



DIOCESE OF PORTLAND
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DECREE

**In the Name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.**

**I, Robert Peter Deeley, by the grace of God and the favor of the Apostolic See, twelfth Bishop
of Portland,**

after having heard the petition of the pastor of St. Bartholomew Parish, Cape Elizabeth, St. John and Holy Cross Parish, South Portland and St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Scarborough and after having heard the results of the thorough discussion of this matter in these parishes, and after having heard the Presbyteral Council on the question in accord with canon 515.2, and after having received the required consent of the College of Consultors, and of the Diocesan Finance Council in accord with the norm of law, in consideration of the size and proximity of the parishes concerned, in consideration of the bonds which presently exist between the people of these parishes, and in consideration of the need for even closer cooperation between the parishes for the sake of evangelization, respecting the legitimate rights of founders and donors, in order to create a single, vibrant parish by bringing together the gifts and resources of these three parishes,

Do hereby decree that, effective July 1, 2020, St. Bartholomew Parish in Cape Elizabeth, St. John and Holy Cross Parish in South Portland and St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Scarborough shall be merged into a single parish with the name St. John Paul II, Pope in accord with canon 121.

By this fact, all the goods and patrimonial rights and all the obligations of the three parishes are to be combined under the title of the public juridic person created by this merger. St. John Paul II Parish includes those members of Christ's faithful living in the confines of the three original parishes, and others who choose to join them.

I hereby appoint the Reverend Monsignor Paul F. Stefanko as Pastor of St. John Paul II Parish. St. John Paul II Parish includes the following sacred places, namely the churches of Holy Cross, St. Bartholomew, and St. Maximilian Kolbe. The titular solemnity of the new parish will be the October 22nd, on the general Roman calendar.

Anyone who judges that his or her rights are violated by this administrative act can have recourse to me within fifteen working days of the promulgation of this decree in the parishes, indicating the reasons why reconsideration is warranted.

**Given at Portland, the second day of June in the year of Our Lord two thousand and twenty,
the sixth of my episcopate in Portland.**

+ Robert P. Deeley

Most Reverend Robert P. Deeley
Bishop of Portland

SEAL

Peter M. Bensonnetto, DSC
Chancellor