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## DECREE

Having received the recommendation of the Episcopal Vicar for Windsor-Essex and those charged with the study of the reorganization of parishes in that region, and having consulted with the Council of Priests of the Diocese of London on November 4, 2025, in accordance with canon 515, §2, I, Ronald P. Fabbro, C.S.B., Bishop of London, do hereby decree that St. Michael German Parish in the city of Windsor in the province of Ontario (hereinafter referred to as *St. Michael German Parish*), canonically established on March 31, 1949, be canonically suppressed effective February 1, 2026. I further decree that the present members of this personal parish for those of German nationality in the city of Windsor be incorporated into St. Michael Parish, to be canonically established on February 1, 2026, in the city of Windsor in the province of Ontario (hereinafter referred to as *St. Michael Parish*).

The reasons for this action are:

- The influx of German-speaking Catholics into the Windsor area in the years immediately following the Second World War led to the establishment of a parish to provide pastoral care for this particular language group and to the eventual construction of St. Michael Church.
- Over the subsequent decades, the German-speaking population of the parish has steadily declined as a result of a marked falloff in immigration from Germany and the assimilation of subsequent generations into the mainstream of Canadian society. Few young families remained connected to the community. Over the years the German language was no longer a primary factor in parish identity or worship. This is illustrated in the fact that from several German language Masses celebrated every Sunday in the parish's early years, the community now celebrates only one bilingual (i.e., German-English) Sunday Mass per month.
- The vital statistics of the parish's present life speak plainly of the community's notable diminishment:

- the average attendance at the monthly bilingual Sunday Mass has fallen from 47 persons in 2023 to 35 in 2024;
- the number of registered families in 2024 was 35 with only 25 monthly offertory users.
- The remaining parishioners recognizing the self-evident pastoral realities of the situation have seen the need to bring St. Michael German Parish to an end and to assimilate its membership within a new and sustainable parish structure where the cultural and devotional traditions of the German community may be sustained.

In conformity to the norms set out in canon 121, I also decree that the patrimonial goods and rights of St. Michael German Parish, along with its liabilities, will from the date of its suppression obtain and belong to St. Michael Parish, with every care to be taken that in the arrangements for the goods and the discharge of obligations, the wishes of founders and benefactors and any acquired rights are fully safeguarded.

Furthermore, in order to provide easier access to the faithful, I decree that the sacramental records of St. Michael German Parish be transferred to and maintained by St. Michael Parish.

I direct that this decree be published in St. Michael German Parish, in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish and by a suitable means throughout the Diocese of London, with the understanding that any who wish to make recourse against it, in accordance with canon 1734, §1-2, must do so in writing within ten (10) canonical days from the time this decree was lawfully notified.

Given at London in the province of Ontario this sixteenth day of January in the year two thousand and twenty-six.

*† Ronald Tablao, CSB*  
Bishop of London



*Paul Gailaijor*  
Chancellor of the Diocese of London