



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE

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OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

February 22, 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

Three years ago, we as an Archdiocese embarked upon the prayerful and extensive journey of Seek the City to Come to reimagine our Catholic Church in Baltimore City and in some surrounding areas. It was during this time that we visited parishes, worked with leadership, held open listening sessions, shared stories, and prayed together to gain a more accurate understanding of the present-day Church in Baltimore City. We spent those years envisioning a fully alive and evangelizing Church and in May 2024, I released the final Seek the City plan.

At the time the final plan was announced, St. Leo and St. Vincent de Paul parishioners were invited to come together to engage in a process of discernment. The process has included the establishment of the inter-parish committee whose work is to discern how the two parishes can best come together to serve their parishioners and reach out to their neighbors. The work of the interparish committee continues and is bearing fruit.

After consulting with the Archdiocesan Presbyteral Council, I am now issuing the official decree regarding St. Vincent de Paul parish. This is a step required by Canon Law. This parish will be merged into St. Leo parish on July 1, 2025. The reasons behind my decision are outlined in the decree which will be made available to view on Sunday evening, February 23, 2025, at www.archbalt.org. Please expect the decree to be published after 8:00 p.m.

Any parishioner of the Archdiocese has the right to ask me to change or revoke my decision through an official appeal. This request must be made in writing and postmarked no later than March 7, 2025, and sent to me. Appeals may also be printed out and hand-delivered to the Catholic Center (320 Cathedral Street, 21201) by 5:00 p.m. on March 7, 2025. I ask you to join me in praying for your parish community. Please continue to work with your pastor, his staff, the interparish committee and Catholic Center personnel as we move forward in discerning and implementing the Eucharistic Vision of Seek the City to Come. May the Holy Spirit guide us as we work together to build evangelizing parishes centered on Christ.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Faithfully in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Lori
Archbishop of Baltimore