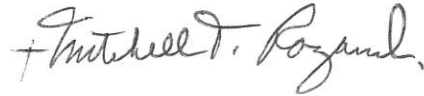
In accordance with the norms of canon 535 §§1, 3-4, Saint Peter Claver Parish is to have parochial registers, that is, those of baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and deaths; its own seal; and a storage area, or archive, in which the parochial registers are protected along with letters of bishops and other documents which are to be preserved.

The titles of the former parish churches of Saint Peter Claver Parish cannot be changed given that they were consecrated or dedicated (canon 1218).

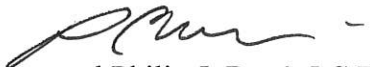
This Decree is effective September 9, 2024. Its official notification is its publication on the website of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis on September 9, 2024.

Anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given in the offices of the Curia of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis, this twentieth day of August,
in the Year of Our Lord, 2024.



Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski
Archbishop of Saint Louis



Very Reverend Philip J. Bené, J.C.D.
Notary

