



## Catholic Diocese of Columbus

Office of the Bishop  
614 • 224 • 2251

### DECREE OF SUPPRESSION of the Parish of St. Francis de Sales Church, Newcomerstown, Ohio and Changing the Parish of Sacred Heart Church, Coshocton, Ohio

Whereas, demographic changes in the general population and among the Catholic faithful of the neighborhood, including but not limited to decline in registered parishioners, decline in mass attendance, decline in offertory revenue, and the shortage of priests, have drastically affected the viability of the parishes in that region; and

Whereas, a plan has been carefully developed by the pastor of St. Francis de Sales and Sacred Heart parishes recommending the suppression of St. Francis de Sales Parish and the aggregation of the suppressed parish with the parish of Sacred Heart Church; and

Whereas, the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Columbus at a meeting held on September 28, 2023, reviewed the plan in detail and unanimously approved the proposal to suppress St. Francis de Sales Parish and to make changes to Sacred Heart Parish to join the territory, parishioners, assets and liabilities of St. Francis de Sales Parish to that of Sacred Heart Parish; and


Whereas, having heard the Presbyteral Council in accordance with Canon 515.2;

Therefore, I, Earl K. Fernandes, Bishop of Columbus, hereby decree the following

1. The Parish of St. Francis de Sales, Newcomerstown, Ohio, is suppressed effective November 5, 2023;
2. Simultaneously with the suppression of St. Francis de Sales Parish, the territory, parishioners, property, assets and liabilities of this parish will be joined to those of Sacred Heart Parish by aggregation into a single juridic person, care of which is entrusted to the pastor of Sacred Heart Parish. The territorial jurisdiction of this parish will encompass the territory which by long-standing custom pertained to St. Francis de Sales and Sacred Heart parishes.
3. The care of St. Francis de Sales Church and the other properties of the former St. Francis de Sales Parish, whether sacred or profane, will become the responsibility of Sacred Heart Parish, until further decisions are made and approved through the appropriate canonical processes regarding the disposition of these buildings and properties.
4. This decree shall be promulgated by publication in the Catholic Times and disseminated in the affected parishes via the parish bulletin and other means of communication as deemed appropriate by Pastor of the affected communities.

Given at the Chancery Office, 198 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio this 28<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023.

  
Notary

  
Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes  
Bishop of Columbus

