



## DECREE

### Designating the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul and the Shrine of Saint Katherine Drexel as an Archdiocesan Shrine

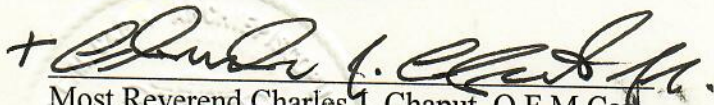
The Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, located at 18<sup>th</sup> Street and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was begun by Bishop Francis Kendrick on the feast of Saints Peter and Paul, June 29, 1846. The cathedral was dedicated and solemnly blessed by Bishop James Wood on November 20, 1864. On September 27, 1976, the Cathedral was designated a Minor Basilica by Pope Saint Paul VI.

Canonized by Pope Saint John Paul II on October 1, 2000, Saint Katharine Drexel is the second American-born person ever to be canonized. Born into tremendous wealth as part of the Drexel family, she gave up her life of privilege to found the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament in 1891. She dedicated her life to serve the needs of African Americans and Native Americans, and inspired many women, who joined the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, to follow her example.


Saint Katharine Drexel's sacred remains were translated from the Motherhouse of the Community she founded, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, in Bensalem, Pennsylvania, to the Cathedral Basilica. The Solemn Celebration of the Installation of the Tomb with the Sacred Remains of Saint Katharine Drexel was held on November 18, 2018. The new tomb has quickly become a place of pilgrimage and prayer. Devotion to Saint Katherine Drexel at the new tomb is sufficiently established to merit designation as an archdiocesan shrine.

Therefore, in accord with the prescripts of canons 1230 of the *Code of Canon Law*, and in consideration of Norm 5 of the *Norms for the Designation of National Shrines* of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, I hereby **DECREE** that the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul and the Shrine of Saint Katherine Drexel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania is officially designated an Archdiocesan Shrine of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery of the Curia of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia on this nineteenth day of February in the year of Our Lord 2019.

  
Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.  
Archbishop of Philadelphia

SEAL

  
Reverend Monsignor Gerard C. Mesure  
Chancellor