



DECREE BESTOWING UPON A NEW PARISH THE PATRONAGE OF SAINT JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

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 Most Holy Trinity Parish, Saint Nicholas Parish, and Saints Teresa and Bridget Parish 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 Josephine Bakhita Parish** in Saint Louis, Missouri.

Mother Josephine Bakhita was born in Sudan in 1869. As a child she was kidnapped by slave traders who gave her the Arabic name “Bakhita” which means “Fortunate.” She was sold and resold until she was purchased by the Italian Consul, Callisto Legnani. He brought her to Italy where she was eventually sent to live with the Canossian Sisters of the Institute of the Catechumens in Venice. There she was formally introduced to the faith. In 1889 she was granted her freedom by an Italian court. On January 8, 1890, she was baptized Josephine Margaret Fortunata, confirmed, and received her first Holy Communion from the Patriarch of Venice, Giuseppe Sarto, later Pope Saint Pius X. On December 8, 1896, she professed religious vows in the Institute of Saint Magdalene of Canossa. She served as cook, sacristan, seamstress, embroideress, and portress of their houses in Venice, Verona, and Schio. She also made several journeys throughout Italy to promote the missions. She died in Schio on February 8, 1947.

In an address to pilgrims who arrived for her beatification on May 17, 1992, Pope Saint John Paul II stated that “Josephine Bakhita’s life points to the victory of God’s love over the ravages of sin and evil. It presents a striking example of the role of reconciliation in Christian life and practice.” At her canonization on October 1, 2000, Pope John Paul II invited the whole Church to invoke her intercession “upon all our persecuted and enslaved brothers and sisters, especially in Africa and in her native Sudan, that they may know reconciliation and peace.”

Josephine Bakhita is the first Sudanese saint to be canonized. Her feast day is celebrated as a titular solemnity in this Parish on February 8.

In accordance with the norms of canon 535 §§1 and 3-4, Saint Josephine Bakhita 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 Josephine Bakhita Parish cannot be changed given that they were consecrated or dedicated (canon 1218).

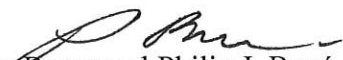
This Decree is effective October 11, 2023. Its official notification is its publication on the website of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis on October 11, 2023.

Anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given in the offices of the Curia of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis, this tenth day of October, in the Year of Our Lord, 2023.



Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski
Archbishop of Saint Louis



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

